

Results of Operations for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 2023

October 2023



# I. Company Overview



### **Company Overview**

## Management Policy

## Create and foster businesses through IT education/training services and contribute to the advancement of society.

- **Company name:** SERAKU Co., Ltd.
- **Established:** December 1987
- **Representative:** Tatsumi Miyazaki, Representative Director
- **Capital:** 307,006,300 yen (as of August 31, 2023)
- **Employees:** 3,480 on a consolidated basis (as of August 31, 2023)
- Location: Nishishinjuku Prime Square Bldg. 7-5-25 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

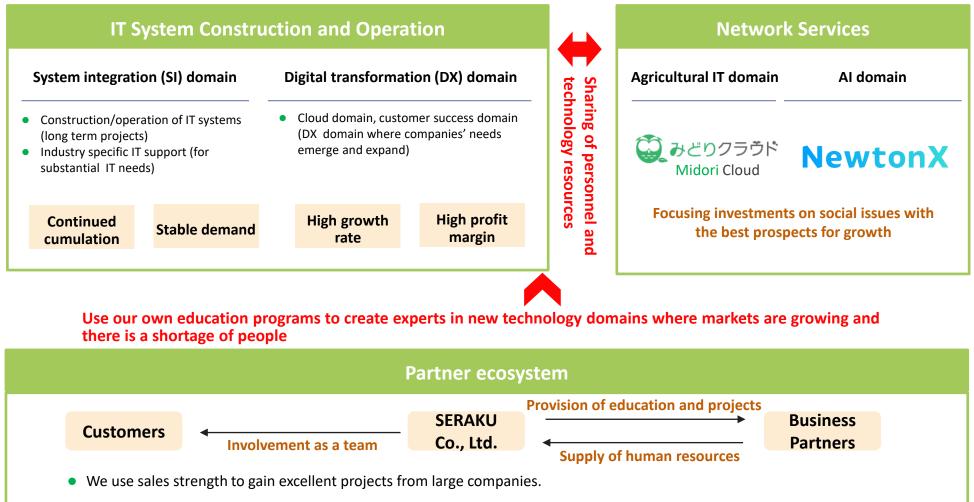
Group companies: SERAKU CCC (wholly owned subsidiary)

SERAKU Business Solutions (wholly owned subsidiary)

Listed exchange: Tokyo Stock Exchange, Standard Market (stock code 6199)



## Working as "Digital Integrator," we implement and operate IT systems and DX in society.



• We expand business through our involvement in projects as a team of multiple members, including personnel from business partners.

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## **SERAKU's Competitive Strengths**

#### Partner ecosystem

- We use sales strength to gain excellent projects from large companies. In collaboration with partners, we form a team of several members to take part in projects.
- We receive more than 5,000 proposals from partners.
- We provide partners with practical project training.



#### Growth potential in DX field

- Cloud system operation and support services by Seraku CCC
- Managed services at the IoT Cloud Support Center (24/7 operation of IT infrastructure and systems)
- We are increasing the number of cloud platforms we can deal with and apply our expertise in operation and support services.

#### **Agricultural IT**



- Agricultural and fisheries DX platform
- DX solutions for the primary industry
- Midori Cloud Rakuraku Shipment Cutting labor for collection and shipping of vegetables and fruit by up to 85%



#### AI/ Automation



- ChatGPT utilization support service for companies
- AI utilization support with fine tuning

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### **Business Segments and Service Domain**

We have integrated the SI and DX sectors into one organization and re-defined it as the Digital Integration business segment.

### **Digital Integration**

Create high value-added and achieve high growth in new technology areas by building on our strength, namely, operating and maintaining IT systems with stability over the long term.

#### Construction, operation and maintenance of IT systems

- Operation of IT infrastructures
- Operation of IT systems
- Infrastructure solutions

#### IT support

- Financial/social systems
- Information communication systems
- Enterprise systems
- Service management
- Quality assurance

#### **Cloud & Solutions Business**

- IoT cloud support center
- Cybersecurity

#### Operate cloud systems and facilitate their widespread use

- Supporting the introduction and operation of COMPANY\*
- Operate cloud systems and facilitate their widespread use

\*HR software

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- Introduction and support services for operation of Salesforce.com
- Design of marketing activities
- Data science

#### **Former SI Segment**

#### **Former DX Segment**

#### **Midori Cloud**

Support the primary industry by leveraging the power of IT.

#### Agriculture and Fisheries DX Platform





- Measurement, recording and control of the farm / livestock building environments
- Sales support

#### Agriculture and Fisheries solutions

- DX solutions
- Digital transformation service of the farming and sales business



#### Mechanical Design and Engineering

Expanding services based on mechanical design technologies





 Mechanical design, analysis and production technologies

## Construction, operation and maintenance of IT systems

- Expand services matched to wide-ranging market needs using abundant resources according to the education-type IT professional development model
- Operate a stock-type business centering on the enduring operation of IT infrastructure and systems to achieve stable growth

#### **Operation of IT infrastructure/systems**

- One-stop services including system construction, operation and maintenance
- More than 75% of business are large scale operation projects that require long term continuous operation.
- The number of customers at locations other than Tokyo (Yokohama, Nagoya, Osaka, Fukuoka) is growing.

#### Assigning engineers matched to customer needs to enduing IT infrastructure and system operation projects



#### Industry-specific IT support

- Promoting projects working as a subcontractor for large projects of major system integrators or receiving orders from prime contractors.
- Aim for growth by using collaboration and alliances with partners.
- Train IT professionals with operational knowledge.

Cultivating primarily in fields where there are strong needs for IT. Expand business by enlarging trading platforms with major system integrators.

Financial/ social systems Information communication systems

Enterprise systems

Steady growth under the education-based IT professional creation model and the provision of greater added value by shifting human resource to the DX domain

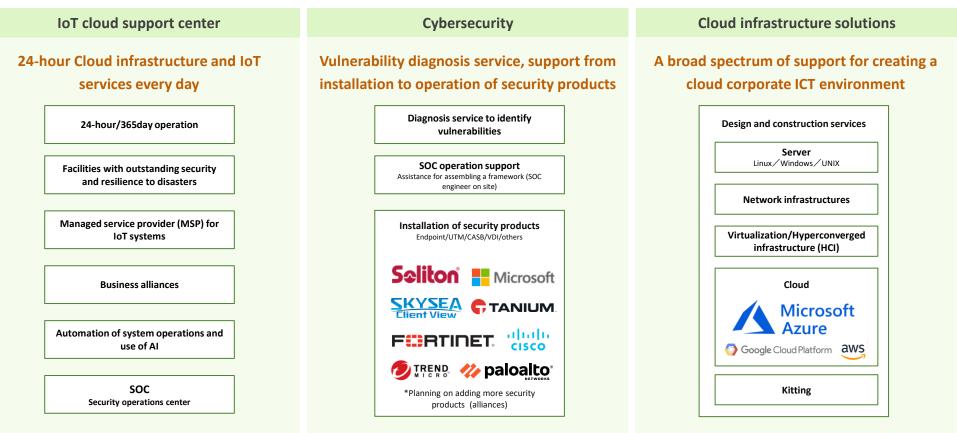
- SERAKU's exclusive IT professional creation model underpins growth by using introductory lessons and then lessons using actual working environments to train inexperience people so they can be assigned to projects within two to three months
- To provide greater added value, experienced people acquire more advanced skills for DX activities, project management and other challenging positions

# Expanding well-developed training and sales systems helps inexperienced engineers grow into competitive at an early stage.



## **Cloud & Solutions Business**

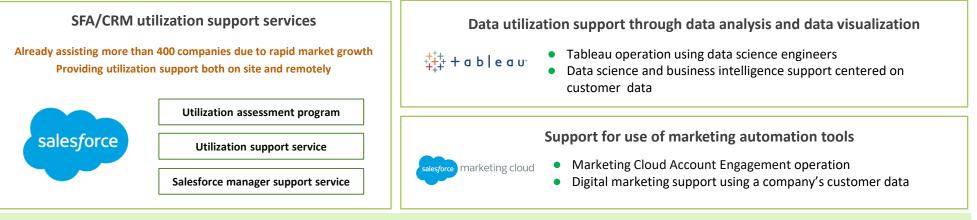
- Total support for cloud computing in the corporate ICT environment (infrastructure, the Internet of Things) from designing and building to operation, monitoring and security.
- Shifting the focus to DX and cultivating engineers, while strengthening alliances to achieve growth in response to rapidly expanding market demand post the COVID-19 pandemic



The IoT/Cloud Support Center work to improve the quality of services using automation and AI.

## **Customer Success Solution (SERAKU CCC)**

Specializing in the Salesforce platform, which has a high market share in the SFA/CRM domain and strengthening the shift from engineers in the SI domain to those in the DX domain



Strengthening collaboration with NTT Data and others, DX acceleration support through utilization support services

| SERAKUCCC X NTTDATA     | <ul> <li>In April 2021, SERAKU jointly launched a business reform support service with NTT Data Corporation.</li> <li>In July 2021, SERAKU strengthened Pardot utilization support service in collaboration with Netyear</li> </ul>                           |
|-------------------------|---|
|                         | <ul> <li>Group Cooperation.</li> <li>In July 2021, SERAKU extended utilization support services in collaboration with WingArc1st Inc.</li> <li>In December 2021, SERAKU increased Tableau utilization support service in collaboration with Intage</li> </ul> |
| Seraku ccc × intra-mart | <ul> <li>Technosphere Inc.</li> <li>In September 2023, SERAKU jointly launched the Accel-Mart Quick operation support with NTT Data<br/>Intramart Corporation.</li> </ul>   |

Capital participation in Resona Digital Hub, a solution provider answering the diverse DX needs of small and medium enterprises



- SERAKU invested in Resona Digital Hub Co., Ltd. (RDH), established on April 1, 2022, to commence the operations of the joint venture.
- RDH will construct a platform to open the way for one-stop proposals of diverse IT solutions to the Resona Group's small and medium corporate customers to help them increase productivity and competitiveness.
- SERAKU staff will provide Salesforce.com utilization support through RDH's unique customer success plan. SERAKU will promote use of the cloud services of Salesforce, Microsoft and others that it has developed.

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## **Customer Success Solution (SERAKU CCC)**

#### We started offering the Tableau Data Cruise, a service pack for training human resources in data utilization.

The Tableau Data Cruise is a practical workshop-type service for human resource development planned and developed jointly by SERAKU CCC Co., Ltd. and Salesforce Japan Co., Ltd.(Tableau) We released the service to address a market situation in which there is a significant shortage of persons with expertise in data utilization despite an increase in the number of companies that introduce the Tableau.



Engineers' skills have improved due to the assignment of full-time trainers, support for acquisition of qualifications, and knowledge sharing.

Companies are proactively training engineers to rise on a "trend toward the strengthening of marketing through data utilization" instead of "the utilization of standardized SFA." In particular, the number of persons who acquire qualifications related to the Tableau and the Marketing Cloud is on the rise, contributing to growth from business perspectives.



Buoyant IT investment for the use of Salesforce, which is directly connected to the expansion of results

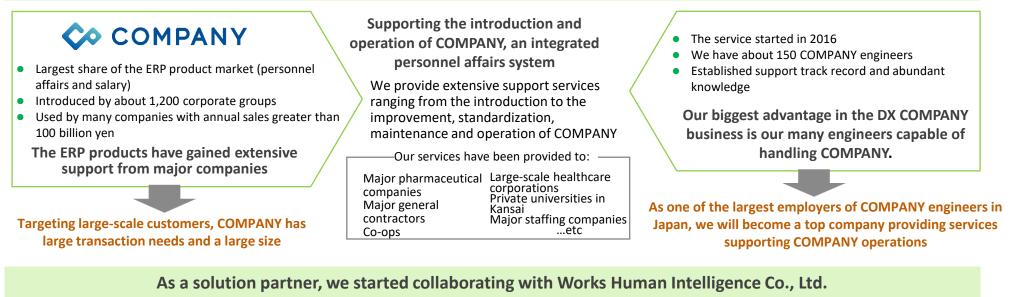
The business will be transferred to SERAKU CCC, a wholly owned subsidiary that will be established through a company split in December 2022.

We will establish the number one brand in the cloud system operation and utilization market

## SERAKU

## Supporting the introduction and operation of COMPANY

#### We have about 150 COMPANY engineers, making us one of the largest employers of COMPANY engineers in Japan.



- In November 2022, we started collaborating with Works Human Intelligence Co., Ltd. (WHI) as a solution partner\*
  - With WHI providing the training environment, we have established an original training program for the development of professionals
  - To date, we have produced more than 100 COMPANY engineers, making us one of the largest employers of this type of engineer in Japan.
  - We will develop 300 COMPANY engineers over the next three years and contribute to meeting the growing demand for COMPANY

\*Solution partner: A partner company that collaborates in supporting the introduction, utilization and upgrading of systems and the design and operation for outsourcing

A dedicated division was separately established in March 2023 in pursuit of the continued expansion of the business

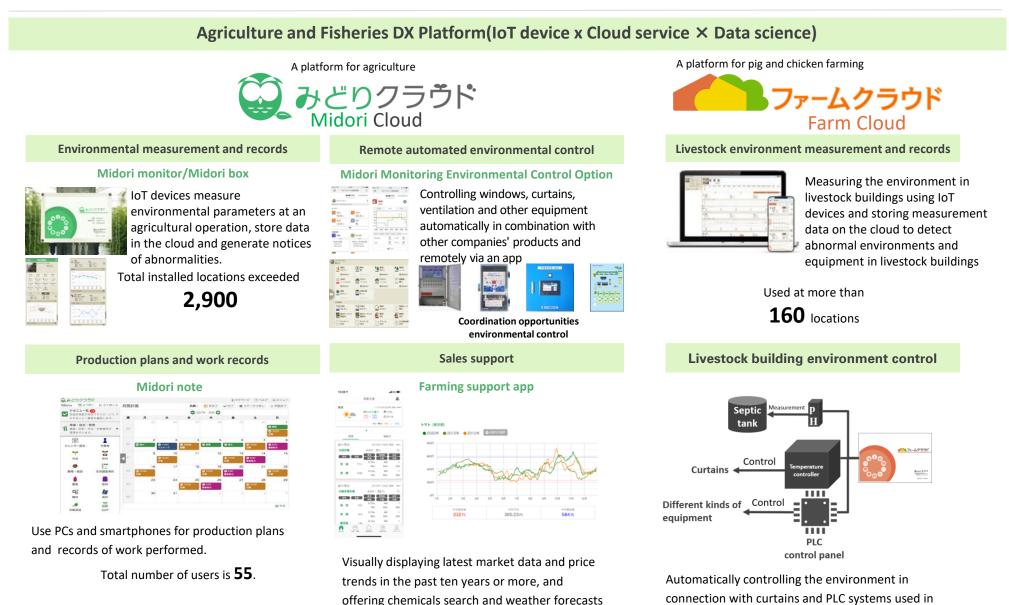
Leveraging one of the largest resources of COMPANY engineers in Japan, we will increase our preparedness so that we are able to receive large-scale orders, make the service available in wider regions and handle more difficult orders

Works Human Intelligence

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## **Midori Cloud Business**





Number of registered users is **4,500** 

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livestock farming

## **Midori Cloud Business**

#### **Agriculture and Fisheries solutions**

#### Agriculture and Fisheries DX Platform and SERAKU technologies will enable DX in various industries

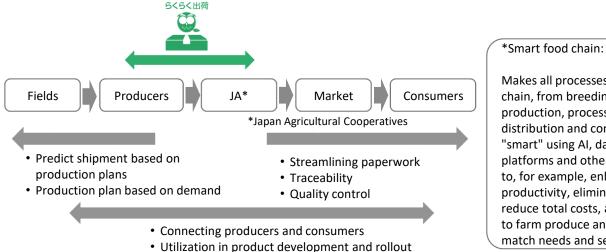


## Up to 85% reduction of the working hours that farm instructors spend on the collecting and shipping goods

Previously, fruit and vegetable distribution was basically done using handwritten documents and manual counting. A digital technology system combining barcodes, cloud systems, smartphone apps and other technologies will be introduced to dramatically reduce the labor required to collect and ship goods. DX has been shown to help producers and farm instructors (JA) shorten the working hours spent collecting and shipping goods a maximum of 24% and 85%, respectively, and significantly reduce risks related to miscounting and other undesirable events. As the service allocates individual identification codes to fruits and vegetables, it increase access to smart food chains\* to enhance



the value of farm produce.

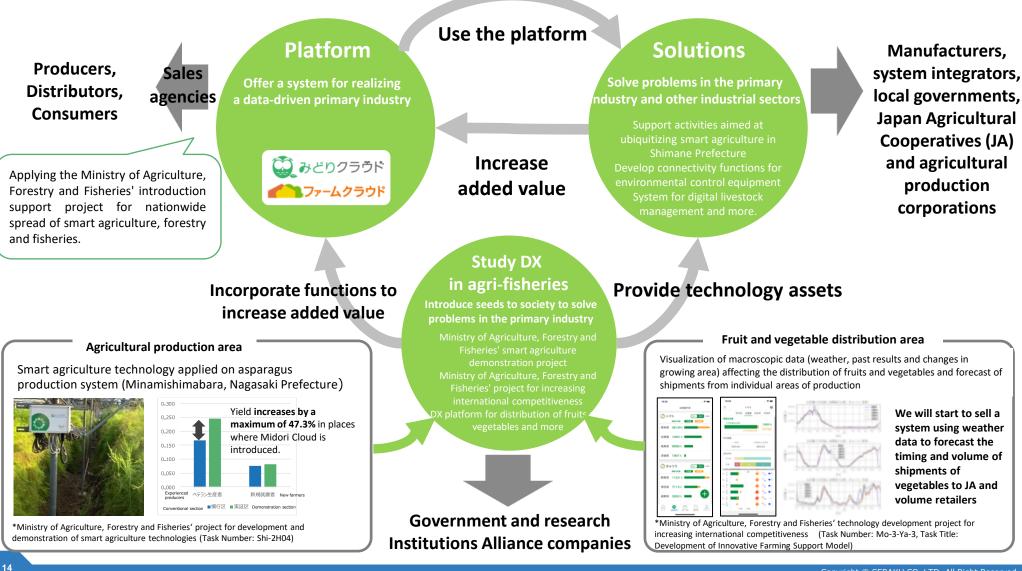


Makes all processes of the food chain, from breeding to production, processing, distribution and consumption, "smart" using AI, data linking platforms and other technologies to, for example, enhance productivity, eliminate waste, reduce total costs, add high value to farm produce and foods and match needs and seeds

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## **Midori Cloud Business**

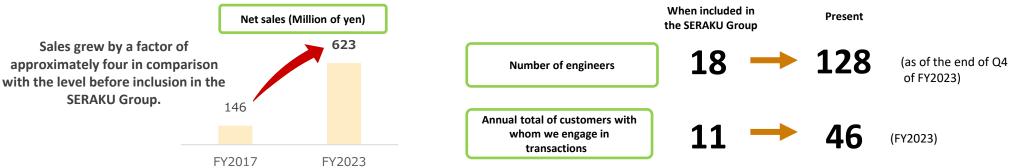




## **Mechanical Design and Engineering (SERAKU Business Solutions)**

- The segment has been growing steadily thanks to group synergies in recruitment, training and sales since it was included in the SERAKU Group in April 2018.
- It seeks to expand its business domain and areas in which it can develop businesses by leveraging its mechanical design and engineering skills.





P's Engineering was renamed SERAKU Business Solutions in October 2022 due to a change in its trade name. The company seeks to further expand its businesses by fully leveraging the SERAKU Group's resources.



# **II. FY8/23** Results of Operations

### FY8/23 Highlights

sales

# 20.8 billion yen

Net sales topped 20 billion yen They surged 16.8% year on year. Engineer utilization rate

(As of Q4 of FY2023) **97.6%** 

We focused on the balance between hiring and utilization to maintain a high utilization rate throughout the year.

**Operating profit margin** 

9.3%

The result is much higher than was forecast at the start of fiscal year (6.9%) after good progress in engineer assignment to projects.

Number of engineers

3,158

A focus on recruiting new graduate engineers resulted in a net increase by 107.



## FY8/23 Financial Highlights (1)

- Net sales grew 16.8% year on year given an increase in engineers and the winning of projects with high unit prices.
- Gross profit margin was 24.8%, reflecting a rise in engineer utilization rate and a shift to projects with high unit prices.
- With the SG&A expense ratio lowered from the previous fiscal year, operating profit leaped 119.4% year on year.

|                     | Results FY8/22 |              | I      | Results FY8/23 |              |
|---------------------|----------------|--------------|--------|----------------|--------------|
| (Millions of yen)   |                | (% to sales) |        | (% to sales)   | (YoY change) |
| Net sales           | 17,859         | -            | 20,858 | -              | +16.8%       |
| Gross profit        | 3,904          | 21.9%        | 5,178  | <b>24.8</b> %  | +32.6%       |
| SG&A<br>expense     | 3,017          | 16.9%        | 3,233  | <b>15.5</b> %  | +7.2%        |
| Operating<br>profit | 886            | 5.0%         | 1,944  | <b>9.3</b> %   | +119.4%      |
| Ordinary<br>profit  | 1,434          | 8.0%         | 2,156  | <b>10.3</b> %  | +50.4%       |
| Profit              | 966            | 5.4%         | 1,472  | <b>7.1</b> %   | +52.4%       |



## FY8/23 Financial Highlights (2)

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- Many projects are long term and we maintain an accumulative business model.
- For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, net sales surpassed the level in the full-year forecast announced at the beginning of the fiscal year.
- Going forward, we will seek to increase the number of working engineers, including those from business partners, and shift to projects with high unit prices.

|                           | Progress in net sales in comparison with the full-year forecast* |                                      |                                      |                      |                     |                        |                      |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
|                           | (Millions of yen)  |                                      |                                      | *Revisions anr       | nounced on July 1   | 2, 2023 are reflected. |                      |
|                           | 1H for   | %                                    | 2                                    | H forecast           | 10,590              | 51.0%                  |                      |
| FY8/23<br>(Progress rate) | (:<br>5,030<br>(1Q)<br>→24.                                      | LH:49.0%)<br>5,129<br>(2Q)<br>2%     | →24.7%                               | <b>5,307</b><br>(3Q) | 7<br>→25.6%         |                        | 390<br>₄Q)<br>→26.0% |
| FY8/22                    | 4,110<br>(1Q) →23.0%   | <b>4,375</b><br>(2Q) → <b>24.5</b> % | <b>4,637</b><br>(3Q)                 | <b>→26.0%</b>        | <b>4,73</b><br>(40) |                        |                      |
| FY8/21                    | 3,520<br><sup>(1Q)</sup> →23.1%                                  | <b>3,748</b><br>(2Q) → <b>24.6%</b>  | <b>4,044</b><br>(3Q) → <b>26.5</b> % | <b>3,95</b><br>(40)  |                     |                        |                      |
|                           |  |                                      |                                      |                      |                     |                        |                      |

#### Progress in net sales in comparison with the full-year forecast\*



## FY8/23 Financial Highlights (3)

• Efforts were made to address the diverse needs of customers by utilizing technical resources in a cross-sectoral manner beyond the borders of former business domains.

• Growth was attained in the former SI domain and in the DX domain. We will take steps to enrich our services and increase added value.

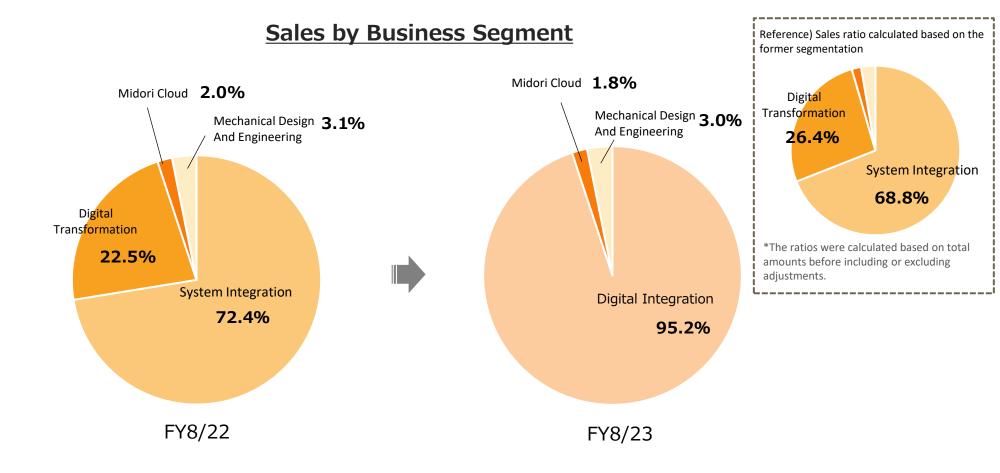
|                        |   | FY8/22             |            | FY8/23               |            | Increase and Decrease |                        |
|------------------------|---|--------------------|------------|----------------------|------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| _                      | (Millions of yen)   | Amount of money    | % to Total | Amount of money      | % to Total | Amount of money       | Percentage<br>increase |
|                        | Digital Integration   | 16,982             | 94.9%      | 19,920               | 95.2%      | +2,937                | +17.3%                 |
| Net                    | Midori Cloud  | 340                | 1.9%       | 371                  | 1.8%       | +31                   | +9.1%                  |
| sales                  | Mechanical Design and<br>Engineering                            | 565                | 3.2%       | 623                  | 3.0%       | +58                   | +10.3%                 |
|                        | Total   | 17,888             | 100.0%     | 20,915               | 100.0%     | +3,027                | +16.9%                 |
| _                      | <b>Digital Integration</b><br>(Segment profit margin)           | <b>949</b><br>5.6% | 107.0%     | 1,913<br>9.6%        | 98.9%      | +964                  | +101.6%                |
| Segment<br>profit/loss | Midori Cloud  | (63)               | (7.1%)     | (31)                 | (1.6%)     | +31                   | -                      |
| p. 01.0, 1035          | Mechanical Design and<br>Engineering<br>(Segment profit margin) | <b>0</b><br>0.1%   | 0.1%       | <b>53</b><br>8.6%    | 2.8%       | +52                   | +8223.2%               |
| _                      | <b>Total</b> (profit margin)                                    | <b>886</b><br>5.0% | 100.0%     | <b>1,935</b><br>9.3% | 100.0%     | +1,048                | +118.3%                |

\*The above total amounts are those before including or excluding adjustments.



## 3Q FY8/23 Financial Highlights (4)

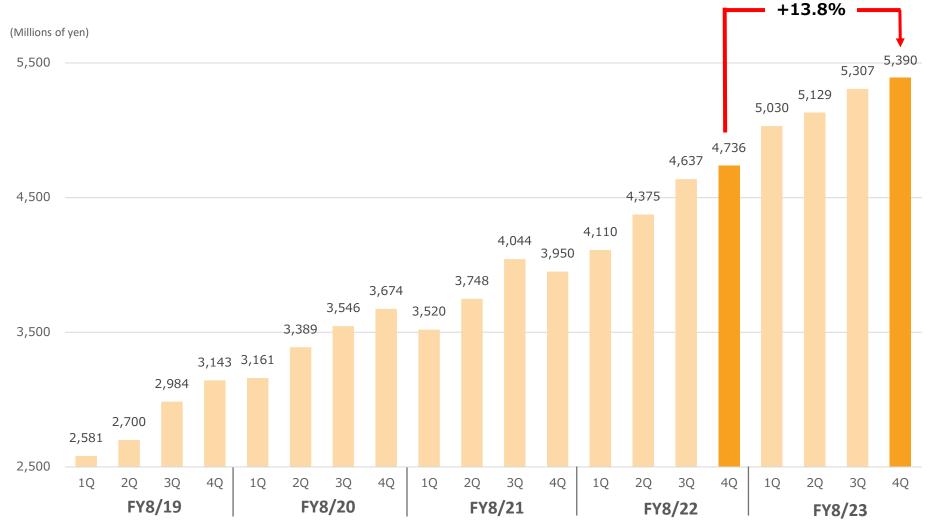
- Stable growth in the construction, operation and maintenance businesses of IT systems underpinned growth in new business.
- Regarding the sales ratio of the DX segment calculating based on the former segmentation is 26.4%.
- Profit margins remained high in the former DX segment. Personnel shift to the DX domain continued.





## **Quarterly Sales Growth**

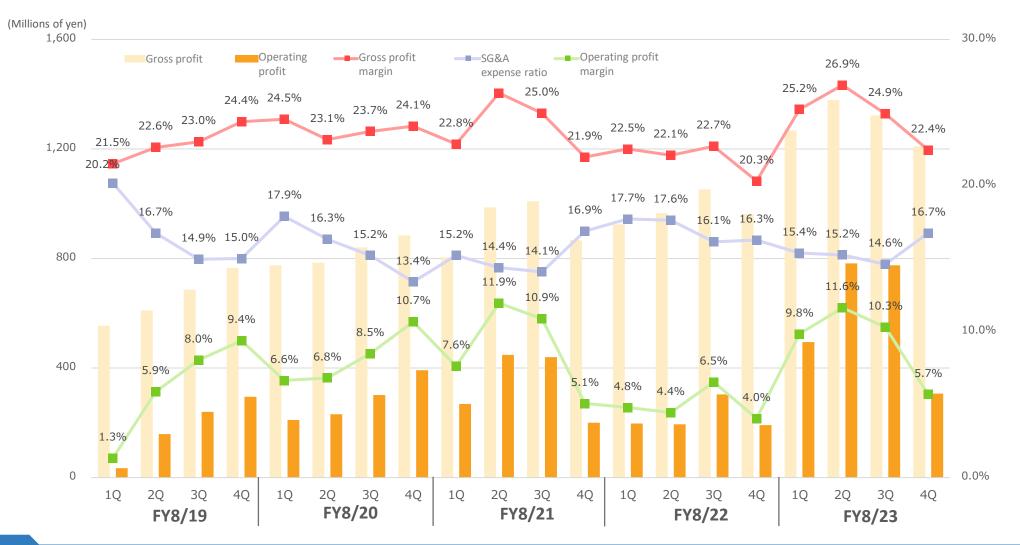
- In the fourth quarter of the fiscal year ended August 31,2023, net sales increased 13.8% from the same period of the previous fiscal year, hitting a record high.
- Net sales stayed on the upward trend.





## **Quarterly Earnings Growth**

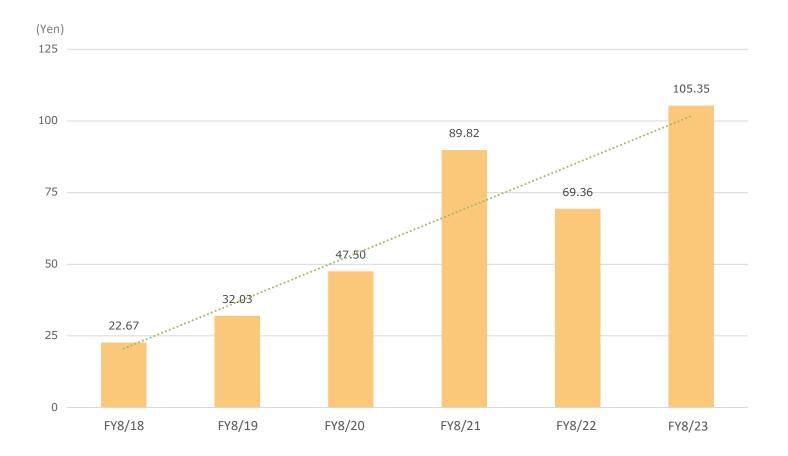
- Increase/decrease in investment in growth relating to engineer recruitment had a significant impact on the gross profit margin.
- In 4Q FY8/23, increasing investments in recruitment and education led to declines in profit margin at each level.





## **Trends in EPS in the Past Few Years**

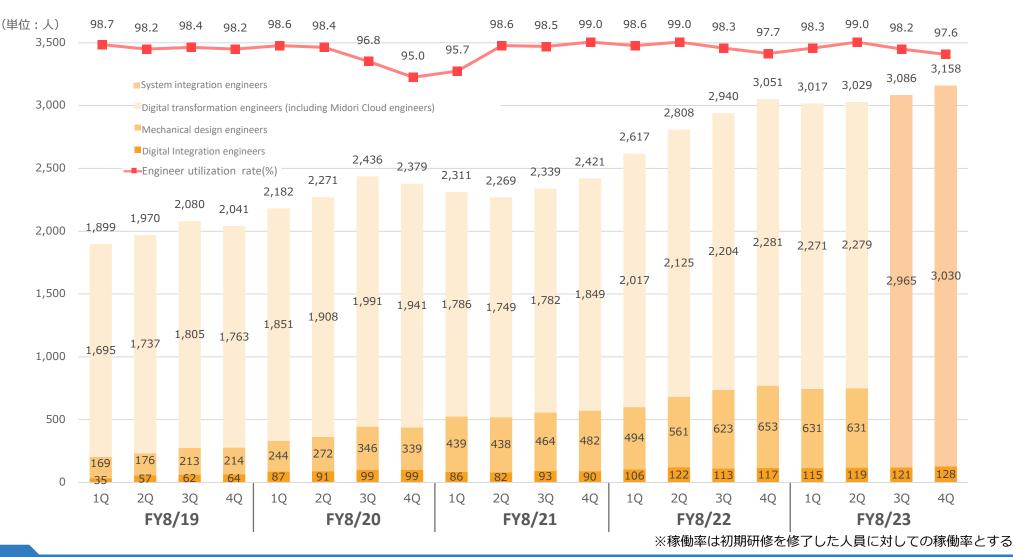
- EPS (earnings per share) = Profit / Average number of shares outstanding in the fiscal year
- EPS stood at 105.35 yen in the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023 while aggressive investments were made.
- As an indicator of corporate profitability, ESP is on the increase.





## **Number of Engineers and Utilization Rate**

- For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, we recruited engineers while maintaining a balance with working engineers.
- The engineer utilization rate in the 4Q of the fiscal year ending August 2023 remained at a high level of 97.6%.

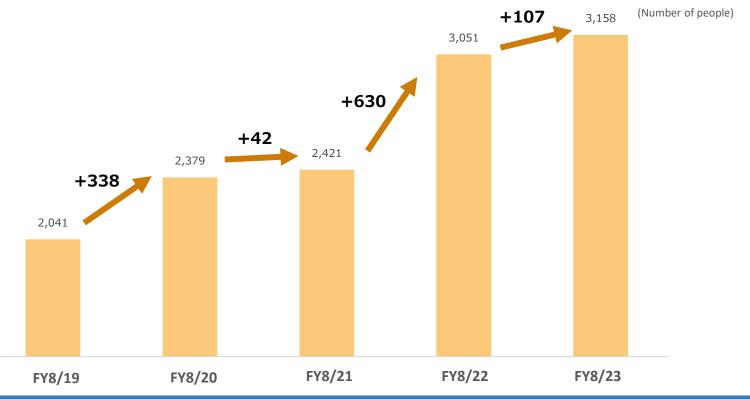




## **Trends in Net Increase in Engineers**

We have expanded business results in proportion to the number of our engineers. In the future, we will aim to increase the number of working engineers including those from business partners, to shift to high value-added domains and to win projects with high unit prices.

- For the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, we had a net increase of 107 engineers compared with a target annual net increase of 120.
- While maintaining our advantage in independent recruitment, we will step up the cultivation and education of business partners.
- Going forward, we will seek to increase the number of engineers, including those from business partners.



## **Topics**



| • Feb 1, 2022   | Investment in the DX Support Subsidiary Set Up by Resona Holdings to Participate in the Joint Venture<br>A business offering Salesforce.com and other solutions to meet diverse DX implementation needs has been launched in collaboration with<br>Resona Group companies and others. |
|-----------------|---|
| • Nov.17,2022   | Strengthened collaboration with WHI from the perspective of solution partners.  |
|                 | Operation support services were strengthened from the perspective of promoting the widespread use of COMPANY by companies that introduce the service. We will develop 300 dedicated engineers for COMPANY over the next three years.  |
| • Jan. 19, 2023 | Launched the service for training human resources in the utilization of Tableau in collaboration with Salesforce Japan  |
|                 | Started offering Tableau Data Cruise, a service pack for training human resources in data utilization, to the companies that were interested in the full-scale introduction and utilization of Tableau  |
| • Mar. 29, 2023 | Launched Midori Cloud Rakuraku Shipment, a digital service for fruit and vegetable distribution   |
|                 | Digital technologies were introduced in fruit and vegetable distribution so that the fruits and vegetables could enter smart food chains to increase the value of farm produce.   |
| • Apr. 27, 2023 | Realized AI-assisted forecasts on the shipments of produce and started to provide information on expected shipments in the main production areas.   |
|                 | Created an AI-assisted system in which the shipments of produce are forecast based on a range of data such as volumes previously distributed in the market, as well as climate information.   |
| • May. 29, 2023 | The Midori Cloud received the Development Encouragement Award in the 2023 Annual Convention of the Japanese Society of Agricultural Informatics.  |
|                 | The Development and popularization of the Midori Cloud, a service that supports data-based agriculture, built a strong reputation, which resulted in receiving the Development Encouragement Award.   |
| • Jun. 26, 2023 | The Midori Cloud Rakuraku Shukka service received the Excellence Award of the SX and GX Category in the Japan DX Grand Prix.  |
|                 | The service was highly evaluated due to initiatives for addressing supply and demand issues at agricultural frontlines by leveraging expertise on smart agriculture, which resulted in receiving the Excellence Award.  |
| • Aug. 25, 2023 | Release of NewtonX, a ChatGPT service for companies   |
|                 | We released a secure generative and conversational AI service tailored for business use, featuring data leakage protection and enhanced operational productivity.   |
| • Sep. 25, 2023 | Stepping into the cloud BPM domain in collaboration with NTT Data Intramart Corporation   |
|                 | We released the Accel-Mart Quick cloud low-code development service combined with Seraku CCC's customer success function.   |



# **III. FY8/24 Initiatives and Growth Forecast**



## FY8/24 Plan (1)

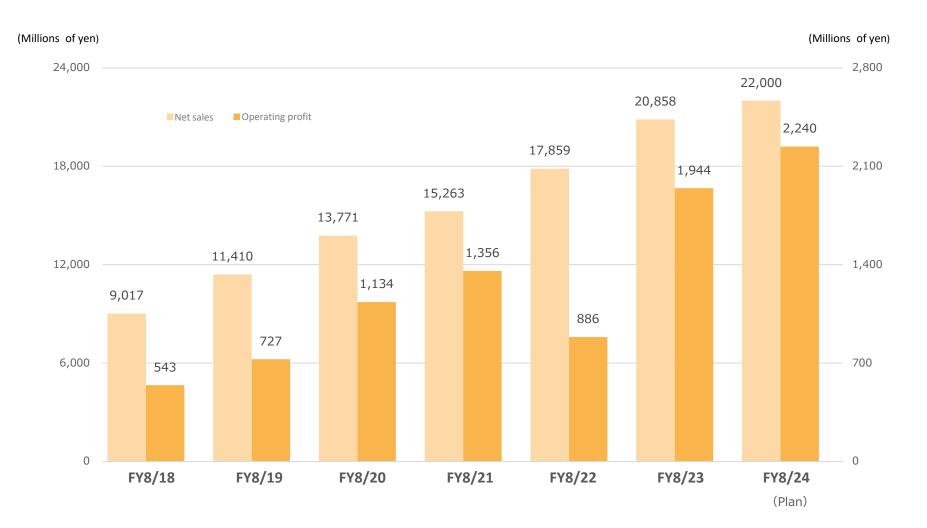
- Net sales are expected to rise 5.5% year on year. We will establish a partner ecosystem and reform the customer portfolio.
- We will increase the utilization of partners and win more projects from prime contractors in order to boost the operating profit margin.
- We will step up shareholder returns, planning to increase dividends to 13.00 yen per share.

|                     | FY8/23 re | esults       |          | FY8/24 plan  |              |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| (Millions of yen)   |           | (% to sales) |          | (% to sales) | (YoY change) |
| Net sales           | 20,858    | -            | 22,000   | -            | +5.5%        |
| Operating<br>profit | 1,944     | 9.3%         | 2,240    | 10.2%        | +15.2%       |
| Ordinary<br>profit  | 2,156     | 10.3%        | 2,240    | 10.2%        | +3.9%        |
| Profit              | 1,472     | 7.1%         | 1,500    | 6.8%         | +1.9%        |
| Dividends           | 10.40yen  | -            | 13.00yen | -            | -            |



## FY8/24 Plan (2)

 We will focus on structural changes with a view to the medium- and long-term maximization of net sales and operating profit growth.





# Step up our growth strategy and shift to the long-term maximization of net sales and operating profit growth

- Apply our strengths in recruitment, education and sales not only to employed engineers but also to the establishment of a partner ecosystem to secure capacity for growth from a long-term perspective
- Invest in the Midori Cloud business, Seraku CCC and DX services to increase additional value and profit margins

|                 | -FY8/23  | FY8/24-   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Vision          | Net sales: 50.0 billion yen  | <ul><li>(1) Net sales: 50.0 billion yen</li><li>(2) Operating profit margin: 15%</li></ul>  |
| Growth Strategy | <ul> <li>Increase employed engineers to expand the scale of operations</li> <li>Focus on net sales growth</li> </ul> | <ul> <li>Establish a partner ecosystem to expand the scale of operations</li> <li>High added value</li> <li>Build a profit structure that does not depend on the number of engineers</li> </ul> |
| Strengths       | <ul> <li>Recruiting capability</li> <li>Training capability</li> <li>Sales capability</li> </ul>                     | <ul> <li>Partner ecosystem</li> <li>(Procurement, education and matching)</li> <li>DX service</li> <li>Al/Automation</li> <li>Agricultural IT</li> <li>Sales capability</li> </ul>              |

\* We had a goal of reaching 50 billion yen in net sales by the fiscal year ending August 31, 2027. We will prioritize maximization of the figure of operating profit and the margin and establishment of our strengths and change the period for achieving the target.

## We will move to the TSE Standard Market on October 20, 2023.

- Focus on creating an environment in which our shares can be continuously owned and traded without worries
- Concentrate management resources on business growth in an effort to expand results over the medium and long terms.
- Continue dialogues with shareholders and investors to improve our total market value

Achieve medium- and long-term growth in corporate value with a focus on shareholder value and on the continued expansion of business results

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## Growth Forecast in Fiscal Year Ending August 31, 2024 (Summary)

#### DX domain

### Become the Japanese leader in operating and utilization support the widespread use of cloud systems

Increase the number of supported platforms

# Expansion in the information system operating segment

• Expand due to increased demand for IoT cloud support centers and managed services

#### SI domain

#### Expand the size of the partner ecosystem

- Expand the total number of working engineers (including business partners)
- Enhance hiring, sales and training capabilities

#### Improvement of operating profit margin

 Implement structural reforms aimed at customers and projects

#### AI/Automation Segment

### **Creative productivity improvements to IT operation through AI/automation**

- NewtonX ChatGPT operating service for enterprise
- Focus on R&D and customer development in the AI/Automation segment

#### **Midori Cloud**

#### Become the primary industry DX leader

 Focus on expanding sales of the Rakuraku Shukka collection and shipment support service

#### **Human resources**

#### **Development of leader candidates**

- Increase from the current 200 people to 600 people
- Redesign "three-year stories" for engineers

#### **Corporate Philosophy**

#### Promotion of health and productivity management

## SERAKU

### **Growth Strategy (1)** Become the Leader in operating and utilization support the Widespread Use of Cloud Systems

#### Market trends

- IT investments at companies is shifting from standalone system development and building to the use of cloud systems and expanded achievements
- The market is shifting to an era of business growth driven by combining and operating multiple cloud systems and utilizing data

#### **Our initiatives**

 At SERAKU, human resources who combine knowledge of cloud systems with the ability to develop and implement proposals support the success of clients

> Expertise in operation and utilization support of widespread use established through customer successes with Salesforce is being rolled out to other platforms



sales*f*orce

Number one domestic share in office cloud (46.7%)Research by Keyman's Net

Microsoft 365 Intra-mart<sup>®</sup> servicenow 💸 COMPANY

Developed and marketed by an NTT Data affiliate Used by over 9,500 companies in Japan

Installations are expanding with an average annual growth rate of over 30% Regards Japan as a key market

Major personnel and payroll system in Japan Established a joint venture structure with the developer WHI

### We will extend our service areas to high-growth platforms and expand in size through collaboration with platform operators

 In September 2023, SERAKU jointly launched the Accel-Mart Quick service installation and establishment support service in collaboration with NTT Data Intramart Corporation

## Growth Strategy (2) Expansion in the Information System Operating Segment

#### **Market trends**

- From IT infrastructure and device management to business systems and in-house support, the tasks performed by the information systems departments of companies are becoming increasingly complex
- As the shift to cloud computing proceeds, there has been a shift away from the use of maintaining services from first-party provides, and an expanded utilization of third-party operation such as SERAKU provides

#### **Our initiatives**

• SERAKU not only provides routine maintenance and operation; we offer one-stop solutions for non-routine problem solving, trouble handling, automation and more

#### IoT, Cloud Support Center / Expanded Managed Services

- Providing IT infrastructure and information system operation with a round-the-clock and year-round structure
- Maintaining a decided facility fully equipped with security in the Tokyo metropolitan area
- Plans to open a second site to expand and enhance services

- Engineers with problem solving capabilities are stationed in our continually staffed center
- Promoting operational automation and AI utilization in the IT infrastructure segment
- Currently contracted to handle operation for around 100 companies

### We expand to increase projects for long-term and continuous operation at a pace of around 10 clients a year, with a focus on major companies



The image has been modified for security reasons



IoT and Cloud Support Center operated in a dedicated facility complete with earthquake resistance and backup power supply

#### Examples of companies contracting SERAKU for operation

Major online shopping website operator: server operation

Operation and maintenance of data center for a local government

Multi-site network equipment installation and operation for a university

E-commerce site (cloud server) operation

Approx. 100 companies

## Growth Strategy (3) AI and Automation



#### **Market trends**

- With the emergence of ChatGPT, the utilization of AI in corporate activities is proceeding a rapid pace
- The future holds the promise of being able to reuse corporate information assets through fine tuning (in-house data specialization, field-specific AI utilization)

#### **Our initiatives**

• SERAKU possesses technical capabilities related to AI and automation technologies, and developed these capabilities into services at an early stage

# **NewtonX**

**Release of the NewtonX** ChatGPT utilization service for enterprise in August 2023

- In-company utilization under security management schemes
- Cost reductions (cheaper than individual use)
- Support for utilization based on customer successes
- \* Similar needs as the corporate use of smartphones are expected

#### Support for field- and company-specific AI utilization through fine tuning

- Field-specific services
- Content generation using in-company data

#### Development of AI-proficient human resources in SERAKU businesses Utilization of AI and automation assets

Roll-out of AI and automation to various fields including program development, support desk services, IT operation and monitoring, and digital marketing **Developing added value and promoting higher profit margins in SERAKU's businesses** 

# In addition to our future vision to fully commercialize AI utilization support for companies, we will also pursue the utilization of AI and automation in our own businesses to develop high levels of productivity



# Seminars conducted to coincide with the release of the NewtonX service

Seminar attendees: 235 companies, securing trial applications from

30 companies

## Growth Strategy (4) Agricultural IT Segment

#### **Market trends**

- There continue to be high social expectations for agricultural DX, and DX implementation from a long-term perspective is anticipated
- While there are many companies competing in and entering the market, they are forced to withdraw or downsize in the long-term due to a lack of ongoing investment capacity

#### **Our initiatives**

• SERAKU has a track record in platforms and solutions, and is working to expand new services for the huge fruit and vegetable distribution market

#### Platform

Realizing a data-driven primary industry





#### **Solutions**

Conduct extensive research and development with local governments, JA and agricultural production companies







Shipping work (3) The QR code is canned to register shipping

#### **New services**

#### Midori Cloud Rakuraku Shukka

Fruit and vegetable collection and shipping tasks have been streamlined with the use of cardboard box stickers with QR codes printed on them and a mobile app

SERAKU

- High barriers to entry
- Combination of agricultural knowledge and IT service capabilities
- Patents are pending for major parts of the business

#### Marketability

100 billion cardboard boxes with fruit and

vegetables are distributed each year in Japan

\* SERAKU estimate based on industry group data

### For Rakuraku Shukka, we will focus on expanding sales to deal with actual demand, primarily from JA We will continue to help solve long-term social issues with platforms and solutions

JA branches covered
Approx. 550 nationwide

Business negotiations are underway for more than five projects based on the results from Hiroshima Prefecture where initial introduction was completed

Streamlining shipping tasks Up to 85% Based on actual measures in an initial case of introduction, effects of shortening work times by up to 85% were obtained

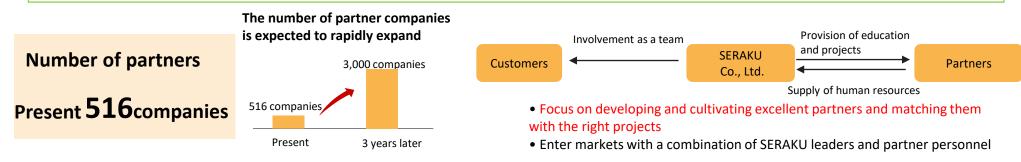
## Growth Strategy (5) Establish a Partner Ecosystem and Implement Structural Reforms Aimed at Customers and Projects



• Current demand for IT personnel has been strong, and there are plenty of potential projects



- Establishing a Partner Ecosystem
- Growth the hiring, training and sales capabilities we possess in a way that reflects current market conditions



Based on investment in hiring and education to date, we will focus on expanding the size of business in terms of the total number of engineers including partners, aiming to improve profit markets on a per-project basis



#### We receive 5,000 human resource proposes from partners each month

Utilize partner platforms to promote matching between proposals to customers and projects

## Implement nationwide partner meetings

Held in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka Many partners took part



#### **SERAKU Partner Platform**

Information on SERAKU-owned projects are distributed online to match them with partners

## Growth Strategy (6) Maximizing Human Resources and Practicing Our Management Philosophy

#### **Social trends**

• The difficulty in hiring IT human resources and retaining them in the long-term continues to grow in the current environment

#### **Our initiatives**

- Continue to refine programs that are able to provide commensurate compensation and career advancement to human resources with strong potential
- Realize an environment in which employees can develop their careers in the long-term through health & productivity management and the practicing of our management philosophy aimed at realizing the happiness of employees

#### Obtain further room to increase compensation

Improve sales and gross profit per employee
Increase the current gross margin of 30% by 40% or greater three years from now
Raise profit margins by increasing commercial distribution and modifying contracts

#### Visualize skills and careers for each engineer

- Management skill improvement records, future plans and project assignments for each individual
- Develop careers for each individual based on dialogue with supervisors and future plans

## Switch to working styles that emphasize in-person and interpersonal relationships

• Thoroughly implement a policy emphasizing work attendance, fostering an awareness of fellowship and personal relationships between supervisors and subordinates

#### Leader human resource development program

- We have formulated a development program to be implemented from the fiscal year ending August 2024 that will produce 600 leader human resources in three years' time
- Select promising candidates to establish their track records and experiences in leadership roles early on

#### Establishing "three-year stories" for engineers

- Redesign training programs covering the period up to three years after joining the company
- Create added value at an early stage, increasing compensation and contributing to profit

#### Management philosophy: Pursue happiness for employees

• Implement several in-house events on the theme of "walking"

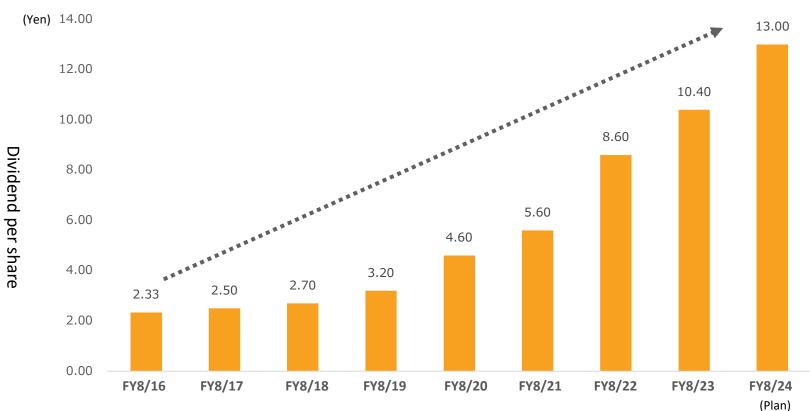
Promote increased employee compensation and career development, forming of a community through work, and improvements to an environment that will allow employees to be healthy and flourish in the long-term, thereby achieving our management philosophy

SERAKU

## SERAKU

## Shareholder Return and Improving Relationships With Stakeholders

- In the fiscal year ended August 31, 2023, we posted a significant increase in profit over our initial forecast, issuing increased dividends of 10.40 yen due to performance-linked dividends
- For the fiscal year ending August 31, 2024, we plan to issue dividends of 13.00 yen per share (a payout ratio of 12.1%), a 2.60 yen year-on-year increase
- Dividend amounts per shares have increased by over five times since SERAKU was publicly listed (fiscal year ended August 31, 2016)
- In the future we will increase opportunities for dialog with individual investors



\* On March 1, 2016 SERAKU conducted a four-for-one stock split of common stock, and per-share dividend amounts are listed based on figures after adjustments to reflect the stock split.



## **SERAKU's Initiatives for ESG and SDGs**

The SERAKU Group will build a long-term foundation for growth by promoting ESG activities. As a company that creates social value, the Group will strengthen initiatives to help achieve a sustainable society.



- Building sustainable and strong IT security
- Providing IT environments and services tailored to customers
- Helping maintain social activities using IT



- Advancing smart agriculture to improve productivity in agriculture
- Revitalizing the primary industry using IT
- Producing abundant food stably



- Cultivating human resources who have advanced expertise
- Providing ongoing education for IT engineers
- Ensuring employment for young people and utilizing a variety of human resources

- Providing digital healthcare services
- Solving social issues using IT
- Cooperating with academic institutions



- Enhancing the value of industry using IT technology
- Achieving regional revitalization through recruitment and IT technology
- Achieving high productivity and low workload by using IT

## Sophistication of corporate governance



- Ensuring compliance
- Strengthening corporate governance
- Improving information disclosure

## **Forward looking Statements**

Documents and information provided at today's presentation include forward-looking statements.

These statements are based on assumptions that include current expectations, forecasts and risk factors. As a result, forward-looking statements include many uncertainties that may cause actual performance to differ from these statements.

Risk factors and uncertainties include the condition of industries and markets where SERAKU operates, changes in interest rates and foreign exchange rates, and other items involving the Japanese and global economies.

SERAKU has no obligation to update or correct these forward-looking statements even if there is subsequently new information or an event that affects these statements.

An announcement will be made promptly if there are revisions to the FY8/24 forecasts or differences between the results of operations and these forecasts that require disclosure.