sanoma

2024

# Increased operational EBIT and strong free cash flow improvement

Rob Kolkman
President & CEO

Annual General Meeting 2025





...and have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people every day

Reaching

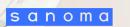
96%

of all Finns every week

Serving

25<sub>million</sub>

students across
Europe



FY 2024

# Continued progress towards our mid- and long-term targets

**Increasing profitability of Learning and Media Finland** 

Improving cash flow generation

**Strengthening** the balance sheet

#### Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA

|                  | 2024                 | Target                  |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Learning         | <b>19.2%</b> (18.7%) | > 23% from 2026 onwards |
| Media<br>Finland | <b>8.2%</b> (6.7%)   | 12-14%                  |

| Group free | 145m€ |  |
|------------|-------|--|
| cash flow  | (105) |  |

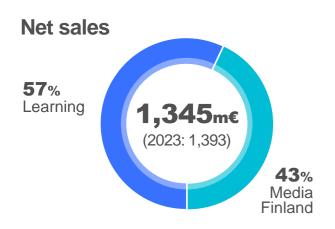
| Net debt /<br>Adj. EBITDA | <b>2.2</b> (2.8)     | < 3.0  |
|---------------------------|----------------------|--------|
| Equity ratio              | <b>45.0%</b> (42.5%) | 35-45% |



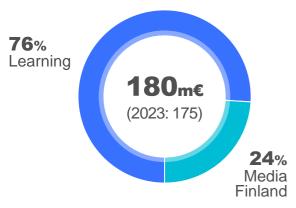
\* 2023 data in brackets

#### FY 2024

## Increased operational EBIT and strong free cash flow improvement



#### **Operational EBIT excl.PPA**



Organic net sales development

**-2**%

(2023: 2%)

Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA

**13.4**%

(2023: 12.6%)

Free cash flow

145m€

(2023:105)

Net debt / Adj. EBITDA

2.2

(2023: 2.8)

- Net sales declined slightly mainly due to the planned discontinuation of low-value learning material distribution contracts in the Netherlands and Belgium and divestments in both businesses
- Group's operational EBIT excl. PPA improved, higher margins in both businesses
- Strong free cash flow improvement driven by higher EBITDA and lower investments
- Program Solar materially completed, supports reaching Learning's long-term profitability target of 23% in 2026
- Continued progress in deleveraging the balance sheet, leverage improved to 2.2
- The Board is proposing a dividend of 0.39€ (2023: 0.37) to be paid in three equal instalments



### Good progress among the key sustainability themes



84% of teachers say that Sanoma's materials support in reaching curriculum objectives

**78% of teachers** agree that learning materials support their efficiency



53 media brands with an increasingly important role in promoting independent journalism and freedom of expression

Own operations = Scope 1 & 2. Value chain = Scope 3 ncl. categories 1, 3 and 4. All compared to base year 2021



The Employee Experience Index remained on a good level at **7.4** (2023: 7.5) and close to our long-term target of ≥ 7.5



-44% reduction in own operations GHG emissions\* resulting mainly from transition to renewable energy

-38% reduction in value chain GHG emissions\* driven by digital transformation and cooperation with paper and print suppliers

2024 sustainability
performance in full is
presented in the first
Sustainability Statement
prepared according to
the ESRS standards



#### **LEARNING FY 2024**

# Lower net sales due to discontinuation of low value contracts, margin improved

- Net sales amounted to 764m€ (2023: 795)
  - Planned discontinuation of low value distribution contracts in the Netherlands and Belgium continued
  - Growth in learning content sales particularly in Poland and the Netherlands offset the impact of lower cycle in Spain
- Operational EBIT excl. PPA amounted to 147m€ (2023: 148), margin improved to 19.2% (2023: 18.7%)
  - Net sales decrease in Spain
  - Lower paper and personnel costs and price increases in other learning content markets supported earnings
  - Divestment of Stark had a minor adverse impact on earnings
- As planned, Program Solar materially completed with first impacts visible in 2024 free cash flow and cost base





#### MEDIA FINLAND FY 2024

# Continued growth in digital and improved margin

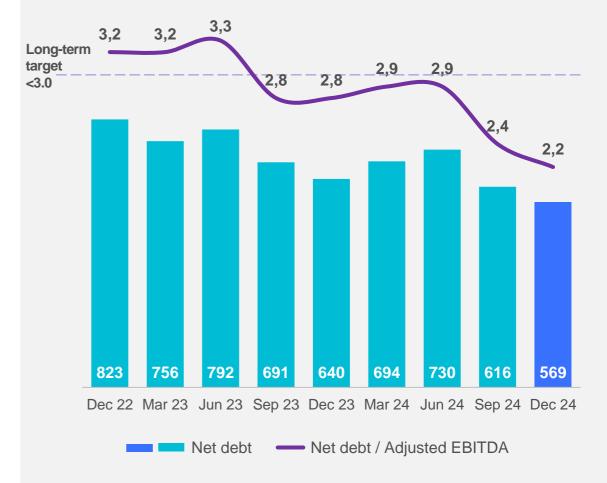
- Net sales amounted to 581m€ (2023: 598)
  - Subscription sales grew by 3% driven by continued growth in VOD and digital news media
  - Advertising sales declined by 2% mostly due to newsprint and TV, while growth in digital continued
  - Portfolio changes\* had an impact of -10m€
- Operational EBIT excl. PPA improved to 48m€ (2023:40) and margin to 8.2% (2023: 6.7%)
  - Attributable to continued growth in digital advertising and subscription sales and lower paper and personnel costs



# Continued progress in deleveraging the balance sheet

- Net debt and leverage significantly lower vs. previous year
  - Net debt / Adj. EBITDA improved to 2.2
     (2023: 2.8), below the long-term target of < 3.0</li>
- Equity ratio at 45.0% (2023: 42.5%) within the long-term target range of 35–45%
- Refinancing improved the maturity of external debt
  - Maturity of the 300m€ RCF extended to November 2027
  - 150m€ Social Bond with a maturity of 3 years issued in September

#### Net debt m€



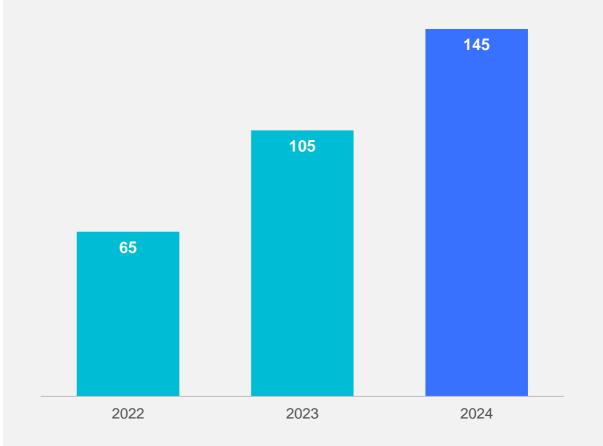
150m€ hybrid bond, issued in March 2023, is booked as equity, and excluded from net debt and net financial items.

# Strong free cash flow improvement

- Free cash flow improved to 145m€ (2023: 105) in 2024
  - + Higher operational results
  - Lower investments in prepublication costs partly driven by Solar
  - + Lower investments in TV programme rights
  - Lower taxes paid, partially due to phasing between years
  - Higher financing costs
- > Free cash flow expected to increase further in 2025

### Free cash flow

m€



Free cash flow = Cash flow from operations minus capital expenditure
For 2022, underlying FCF of 65m€ excl. operational cash flow of the acquired Italian and
German business and the pre-payment of the VAT claim



# The Board proposes a dividend of 0.39€ per share

- The Board proposes a dividend of 0.39€ (2023: 0.37)
   per share to be paid for 2024
  - Representing a total of approx. 64m€
  - Pay-out of 44% of FCF
- To be paid in three equal parts following the seasonality in Sanoma's free cash flow
  - 0.13€ on 9 May (record date 2 May)
  - 0.13€ in September (record date tbc early September)
  - 0.13€ in November (record date tbc late October)

**Dividend policy:** Sanoma aims to pay an increasing dividend, equal to 40–60% of annual free cash flow

When proposing a dividend to the AGM, the Board of Directors will look at the general macro-economic environment, Sanoma's current and target capital structure, Sanoma's future business plans and investment needs as well as both previous year's cash flows and expected future cash flows affecting capital structure.

### Dividend per share

€



<sup>1)</sup> Board's proposal to the AGM



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2)</sup> Underlying FCF 65m€ excl. operational cash flow of the acquired Italian and German business and the pre-payment of the VAT claim

## Responsible use of AI in Media and Learning

Driver for product innovation and productivity

# In Learning – to support our teachers and students

- Al toolkit for teachers: Create surveys, supportive materials and generate ideas for teaching activities
- Tutor Al for teachers: Develop Al prompt skills and support creation of teaching activities and assessment
- Speech coach for students:
   Help students improve pronunciation in a foreign language, personalised feedback, integrated into our methods

# TEACHER TOO IT Support of the second of th

# In Media – to engage and support media users

- Personalisation: Al supported content delivery in news brands
- Al bots: Interactive Al assisted journalistic services, customer service chatbot for consumers
- Al news summaries: Article summaries reviewed by journalists for a quick overview of the story to readers
- Audio: News as audio, local news reports for radio produced and read by AI, first AI-assisted, virtual DJ on the Finnish radio







# Internally – to improve work efficiency

- Generative Al in content creation: Partnership in Spain to support content creation, translations and optimising workflows
- GitHub Copilot for engineering:
   Al assistance for development teams to improve productivity in coding
- MS Copilot for employees: Support efficiency, providing secure assistance with content creation and problem-solving







With human oversight following ethical principles, the use of Al can improve the way we create, teach, learn, and work

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AGM 2025

# Sanoma, a leading K12 learning content provider in the Nordics

Kirsi Harra-Vauhkonen Managing Director Sanoma Learning Nordics





With the teachers, for the teachers

 We co-create engaging, curriculumaligned materials with teachers

 Our learning materials combine the pedagogical expertise of the author teams with technological and design expertise

 Our content creation is customercentric from start to finish





## The most successful math book in Finland

### now also in Sweden

- Engaging characters and story inspire and support learning
- Videos, songs, and animations support teaching
- Hands-on activities to support learning
- Empowers every student to discover their unique learning style
- New assessment solutions, goal discussions, and self-assessment

2018 Finland



2024 Sweden





Localisation
based on
Swedish
curriculum
and teaching
culture

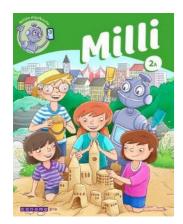
## Learning maths with Milli: A pupil's path



Teacher introduces the topic, classroom learning



Learn and practice the basics



Milli

**Independent practice and homework** 



**Personalised exercises** 



**Gamified digital exercises** 





Language teachers often lack sufficient time to provide personalised feedback on pronunciation AGM 2025



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# Sanoma Media Finland, a leading digital cross-media company

Pia Kalsta CEO Sanoma Media Finland





# Trusted and interesting journalism, inspiring entertainment

Entertainment

**News & Feature** 

















et monto kodin tiede ANDANKA GLORIA

menaiset ILTA:SANOMAT

SATAKUNNAN KANSA Länsi-Suomi

**AAMULEHTI** 

HELSINGIN SANOMAT

96% weekly reach -88% digital

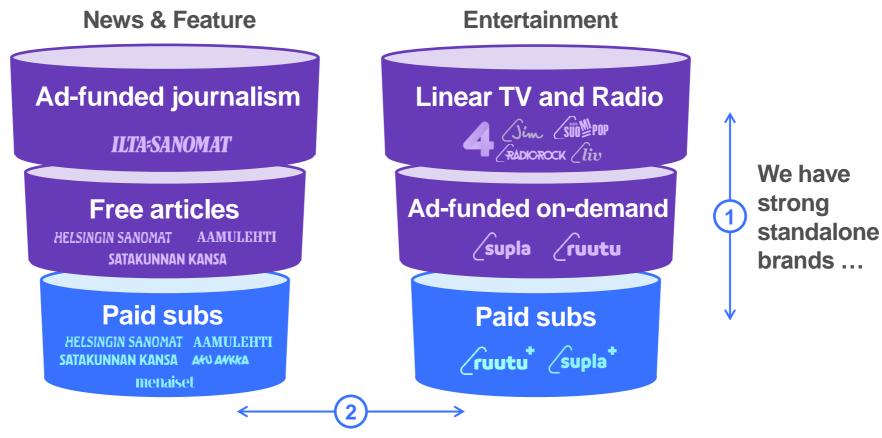
1.4m

subscriptions -850,000 pay for digital

# Strong portfolio of independent and complementing brands with substantial commercial synergies

Large audiences to build reach for B2B

Monetising B2C subscriptions



... complemented by combined offerings such as +Kaikki

## +Kaikki: all digital Sanoma content under one simple plan



Combined offering of Sanoma's digital media subscriptions all-in-one, available since January 2025 for 24.99€ per month

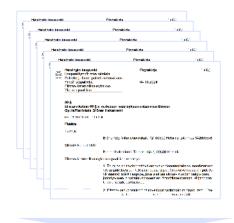
- Based on identified demand of versatile media usage and Nordic examples
- Complementing individual subscriptions with national or local news media, entertainment or lifestyle content at a reasonable price
- Hassle-free subscription and family sharing under single account
- +Kaikki has improved retention and crossusage – HS, IS, and Ruutu+ the most used products

## All augmented in different stages of journalistic work

From more efficient work processes to an enriched consumer experience – Al supports or produces, humans check.

### **News acquisition**

Automatic searches in **APIs** 



Head of Unit, Urban Environment Division - Food Safety Unit 04.11.2024: The City of Helsinki ordered Restaurant Bröner Hakaniemi to correct serious food hygiene problems Additional information

#### City issues remarks to Hakaniemi's acclaimed kebab restaurant

Restaurants | The Food Inspectorate prepared to impose a penalty notice if the deficiencies were not corrected by Tuesday.

**Transcription** 

Converting interviews or speech into text saves 10,000 hours of working time per year



#### Al formats

Interactive user experience



Yhdysvalloissa äänestetään sekä sähköisesti että paperilipuilla. Äänestyskoneet ovat olennainen osa vaalijärjestelmää, ja niitä käytetään erityisesti siksi, että äänestyslipukkeet voivat olla monisivuisia ja sisältää monia eri vaaleja. Äänestyskoneet eivät ole yhteydessä verkkoon, ja niiden käytöstä jää aina paperijälki, jota voidaan tarkastella jälkikäteen 1 Lisäksi äänestyslipukkeet ovat monisivuisia ja sisältävät useita eri kysymyksiä, mikä tekee niiden täyttämisestä aikaa vievää 2 Artikkelit

1. Asiantuntija: Näin vilpin yrittäjät paljastetaan Yhdysvaltain

#### **Summaries**

A better experience for the busy reader



### Versioning

Audio versions of news articles 100,000 starts a day







A positive impact on the life of every Finn Successful in accelerating digital transformation

A leader in reliable and engaging journalism

Strong position in domestic high-reach entertainment

Sustainable profitability



## **Key factors influencing 2025 performance**

#### Learning

- Net sales:
  - Growth in other learning content businesses more than offsetting the last year of lower cycle in Spain
  - Ongoing discontinuation of low value distribution contracts in the Netherlands with expected impact of approx. 25-30m€ in 2025
- More efficient cost base, largely driven by Solar, leading to slightly improving margin in the year before larger curriculum renewals

Expected 2025 financial impact y-o-y

- Lower net sales
- Stable operational earnings, slightly improving margin

Long-term targets for SBUs unchanged

- Organic growth2-5%
- Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA >23% from 2026 onwards

#### **Media Finland**

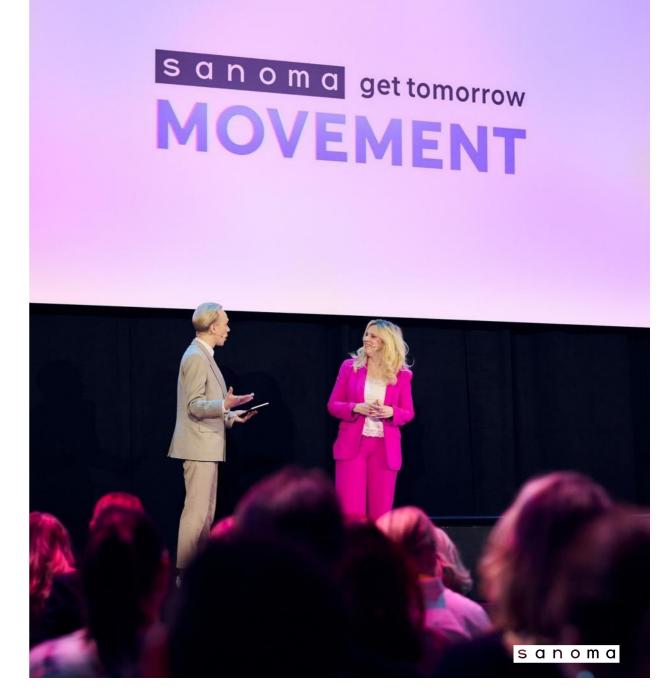
- Net sales:
  - Continued modest growth in subscription sales driven by digital and price increases
  - Slightly lower B2B advertising sales; growth in digital mostly offsetting lower print and TV
- Continuing efficiency improvement driving stable operational earnings and slightly improving margin

- Slightly lower net sales
- Stable operational earnings, slightly improving margin
- Organic growth +/-2%
- Operational EBIT margin excl. PPA 12-14%



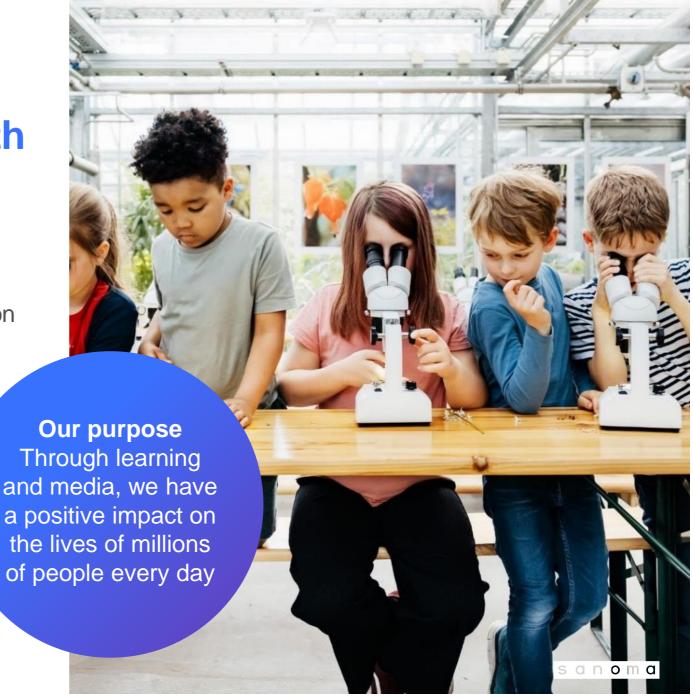
### **Outlook for 2025**

- In 2025, Sanoma expects that the Group's reported net sales will be 1.28–1.33bn€ (2024: 1.34)
- The Group's operational EBIT excluding PPA is expected to be 170–190m€ (2024: 180)
- The outlook is based on the following assumptions:
  - Demand for learning content will be relatively stable across the Group's main operating markets
  - The advertising market in Finland will be relatively stable



# We continue with our ambitious strategy for sustainable long-term growth

- Increasing profitability and free cash flow
- Growing organically in Learning with curriculum renewals accelerating from 2026
- Successful and accelerating digital transformation in Media Finland
- Expanding through value-creating M&A in K12 learning services
- Meeting leverage and equity ratio targets
- Increasing dividend, equal to 40–60% of annual free cash flow



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Thank You!