

# Full year results and strategy update

12 month period ended  
31 December 2023

**Jim Ormonde**, CEO | **Guy Rudolph**, Interim CFO

2 May 2024

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# Management Team



**Jim Ormonde**

Chief Executive Officer

Jim joined Argentex in October 2023 and as CEO sets the strategic direction of the business. He oversees the front office, including the business development and revenue generation of Argentex. Previously, he was CEO of Cardsave, one of Europe's largest independent payments businesses. He was also a director of Retail Merchant Services which was sold successfully to TCV Private Equity. He has acted as a consultant and adviser to various Fintech businesses, including Argentex, and is currently Non-Executive Chairman of Gusbourne plc, an AIM listed English wine producer.



**Guy Rudolph**

Interim Chief Financial Officer

Guy joined Argentex in January 2024. At Argentex he is responsible for financial strategy of the Group and the entire finance function as well as legal and corporate governance matters across the Group. In addition, he is responsible for the Group's sustainability strategy. Guy is a qualified chartered accountant and began his career at PwC before joining Vodafone where he spent 16 years driving transformation across international teams in his roles as Group Audit and Risk Director, and Director of Group Financial Operations. He was also the deputy CFO of Camelot from 2017 to 2022 and later interim Director of Group Finance at Rank Group plc.

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SECTION 1

# FY23 results

FY23

# Headline Figures

## TOTAL REVENUE

**£49.9M**

12 months to Dec 22 – £50.4m  
9 months FY22 – £41.0m

## OPERATING PROFIT

**£8.1M**

28%

12 months to Dec 22 – £11.3m  
9 months FY22 – £8.1m

## TOTAL CLIENTS TRADED

**1,938**

11%

12 months to Dec 22 – 1,750  
9 months FY22 – 1,595

## NEWLY TRADED CLIENTS

**649**

23%

12 months to Dec 22 – 546  
9 months FY22 – 409

## EPS

**4.6p**

12 months to Dec 22 – 8.1p  
9 months FY22 – 6.2p

## DPS

**0.75p**

9 months FY22 – 2.25p

## NET CASH at 31 December 2023

**£18.3m**

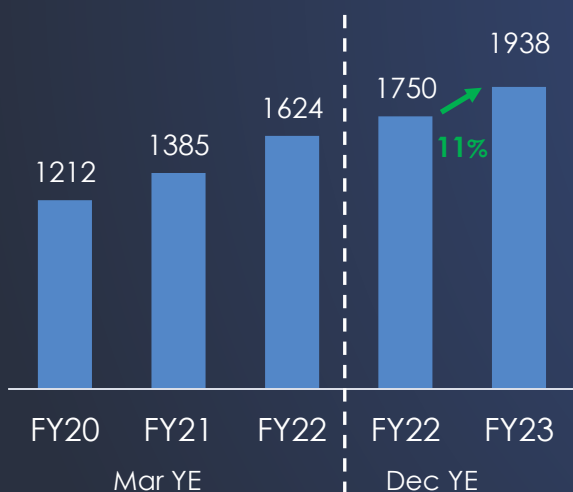
31 December 2022 – £16.2 m

# Operational summary



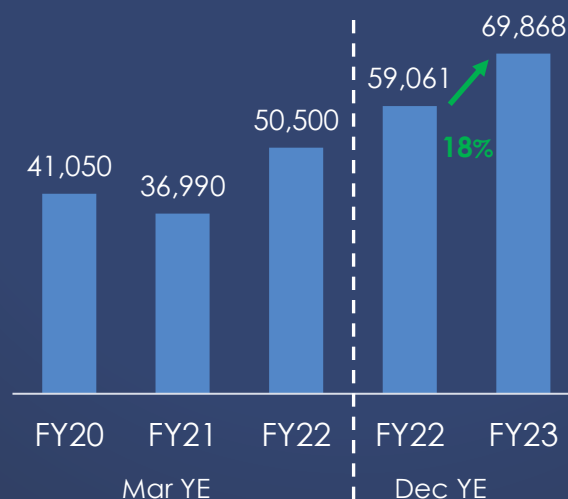
## More clients trading

No. of clients trading



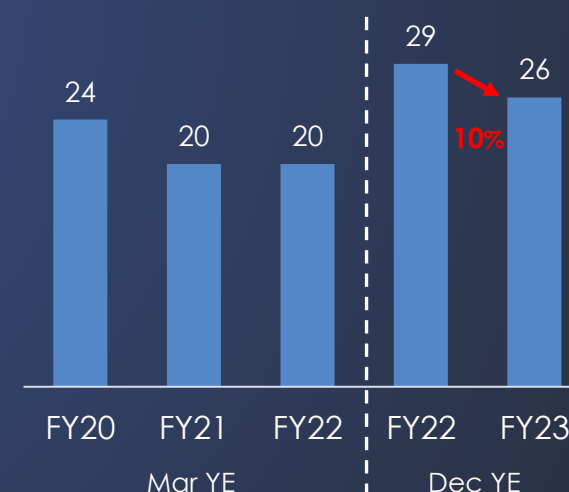
## Trading more frequently

No. of trades



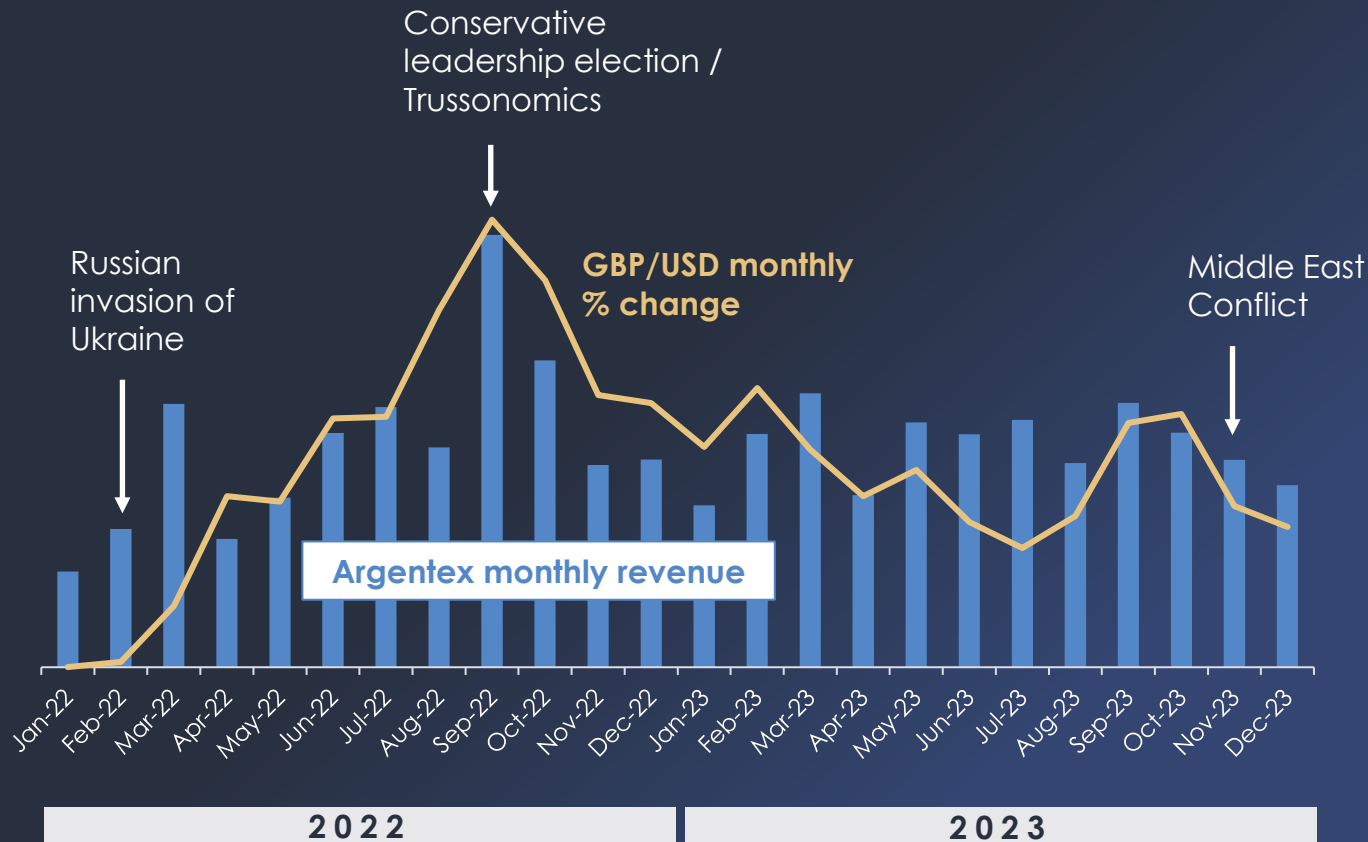
## But spending less

Average revenue per client (£k)

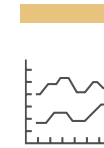


## WHAT IMPACTED TRADING VOLUMES?

# Volatility fell markedly YoY



Volatility based on GBP/USD monthly percentage change v Jan-22 of \$1.34



### 2022 levels of volatility (and trading) were anomalously high:

Trussonomics  
Conservative leadership campaign  
Ukraine

### 2023 was much less volatile:

Suppressed levels of trading from our institutional clients (1/3 of revenues)



# P&L

	FY23	FY22 (12 months)	
	£m	£m	% change
Revenue	49.9	50.4	(1)%
Variable costs incl. commissions	(13.2)	(15.4)	14%
Gross margin	36.7	35.0	5%
Gross margin %	74%	69%	5ppt
Other income	1.1	0.0	
Administrative costs:			
Staff costs	(18.1)	(13.4)	(35)%
Other costs	(7.8)	(7.6)	(3)%
Depreciation and amortisation	(3.9)	(2.7)	(44)%
Operating profit	8.1	11.3	(29)%
Operating profit %	16%	22%	
EBITDA	11.9	14.0	(15)%
EPS	4.6p	8.1p	(43)%
	No.	No.	
Av. Headcount (incl members & directors)	169	119	
Year end headcount (incl members & directors)	196	137	
	£m	£m	
Memo: Staff costs incl. commissions	(28.3)	(24.8)	

## Flat revenues

- Average client spend fell 10% yoy offsetting an 11% increase in total clients
- Suppressed activity in the Institutional segment as a result of low volatility

## 43% increase in average

**headcount** (predominantly sales and back-office staff)

## D&A increase

primarily due to office expansion in the UK and NL and technology spend

## Reduction in operating margins

due to investment in headcount and premises

# Cash flow

£m

<b>Net cash as at 1 January 2023</b>	<b>16.2</b>
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>11.9</b>
Lease payments	(1.5)
Capex	(4.7)
Working capital	2.9
Movement in amounts payable to clients	(1.9)
<b>OCF</b>	<b>6.7</b>
Net interest	0.8
Tax paid	(2.0)
<b>FCF</b>	<b>5.5</b>
Dividends paid	(3.4)
<b>NCF</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<b>Net cash as at 31 December 2023</b>	<b>18.3</b>

**Investment in premises and software development**

**Dividends paid of £3.4m, including interim dividend for FY23 of £0.9m**

**£2.1m cash generated in the year**

# Balance sheet

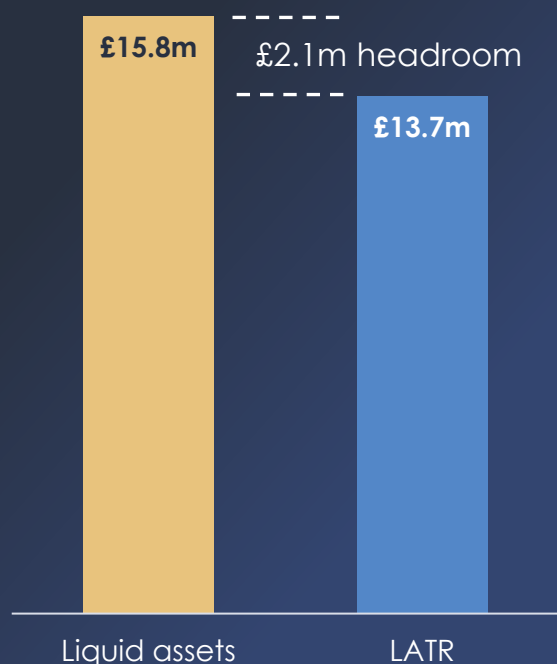
	As at 31 Dec 23	As at 31 Dec 22	YoY Movement
	£m	£m	£m
Fixed assets	17.8	10.4	7.4
Cash and cash equivalents	33.0	29.0	4.0
Other assets <sup>1</sup>	11.6	11.5	0.1
Derivative financial assets	48.7	66.5	(17.8)
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>111.1</b>	<b>117.4</b>	<b>(6.3)</b>
Trade and other payables	(40.7)	(31.4)	(9.3)
Derivative financial liabilities	(29.4)	(47.2)	17.8
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>(70.1)</b>	<b>(78.6)</b>	<b>8.5</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>41.0</b>	<b>38.8</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<i>Cash and cash equivalents</i>	33.0	29.0	4.0
<i>Less: segregated client funds</i>	(14.7)	(12.8)	(1.9)
<b>Net cash</b>	<b>18.3</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>2.1</b>
<i>Collateral held at Institutional counterparties (other assets)</i>	5.7	10.0	(4.3)

Additional office space in UK and the Netherlands

Increase in cash of £4m (gross);  
£2.1m net

# Most of net cash is already needed for Reg. cash requirements

Just £2.1m headroom at end March



\*LATR = Liquid Asset Threshold Requirement

## £15.8m Liquid assets

Varies significantly month to month due to margin calls and ongoing working capital movements

Variation margin calls make our cash position very volatile

Ongoing working capital swings also affect cash balances

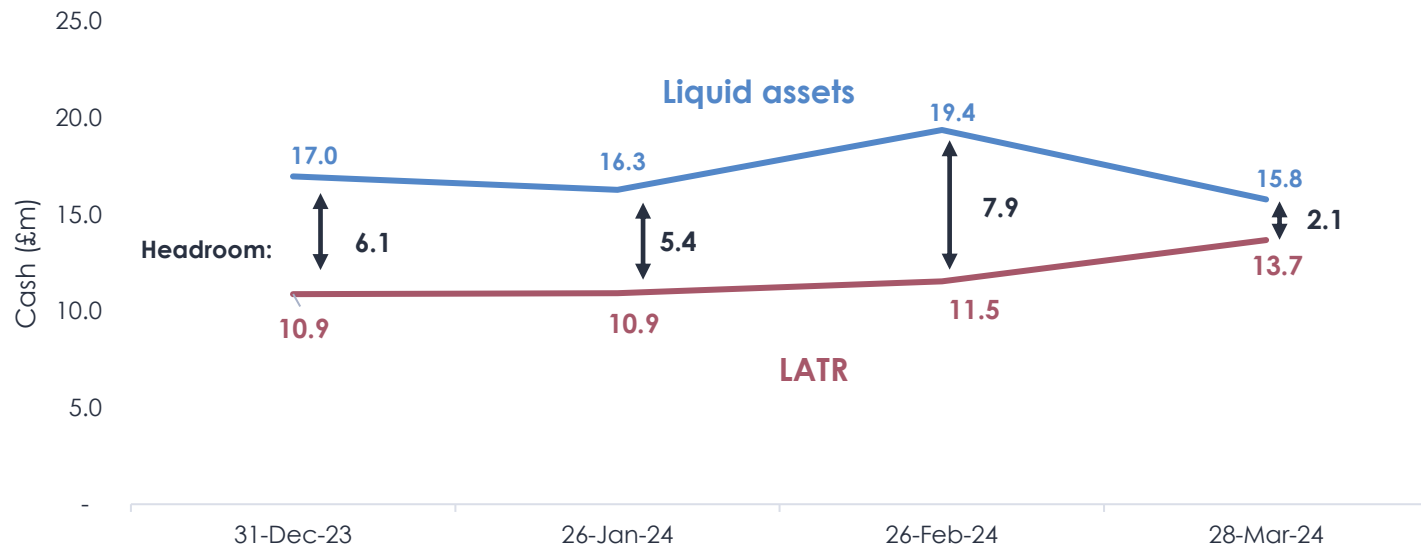
## £13.7m Regulatory Cash needed

Varies month to month

Calculated daily, based on ongoing costs plus stress tests

Reg Cash needed at end March:	£m
Cost of executing business plan	11.2
Stress tests covering credit, market and operational risk:	2.5
Total Reg cash needed	13.7

# Both net cash and Reg. cash requirements can vary significantly



\* Liquid assets = Cash, less amounts payable to clients, less any non-Argentex LLP accounts (see reconciliation)

\*\* LATR = Liquid Asset Threshold Requirement (i.e. Regulatory cash needed to be held in order to trade)

\*\*\* Argentex LLP accounts only considered for purposes of considering liquid assets threshold requirement, given it is the entity trading in the UK and regulated by the FCA

Liquid assets (def'n below) fluctuate with trading and margin calls

Reg cash required varies with size of business, positions taken and the impact of those on our stress test calculations

Headroom fluctuates as a result as indicated

Reconciliation of statutory group cash to net cash		31-Dec-23
Cash and cash equivalents:		33.0
Less segregated client funds		(14.7)
Net cash:		<b>18.3</b>

Reconciliation of net cash to liquid assets		
Net cash at 31 December 2023:		18.3
Removal of non-Argentex LLP accounts***		(1.3)
Liquid assets:		<b>17.0</b>

SECTION 2

# Strategy update

## KEY FINDINGS

# Strategic review



## We are well positioned in FX

Deep expertise in FX solutions and bespoke client service

Distinct brand and reputation

The underlying business is growing (clients and trading volume)



## Things we need to fix

Significantly exposed to market volatility & visibility on client intentions is low

Narrow product suite lacking core offerings

Scope for increased automation - sales processes are manual and time-intensive

Platform remains underinvested with limited scalability or self-service functionality

Little customer segmentation

Right size the cost base

**We have a clear, actionable plan to transform the business**

## Argentex today

### “Pure” FX focused

Limited share of customer spend  
Commoditised offering  
Exposure to FX volatility leads to unpredictable transaction volumes

### “High touch” sales/service model

Difficult to scale  
High cost

### Business model lacks scalability

### Limited use of technology and data

### UK-centric

## Argentex in the future

### Full-service alternative banking platform

Increased predictability of revenues  
Diversification of earnings  
Greater wallet share  
Pull-through of additional FX revenue

### Segmented customer base with differentiated service levels

### Scalable business model

### Strong technology and data capability

Greater visibility of client needs  
Leverage automation to drive cost and service benefits

### International footprint

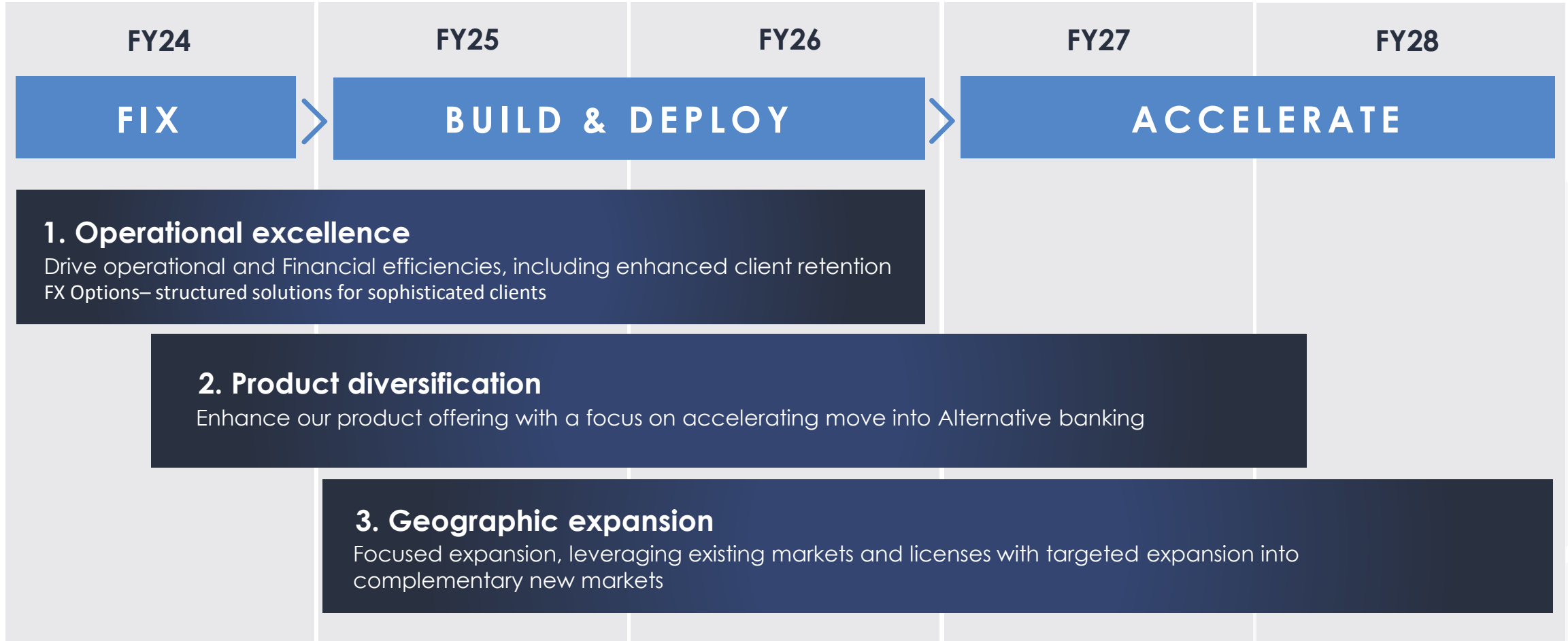
Licensed across EU



A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

# Transforming the business

Delivering significant revenue upside from FY26



## 1. OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

# Financial and operational efficiencies



### Improved cost control

#### Service

FY2024 targets:

£3m reduction in opex

£1m staff cost cuts (natural attrition)

£1.5m from restructured sales commissions – in line with industry norms



### Licencing & Capital efficiencies

Focus on creating new branches where we have licences already

Current model is inefficient as all transactions assessed under MiFID2

- Spot & Forward need EMI licence only
- Options need MiFID2

Potential liquidity benefits from splitting the licence regime

## 1. OPERATIONAL EXCELLENCE

# Delivering a best in class customer experience



### Segmenting our customers properly

Top 10

28% of revenue

White glove service at high end

Top 11-100

37% of revenue

Continued focus on mid/upper corporates

Remaining 1838

35% of revenue

Light touch/online service at low end  
(with lower cost to serve)



### Evolve our selling model

Customer lifetime value will be at the centre of our sales model

Aligning commission to customer lifetime value

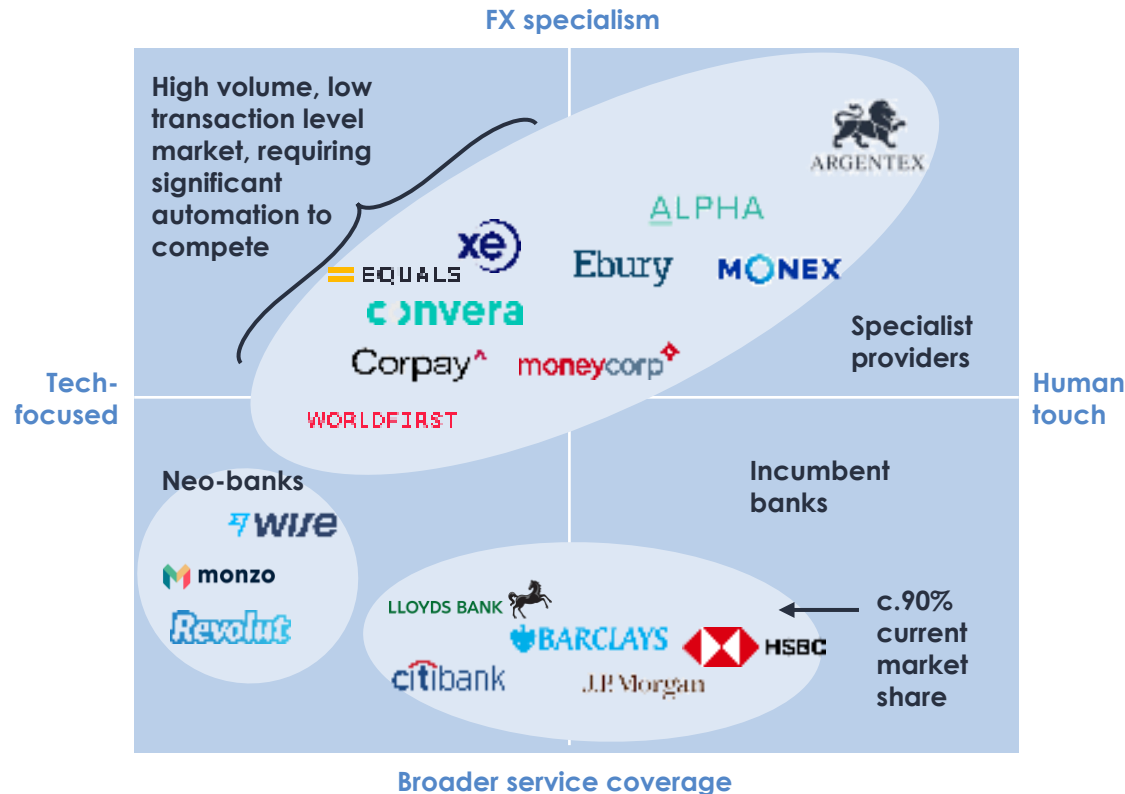
KPI-led approach rewards ongoing sales & dealer involvement

## 2. PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION

# Cross Border transactions and Alternative Banking

Taking advantage of two major converging markets

Multi-Currency  
Risk Management  
and Payments  
services market



### Our advantage vs traditional banks

Greater service and flexibility

Specialist international payments and FX expertise

Improved management of treasury risk

### Our advantage vs other specialist FX providers

“White glove” bespoke service model

Track-record in segment

Highly respected brand, strongly trusted

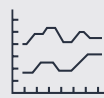
## 2. PRODUCT DIVERSIFICATION

# Accelerating our progression in Alternative Banking:



### Multi-currency payments

Virtual IBANs  
Mass payments  
Reporting  
Fund finance



### Multi-currency risk

FX brokerage  
Credit facilities  
Bespoke advisory



### Technology

Platform  
Client Integration  
APIs



### Client Coverage

Corporate  
Institutional  
Multi-jurisdictional

We need a full service offering to meet high value client needs and to capitalise on low-touch revenue lines

### 3. GEOGRAPHICAL EXPANSION

# Leveraging existing locations and targeting complementary markets

## Existing locations



### Netherlands

Trading since 2022



### Australia

Licence granted in May 2024



### Dubai

Expecting licence in H2'24

## Expanding our footprint commercially



### EU branches

Passport off the Netherlands licence

Acquire existing teams

Incentivise with profit share model

# Summary



**FY 2023 was a year of strategic review and meaningful change across the business**



**The business has a strong brand and reputation and is well positioned in its core FX markets**



**There are multiple growth opportunities in the large and growing adjacent markets**



**We are committed to repositioning the business as a leading cross border financial solutions expert to take advantage of these opportunities**



**Our comprehensive transformation plan is based on 3 key areas:**

Operational excellence

Product diversification

Geographic expansion