THIS ANNOUNCEMENT CONTAINS INSIDE INFORMATION AS STIPULATED UNDER THE UK'S MARKET ABUSE REGULATION. UPON THE PUBLICATION OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT, SUCH INSIDE INFORMATION IS NOW CONSIDERED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

30 April 2024

# **DIGITAL 9 INFRASTRUCTURE PLC**

("D9" or the "Company" or, together with its subsidiaries, the "Group")

# **RESULTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023**

Digital 9 Infrastructure plc today announces its audited results and publication of its Net Asset Value ('NAV") for the year ended 31 December 2023 and material developments post-period end.

## **Financial Highlights**

Summary <sup>[i]</sup>	31 December 2023 ("FY 2023")	31 December 2022 ("FY 2022")	Change
Earnings per share (FY ended)	(27.43p)	11.09p	N/M
IFRS Net Asset Value (" <b>NAV</b> ")	£686.3m	£949.6m	(28%)
IFRS NAV per share	79.33p	109.76p	(28%)
IFRS Investment Valuation	£676.1m	£921.0m	(27%)
Adj. Gross Asset Value <sup>i</sup>	£1,067.3m	£1,327.3m	(20%)
Aggregate Group debt <sup>i</sup>	£544.8m	£494.2m	10%
Group Cash (unrestricted) <sup>i</sup>	£17.6m	£55.5m	(68%)
Ongoing charges ratio (annualised) <sup>i</sup>	1.33%	1.10%	23bps
Dividends paid per share	3.00p	6.00p	(3.00p)
Total return (based on NAV) <sup>i</sup>	(23.10%)	10.40%	N/M
Consolidated portfolio revenue <sup>i</sup>	£446.6m	£405.5m	10%
Consolidated portfolio EBITDA <sup>i</sup>	£197.7m	£202.4m	(2%)

- The Company's NAV declined by 28% (£263.3 million) to £686.3 million (31 December 2022: £949.6 million), equivalent to a NAV per share of 79.33p (31 December 2022: 109.76p per share).
- The NAV decline was primarily due to a (£179.3 million) change in the fair value of the Company's Investment Portfolio. The latter included £32.8 million of FX movements, which primarily related to Verne Global.
- The audited valuation of the portfolio as of 31 December 2023 includes two material revisions to the unaudited independent valuation published in March 2024 amounting to (£41.5 million), resulting in the audited portfolio NAV of £686.3 million (2022: £949.6 million).
- The change in the fair value of the Investment Portfolio was largely driven by Verne Global (£128.1 million) mainly due to FX movement and the recognition of the potential earn-out at \$34.1 million, (£26.8 million\*) out of a total potential contingent consideration of \$135 million (£108 million\*\*), which formed part of the Verne Transaction as defined below. Fair value movement including FX for the rest of the portfolio was (£51.2 million), relating mainly to Aqua Comms and Arqiva Group.
- The NAV decline also includes additional expenses incurred by the Company during the year. This included £41.8 million of interest costs in respect of the RCF and the Argiva Group Vendor Loan Note ("VLN"), £26.0 million of dividends paid in respect of Q4 2022 and Q1 2023 and £15.1 million of professional and transaction related fees, including the break fee incurred in connection with the Verne Transaction and the Strategic Review, as announced by the Company on 28 March 2024.
- Total return based on NAV declined to minus 23.10% (31 December 2022: 10.40%), impacted by the decline in NAV and the reduced distribution of dividends in the period from 6.0 pence per share in the prior year to 3.0 pence per share paid in the current year.

- As announced by the Company on 28 September 2023, the Board elected not to declare the Q2 2023 dividend and to
  withdraw the Company's target dividend of 6.0 pence per Ordinary Share for the year ending 31 December 2023. No
  dividend distributions are planned or foreseen in the medium-term. Any future cash distributions to shareholders are
  expected to take the form of returns of capital but with final allocation amounts to be determined at the time by the
  Board in conjunction with the Investment Manager and taking into consideration fund liquidity.
- Once the RCF is fully repaid and cancelled, and subject to Group liquidity, the Board intends to prioritise distribution of Managed Wind-Down sale proceeds to shareholders in the form of returns of capital. The Board does not anticipate the Company repaying the Arqiva VLN in the short-term given its attractive cost and long maturity to 2029.

\* GBP amounts based on a 1.27 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 31 December 2023.
\*\* GBP amounts based on a 1.25 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 25 April 2024.

### **Portfolio Highlights**

In £ million	FY 2023	FY 2022	Change %
Consolidated Portfolio Revenue	446.6	405.5	10%
Aqua Comms*	28.1	27.1	4%
Verne Global**	50.7	41.6	22%
Arqiva	358.6	328.2	9%
Sea Edge UK1	1.0	0.9	11%
Elio Networks	8.2	7.7	6%
Consolidated Portfolio EBITDA	197.7	202.4	(2%)
Aqua Comms*	8.5	12.6	(33%)
Verne Global**	17.1	9.2	86%
Arqiva	166.9	175.7	(5%)
Sea Edge UK1	1.0	0.9	13%
Elio Networks	4.2	4.1	2%

\* Excluding EMIC-1

\*\* Verne Global platform including Iceland, Finland and London campuses

• The Group's diversified portfolio of high-quality assets continued to perform in line with business plans during the period.

Consolidated portfolio company revenue increased by 10% to £446.6 million in FY 2023 (FY 2022: £405.5 million).

Consolidated portfolio company EBITDA declined by 2.3% to £197.7 million (FY 2022: £202.4 million).

#### Aqua Comms

Aqua Comms is a leading carrier-neutral owner and operator of subsea fibre, providing essential connectivity through 20,000 km of transatlantic, North Sea and Irish Sea routes.

Revenue increased by 4% to £28.1 million (FY 2022: £27.1 million) driven by increased sales in the lease business. EBITDA declined by 33% to £8.5 million (FY 2022: £12.6 million) due to the planned addition of headcount to support sales, operations and expansion into new geographies in Asia, additional and temporary overlapping costs to internalise its previously outsourced Network Operations Centre, and the launch of Aqua Comms' third transatlantic cable, AEC-3, costs for which were incurred upfront.

#### EMIC-1

Managed by Aqua Comms, EMIC-1 connects key European hubs with Salalah, Oman and Mumbai, India, bringing a new, high-capacity cable system to underserved markets experiencing exponential growth in bandwidth requirements.

EMIC-1 is a pre-revenue development asset and is expected to launch in 2025. Aqua Comms achieved a large pre-sale on EMIC-1 in Q4 2023. Going forward, EMIC-1's launch has the potential to be delayed due to the geopolitical situation in the Red Sea and Middle East, which is impacting the ability of all new cable systems to be deployed in the region. Post-period end, the Company contributed additional capital to EMIC-1 of £2 million taking its total investment into EMIC-1 as o£9 April 2024 to £38 million.

#### Verne Global Group

The Verne Global Group of Companies includes Verne Global Iceland, Verne Global Finland and Verne Global London. Verne Global Iceland is a leading data centre platform providing highly scalable capacity to enterprise customers in a geographically optimal environment, powered by 100% baseload renewable energy. Verne Global Finland is a leading Finnish data centre and cloud services platform. Verne Global London wholly owns and operates a hyper-connected data centre in central London, providing up to 6 MW of colocation services.

Revenue increased by 22% to £50.7 million (FY 2022: £41.6 million) due to accelerated customer demand from new and existing customers. Operational profits increased at a faster pace with EBITDA increasing by 86% to £17.1 million (FY 2022: £9.2 million) as the businesses were integrated and the platform scaled, thereby delivering improved margins.

### Arqiva Group

Arqiva is the UK's pre-eminent national provider of television and radio broadcast infrastructure and provides end-to-end connectivity solutions in the media and utility industries.

D9's share of Arqiva's revenue increased by 9% to £358.6 million (FY 2022: £328.2 million) due to strong growth in the Group's smart water metering business, whilst the media business generated higher revenues on account of the indexation of inflation-linked revenue contracts in addition to higher passthrough power charges. In line with management's expectations, EBITDA declined by 5% to £166.9 million (31 December 2022: £175.7 million) as a result of an increased mix of utility device scales bigher power costs and TV channel revenue reductions.

or during device sales, higher power costs, and its channel revenue reductions.

#### Elio Networks

Elio Networks is a high-speed wireless connectivity provider in Ireland.

Revenue increased by 6% to £8.2 million (FY 2022: £7.7 million) and EBITDA increased by 2% to £4.2 million (FY 2022: £4.1 million). Financial performance was driven by growth in high-quality wireless connectivity operations in 2023, with unique customer connections of c.2,700 in December 2023. Furthermore, Elio Networks extended its services to Cork City in early 2023.

### Sea Edge UK1

Sea Edge UK1 is the UK's only landing station for the North Sea Connect subsea cable.

In FY 2023, Sea Edge's EBITDA increased b\$3% to £1.0 million (FY 2022: £0.9 million) due to positive revenue indexation and reduced expenses

#### Liquidity position

Including pro-forma balances at 31 March 2024 to reflect the sale of the Verne Global Group, and substantial repayments of RCF post period end (excluding the £47 million repayment expected on 3 May 2024), the Group's total unrestricted cash amounted to £27.1 million (31 December 2023: £17.6 million). Further information on unaudited pro-forma figures can be found in the unaudited non-statutory information section in the Company's Annual Report.

### Group financial leverage

	31 Dec. 2022	31 Dec. 2023	Adjustments	31 Mar. 2024 Pro-forma
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Drawn RCF inc. Letters of Credit ("LoC")	331.2	375.0	(274.7)	100.3
Vendor Loan Note ("VLN")*	163.0	169.8	-	169.8
Group Cash & Equivalents (inc. restricted cash)	(73.6)	(49.4)	16.5	(32.9)
Net Debt	420.6	495.4	(258.2)	237.2
Consolidated Portfolio EBITDA	202.4	197.7	(17.2)	180.5
Net Debt / EBITDA	2.1x	2.5x	(1.2x)	1.3x
Arqiva debt (pro-rated for D9 ownership)**	754.0	744.4	-	744.4
Verne Global debt	-	78.6	(78.6)	-
Adjusted Net Debt	1,174.6	1,318.4	(336.8)	981.6
Adjusted Net Debt / EBITDA	5.8x	6.7x	(1.2x)	5.5x

\* £6.8 million of additional notes issued in June 2023 as PIK interest. \*\* This is D9's share of Arqiva gross debt. It is not an Arqiva net debt figure and as a result does not include cash held by Arqiva; it is a more conservative approach and is in line with previously reported figures.

• The Group held unrestricted cash of £17.6 million as of 31 December 2023 (31 December 2022: £55.5 million) of which £2.8 million was held in unconsolidated subsidiaries.

Aggregate Group Debt increased by 10% to £544.8 million (31 December 2022: £494.2m), comprising Revolving Credit Facility ("RCF") drawings and Letters of Credit of £373.8 million and £1.2 million respectively, and the Arqiva Group

VLN of £169.8 million; the latter including accrued payment-in-kind ("PIK") interest of £6.8 million.

### Post-balance sheet activity

# Sale of Verne Global

As announced on 15 March 2024, the Company completed the Verne Transaction for an equity purchase price of up to US\$575 million (approximately £450 million\*). The Verne Transaction included initial cash proceeds of £325.8 million\* (US\$415 million), a deferred cash consideration of approximately £20 million\*\* (US\$25 million) which has now been received, and a potential earn-out payment of up to approximately £108 million\*\* (US\$135 million) (the "Earn-Out") payable subject to Verne Global achieving run-rate EBITDA targets for the year ending on 31 December 2026. As of 29 April 2024, the only remaining outstanding element of the Verne Transaction is therefore the potential Earn-Out, which remains an asset of the Company

Of the initial proceeds from the Verne Transaction, £273.5 million was used to pay down the Company's RCF, with the remaining proceeds agreed with RCF lenders to be set aside to finance additional expenses, including:

- Approximately £17 million to cover professional fees incurred in relation to the Verne Transaction. The level of costs due to advisory fees incurred for the Verne Transaction reflects the transaction's complexity in contemplating different transaction structures and executing the sale of three separate legal entities in three different jurisdictions. This included:
  - £1.0 million for financing arrangement costs related to the accordion facility for Verne Global and legal fees 0 to implement the amendments to the RCF facility;
  - £14.4 million for transaction advisory services, including £5.8 million for financial advice, £5.8 million for 0 legal advice, and £2.8 million for vendor due diligence, tax, and other advice and expenses in relation to the Verne Transaction; and
  - the remaining £1.6 million representing a contingency which has not yet been utilised. £9.2 million of the aforementioned £17 million was incurred in the period-ended 31 December 2023, and £6.2 million was incurred post-period end in 2024.
- Approximately £12 million was retained to cover future operational expenses of the Company if and when required; and
- Approximately £23 million was retained for prudent capital management to cover possible future liabilities arising from certain indemnification provisions made in connection with the Verne Transaction. As announced on 29 April 2024, these provisions have now ceased to apply and the c.£23 million will be used to further deleverage the

\* GBP amounts based on a 1.28 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 13 March 2024.
\*\* GBP amounts based on a 1.25 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 25 April 2024.

# Balance sheet deleveraging

Through the Verne Transaction, the Company has substantially deleveraged its balance sheet by paying down more than 70% of its RCF, or £273.5 million, with a further reduction of 13% of the RCF ( $\pounds$ 47 million) expected to be paid on 3 May 2024. The resulting outstanding drawn amount of c.£53 million after 3 May 2024 compares with £373.8 million in March 2024. Based on the latest interest rate charged on the RCF, this combined c.£321 million deleveraging is expected to result in a Group net interest expense saving of c.£28 million to the end of the term of the facility in March 2025.

As of 31 March 2024 on a pro-forma basis, the Company reduced Group net debt by52% to £237.2 million (31 December 2023:£495.4 million). Total leverage on a pro-forma basis was 36% as of 31 March 2024.

#### Going concern

Notwithstanding the Managed Wind-Down detailed below, the Board determined that given associated timelines for realising both the Earn-Out payment from the Verne Transaction and a potential sale of the Company's stake in Arqiva, it is appropriate to have prepared the Financial Statements included within the Annual Report on a Going Concern basis.

Despite the significant balance sheet deleveraging related to the repayment of over 85% of the Group's RCF as expected by 3 May 2024, c.£53 million is expected to remain outstanding, with the balance due in March 2025. No provision has been made for the costs of winding up the Company as these will be charged to the Income Statement on an accruals basis as they are incurred or as the Company becomes obligated to make such payments in the future.

As included within the Company's Strategic Report in the Going Concern and Viability section, the Companycontinues to disclose a material uncertainty, which may cast significant doubt over the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board does believe that the Company and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months since the reporting date.

### Investment management arrangements

The Company has given notice to the Investment Manager, Triple Point Investment Management LLP ("Triple Point"), to terminate the Investment Management Agreement ("IMA"). In line with the contractual terms of the IMA, the termination is expected to take effect on 31 March 2025 as the Investment Management Agreement cannot be terminated before this date.

The Board believes that undertaking an independent review of the investment management arrangements is in shareholders' interests to objectively determine the optimal course for an orderly execution of the Managed Wind-Down that will maximise shareholder value.

This review is ongoing and includes evaluating the following options for the Company (i) continuing to be managed by Triple Point on different fee arrangements were the termination not to take effect in March 2025; (ii) becoming managed by a new investment manager; or (iii) becoming a self-managed alternative investment fund. The Board is being supported by an independent financial adviser in this process, which is expected to be largely complete by the time of the Company's AGM.

### Capital allocation

As announced on 25 March 2024, 99.9% of shareholders who voted at the General Meeting held on the same day approved the resolution to adopt a new Investment Objective and Policy, which will enable an orderly Managed Wind-Down of the Company's portfolio of five remaining wholly-owned assets.

Through a Managed Wind-Down, the Board will seek to realise all of the Company's investments in a manner that achieves a balance between maximising the net value from these assets and making timely capital returns to shareholders.

Sale preparations for wholly-owned assets, which include Aqua Comms, EMIC-1Sea Edge UK1 and Elio Networks, are being progressed following shareholder approval of the Company's Managed Wind-Down. Investor outreach for the sale of Aqua Comms, EMIC-1 and Elio Networks commenced in April 2024.

As stated above, the drawn amount of the RCF is expected to reduce to c.£53 million on 3 May 2024. Following this, the Board expects to use initial proceeds from the Managed Wind-Down to repay the RCF's outstanding balance, thereby addressing the Group's residual financial uncertainty.

Once the RCF is fully repaid and cancelled, and subject to Group liquidity, the Board intends to prioritise distribution of sale proceeds from the Managed Wind-Down to shareholders in the form of returns of capital. The Board does not anticipate the Company repaying the Arqiva VLN in the short-term given its cost and long maturity to 2029.

The Board firmly believes that the corporate actions undertaken in 2023 and post-period end have enabled the Company to accelerate its balance sheet deleveraging which, in turn, will enable the Company to maximise the value of its remaining wholly-owned assets from a position of improved financial strength.

#### Directorate changes

As announced on 25 March 2024, the Board was informed by Brett Miller and Richard Boléat on 23 March 2024 of their intentions to stand down as Independent Non-Executive Directors of the Company, with immediate effect.

Since then, Aaron Le Cornu has assumed the role of Independent Chair of the Valuation Committee and Gailina Liew the role of Independent Chair of the Management Engagement Committee.

The Board is in advanced stages of recruiting a permanent Chair and at least one new Non-Executive Director to support the execution of the Managed Wind-Down.

ENDS.

### Notes to Editors

Annual Report

The Annual Report is available for download at <u>www.d9infrastructure.com/investors</u>.

### Webcast for Analysts

A webinar will be held at 9am BST today by the Investment Manager. The analyst presentation will also be accessible ondemand in due course via the Company's website.

The results will also be available to view and download on the Company's website and hard copy will be posted to shareholders in due course.

# Contacts

<b>Triple Point Investment Management LLP (Investment Manager)</b> Diego Massidda Ben Beaton Arnaud Jaguin	<u>D9contact@triplepoint.co.uk</u> +44 (0)20 7201 8989
<b>Liberum Capital Limited (Financial Adviser)</b> Chris Clarke Darren Vickers Owen Matthews	+44 (0)203 100 2000
<b>J.P. Morgan Cazenove (Corporate Broker)</b> William Simmonds Jérémie Birnbaum	+44 (0)20 7742 4000
<b>FTI Consulting (Communications Adviser)</b> Mitch Barltrop Maxime Lopes	dgi9@fticonsulting.com +44 (0) 7807 296 032 +44 (0) 7890 896 777

### About Digital 9 Infrastructure plc:

Digital 9 Infrastructure plc (DGI9) is an investment trust listed on the London Stock Exchange and a constituent of the FTSE All-Share, with the ticker DGI9. The Company invests in the infrastructure of the internet that underpins the world's digital economy: digital infrastructure. DGI9's shareholders unanimously approved a managed wind-down of the Company's portfolio in March 2024 and subsequently, the Company is undergoing an orderly realisation of its assets to maximise shareholder value. For more information on DGI9, please visit www.d9infrastructure.com.

The Investment Manager is Triple Point Investment Management LLP (**Triple Point**") which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. For more information on the Investment Manager please visit <u>www.triplepoint.co.uk</u>.

# INTERIM CHAIR'S STATEMENT

2023 was an extremely challenging year for the Company and our shareholders.

The Board engaged extensively with shareholders and undertook several actions to improve D9's prospects by strengthening the Company's balance sheet. The Board believes these actions have and will enable the Company to maximise shareholder value going forward.

The Company owns high-quality and best-in-class businesses and assets operating in digital infrastructure sectors which benefit from attractive structural dynamics, whether it be subsea fibre or an incumbent competitive advantage in wireless networks.

The underlying financial and operating Investee Company performance was broadly in line with expectations during 2023, as consolidated portfolio company revenue grew 10% year-on-year, underpinned by robust trading performance across the portfolio. As anticipated in business plans, margins have remained under pressure for some of the portfolio companies, particularly Argiva and Aqua Comms.

# Balance sheet deleveraging

To a certain extent, structural dynamics have caused complex challenges for the Company. The Investment Manager identified growth capital expenditure of approximately £610 million over the next four years required to fully meet the growth ambitions of D9's portfolio companies.

More importantly, over the period, a higher-than-expected and more prolonged rise in interest rates and inflation increased the interest expense burden on the Group and prevented the upstreaming of dividends from Arqiva. These factors contributed to the poor share price performance which, relative to the NAV of the Company, fundamentally undervalues the assets which the Company owns.

Accordingly, the Board sought to improve D9's financial resilience, in order to enable the Company to maximise shareholder value from the portfolio. The Board and the Investment Manager believed a more conservative approach to capital allocation was required and the Board elected not to declare the Company's Q2 2023 dividend This came with the decision to withdraw the Company's target dividend of 6.0 pence per Ordinary Share for the full year 2023 and not to make any further dividend distributions during 2023.

Through the sale of Verne Global to Ardian, the Company has substantially deleveraged its balance sheet by paying down more than 70% of its RCF, or £274 million, with a further reduction of 13% of its RCF, or c.£47 million, expected to be paid on 3 May 2024. The resulting outstanding drawn amount of c.£53 million after 3 May 2024 compares with £373.8 million in March 2024, and this reduction of the RCF is expected to result in a Group net interest expense saving of c.£28 million to the end of the term of the RCF based on the latest interest rate charged.

#### Portfolio valuation

The portfolio's valuation process for the December 2023 year end has concluded. The review by the auditors, PwC, has led to the agreement of two revisions to the unaudited valuations published in March, bringing the audited portfolio NAV to £686.3 million at year end (2022: £949.6 million).

The decrease was driven largely by the recognition of \$34 million (25%) of the potential \$135 million Verne Global earnout. This is lower than the unaudited valuation of \$67 million which was disclosed in March 2024, as a result of a more conservative treatment of the risk parameters which had been utilised in the initial independent valuation. This prudent approach recognises the inherent uncertainty and perceived risk around Verne Global's ability to meet future run-rate EBITDA targets, which in turn will determine the amount of the Earn-Out to be received by the Company in early 2027. Alongside the change to the Verne Global Earn-Out, it was also agreed as part of the final review to increase the discount rate for Aqua Comms to reflect the nascent nature of the business' expansion into the Asia region alongside its well-established transatlantic business, which resulted in an £15.5 million decrease from the unaudited valuations published in March. Further details on the changes to unaudited valuations published on 28 March 2024 and audited valuations are set out in the Financial Overview of the Investment Manager's Report below in addition to changes in valuation from 31 December 2022.

#### Shareholder returns

A change of the Company's Investment Objective and Investment Policy to enable a Managed Wind-Down was approved by shareholders on 25 March 2024, from which the Board will now seek to realise all of the Company's investments in a manner that achieves a balance between maximising the net value from these assets and making timely capital returns to shareholders.

Ultimately, following the full repayment and cancellation of the RCF, the Board intends to use proceeds to prioritise returns of capital to shareholders over the Group's longer-term obligations, including the VLN related to the acquisition of the Company's stake in the Arqiva Group.

Any cash distributions to shareholders will likely take the form of returns of capital but with final allocation amounts to be determined at the time by the Board in conjunction with the Investment Manager and taking into consideration the Company's liquidity. No further dividend distributions are planned or foreseen in the medium-term. The Company will also cease to make any new investments except where there may be a legal or contractual imperative to do so, or if new investments may facilitate a sale process and in turn deliver superior shareholder value.

#### **Company governance**

2023 was a period of significant board change. Gailina Liew was appointed to the Board in July 2023. Having overseen the sale process for Verne Global, Phil Jordan and Lisa Harrington resigned as Independent Chair and Senior Independent Director, respectively, in December 2023, to allow the appointment of new Non-Executive Directors with experience relevant to the expected changes to the Company. Since then, Charlotte Valeur has acted as Interim Independent Chair and Gailina Liew as Senior Independent Director.

Following the Board's shareholder consultation and the initiation of a Strategic Review, Richard Boléat and Brett Miller were appointed as Independent Non-Executive Directors of the Companyin December 2023. Post-period end, Aaron Le Cornu was appointed as Independent chair of the Audit Committee following the resignation of Keith Mansfield in January 2024, while Brett Miller and Richard Boléat informed the Board in March2024 they would also step down, with immediate effect.

The Board is in advanced stages of recruiting a permanent Chair and at least one new Non-Executive Director to lead and support, respectively, the execution of the Managed Wind-Down.

We look forward to welcoming shareholders at our 2024 Annual General Meeting ("AGM"), and the Notice of AGM will follow in due course.

#### Investment management review

Post-period end, the Board served the Investment Manager notice with termination to take effect on 31 March 2025. As detailed in the Management Engagement Committee Report on pages 66 to 67 of the 2023 Annual Report, the Investment Management Agreement cannot be terminated before this date.

The Company is actively exploring revised commercial terms with the Investment Manager prior to the termination taking effect, alongside a broader review of alternative investment management arrangements. The Board is being supported by an independent financial adviser in this process, which is ongoing as of 29 April 2024 and is expected to be concluded before the Company's AGM.

Irrespective of the outcome of this review, the Board aims to ensure that the investment management arrangements are more closely aligned to shareholders' interests through the course of the Managed Wind-Down.

### The Managed Wind-Down

Sale preparations for the Company's wholly owned assets, which include Aqua Comms, EMIC-1, SeaEdge UK1 andElio Networks, are being progressed following shareholder approval of the Company's Managed Wind-Down. Investor outreach for the sale of Aqua Comms, EMIC-1 and Elio Networks commenced in April 2024.

The Board is committed to executing an orderly wind-down to maximise shareholder value over time. The Company owns attractive assets with strong prospects, and the benefit of dedicated management teams and talented employees. Considering future market conditions, it may be in shareholders' best interests to delay or accelerate the outcome of any sale to achieve a balance between maximising the net value from these assets and making timely capital returns to shareholders. The Board is, of course, committed to maximising shareholder returns at the earliest possible opportunity.

The launch of a sale process for D9's stake in Arqiva is expected to take more consideration due to the complexity of the business and the co-shareholding structure. The Board continues to explore various options for Arqiva, in consultation with a collaborative shareholder group. Further detail is set out in the Company's circular dated 28 February 2024.

As part of the Verne Transaction, the Company can benefit from a potential Earn-Out payment of up to \$135 million (approximately £108 million) subject to Verne Global achieving run-rate EBITDA targets for 2026. This target is as set in the business plan provided to all potential bidders at the time of the sale process. The Company also benefits from customary protections to ensure Verne Global continues operating and reporting substantially in line with existing practices, including quarterly updates on its run-rate EBITDA.

The Board notes that at completion, Ardian disclosed its intention to support the expansion of Verne Global with up to \$1.2 billion of committed investment through equity and debt, multiplying the business' existing sold capacity of 29 MW for 2023 by close to four times in the medium term<sup>[11]</sup>.

As the wind-down is likely to progress over several years, the Board will carefully manage D9's operating costs and seek to reduce them on an ongoing basis, whilst containing additional advisory and transaction costs.

During the Managed Wind-down, the Company intends to maintain its investment trust status and listing with due consideration for the regulatory requirements and costs of doing so following the sale of the Company's wholly owned assets.

I would like to thank my fellow shareholders for their continued engagement with the Company and the Board through what has clearly been a challenging period.

Charlotte Valeur Interim Independent Chair

29 April 2024

# INVESTMENT OBJECTIVE AND INVESTMENT POLICY

The Board is responsible for the Company's Investment Objective and Investment Policy and has overall responsibility for ensuring the Company's activities are in line with such overall strategy.

The Company's current Investment Objective and Investment Policy, as approved by shareholders at the 25 March 2024 General Meeting receiving 99.89% of votes in favour, are published below.

#### **Investment Objective**

The Commany will be managed either by a third-narty investment manager or internally by the Commany's hoard of

directors, with the intention of realising all the remaining assets in the Portfolio, in an orderly manner with a view to ultimately returning available cash to Shareholders following the repayment and cancellation of the Company's revolving credit facility ("RCF") from the proceeds of the assets realised pursuant to the Investment Policy.

# **Investment Policy**

The assets of the Company will be realised in an orderly manner, returning cash to Shareholders at such times and in such manner (which may be by way of direct buybacks, tender offers, dividends or any other form of return) as the Board may, in its absolute discretion, determine. The Board intends that the proceeds of any asset realisations will be used to repay and cancel the RCF before any such proceeds are distributed to shareholders or used to meet other outstanding indebtedness of the Company (including the non-recourse indebtedness to the vendors of the Company's Arqiva asset, issued by way of a vendor loan note which the Company may repay or transfer to a future buyer of the Arqiva asset). The Board will endeavour to realise all of the Company's investments in a manner that achieves a balance between maximising the net value received from those investments and making timely returns to Shareholders. The Company will cease to make any new investments (including any follow-on investments) or to undertake capital expenditure, except with the prior written consent of the Board and where, in the opinion of the Board, in its absolute discretion:

- a) failure to make the investment or capital expenditure would result in a breach of contract or applicable law or regulation by the Company, any member of its group or any vehicle through which it holds its investments; or
- b) the investment or capital expenditure is considered necessary to protect or enhance the value of any existing investment or to facilitate an orderly disposal, any such investment or capital expenditure being a "Permitted Investment".

Subject to the ability of the Company to make Permitted Investments, any cash received by the Company as part of the realisation process prior to its distribution to Shareholders will be held by the Company as cash in Sterling on deposit and/or as cash equivalents.

## Borrowing and hedging

The Company may utilise borrowings for short term liquidity purposes. The Company may also, from time to time, use borrowing for investment purposes on a short-term basis where it expects to repay those borrowings from realisation of investments. Gearing represented by borrowings will not exceed 20% of Net Asset Value calculated at the time of drawdown.

The Company may use derivatives for hedging as well as for efficient portfolio management. Any such hedging transactions will not be undertaken for speculative purposes.

# **KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

In order to track the Company and/or Group's progress, the key performance indicators ("KPIs") monitored are set out below. Sustainability KPIs can be found in the Company's separate Sustainability Report which is available here: <a href="https://www.d9infrastructure.com/digital-9-infrastructure-plc-sustainability-report-2023/">https://www.d9infrastructure.com/digital-9-infrastructure-plc-sustainability-report-2023/</a>.

KPI AND DEFINITION

RELEVANCE TO STRATEGY PERFORMANCE

COMMENT

# 1. Total return (%)<sup>1</sup>

The change in NAV in	The total return	(23.1%) year to 31	The negative total return is
the period and dividends paid per share in the period.	highlights the underlying performance of the portfolio's investment valuations, including dividends paid.	December 2023 ((6.8%) period from IPO to 31 December 2023).	due to the decreases in the fair value of the Company's Investment Portfolio, and interest and expenses incurred in the year. The valuation of the Company's Investments was impacted by the reduction in value of the Verne Global group of companies as only c.25% of the potential \$135 million Earn-Out is being recognised on the balance sheet.

### 2. Total shareholder return (%)<sup>1</sup>

The change in share price and dividends paid per share. The total shareholder return highlights the share price movements, including re-investment of dividends.	(64.1%) in respect of the year to 31 December 2023 (66.2% for the period from IPO to 31 December 2023).	The decrease was primarily driven by a significant fall in the share price during 2023. During the period, shareholders did receive the Q4 2022 dividend (paid in March 2023) and the Q1 2024 dividend (paid in June 2023), but no further dividends were declared for 2023, which also contributed to the share price decline.
---	--	--

# 3. Earnings per share (pence)

The second term in as	The FDC we file statistics	1	The main driver in the loss
The post-tax earnings	The EPS reflects the	Loss of 27.4 pence per	
attributable to	Company's ability to	share for the year to	per share for the year were
shareholders divided by	generate earnings from	31 December 2023	the movement in fair value
weighted average	its investments,	(see Note 23) (11.1	of the Company's Investment
number of shares in	including valuation	pence per share	Portfolio, and costs incurred
issue over the period.	increases.	period to 31	during the period. The fall in
		December 2022).	valuation was
			predominantly driven by the
			Earn-Out element of the
			Verne Global Sale which led
			to a write-down of the Verne
			Global Companies. Other key
			drivers were financing costs
			incurred for the Group's RCF
			and VLN.

# 4. NAV per share (pence)

NAV divided by number of shares outstanding as at the period end.	The NAV per share reflects our ability to grow the portfolio and to add value to it throughout the life cycle of our assets.	79.33 pence per share (109.76 pence per share as at 31 December 2022) (see Note 24).	The NAV per share fell as a result of the negative valuation movement in the period and costs incurred. The fall in NAV was predominantly driven by the Earn-Out element of the Verne Global Sale which led to a write down of the Verne Global Companies. Other key drivers were financing costs incurred for the Group's RCF and VLN.
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# 5. Ongoing Charges Ratio<sup>1</sup>

Annualised ongoing Ongoing charges show 1.33% for the period to A key measure of	
charges are the the drag on performance 31 December 2023 (31 Operational performance.	
Company's management caused by the December 2022: As the Company has	
fee and all other operational expenses 1.10%).	_
operating expenses (i.e., incurred by the	۰,
excluding acquisition Company. the Group structure has	
costs and other non-	a
recurring items) result, audit costs and	
expressed as a professional fees have	
percentage of the increased.	
average published This is calculated in line	
with Alc guidance. Origoning	-
period, calculated in charges are those expenses	
of a type which are fixed to	о
Association of recur in the foreseeable	
Investment Companies future, whether charged to	
guidelines. capital or revenue, and	
which relate to the	
operation of the Company	
excluding the costs of	
acquisition and disposal of	of
investments, financing	
charges and gains/losses	
arising on investments.	
ansing on investments.	
For the avoidance of doubt,	:,
the calculation does not	
include costs associated	
with the sale of investment	ts
nor with the Strategic	
Review.	
Actiew.	

## Notes:

1 Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found below.

# **INVESTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT**

# **Review of the Year**

# Introduction

Portfolio companies performed broadly in line with expectations during the course of the year. However, macroeconomic factors impacted fund-level liquidity, necessitating several steps to protect the Company's balance sheet. This began with the sale of the Verne Global platform and the suspension of D9's dividend with the aim of freeing up cash to repay the Group's RCF and reduce interest costs. Following an extensive shareholder consultation, the Board initiated a Strategic Review of the Company, the outcome of which has been to begin a Managed Wind-Down of the Company as approved by shareholders on 25 March 2024, with sale processes for D9's wholly-owned assets having commenced as of April 2024. Key Investee Company activities during the year included Arqiva's senior debt refinancing and inflation collar implementation and the signing of Verne Global Iceland's green term loan.

### **Company and Portfolio Performance**

The Company reported a pre-tax loss of £237.3 million (2022: £92.1 million pre-tax profit) for the year, equal to a 27.43 pence loss per share (2022: 11.09 pence earnings per share). This was the net result of income received from investments and revaluation losses arising on the investments held at fair value through profit or loss as at 31 December 2023. Revaluation losses were driven mainly by a devaluation of Verne Global, financing and operational costs as described in more detail in the Financial Review Section. During the period, the Company's NAV decreased from £949.6 million (109.76 pence per share) at 31 December 2022 to £686.3 million at 31 December 2023 (79.33 pence per share). The key components driving the drop in NAV are explained below in the Financial Review section.

Portfolio company performance was broadly in line with management expectations. Aggregate revenues for the Investee Companies during the period amounted to £446.6 million, 10% higher than the prior year with the increase largely attributable to inflation-indexed contracts, power pass-through and organic growth. Verne Global Iceland accelerated its top line growth to 24% year-on-year on the back of continued strong customer demand, whilst Arqiva and Aqua Comms grew by 9% and 4% respectively. In line with business plans, margins have remained under pressure for some of the businesses, particularly Arqiva and Aqua Comms. Portfolio company debt at year end consisted of £79 million at Verne Global and £744 million at Arqiva, with the Arqiva balance calculated pro rata based on D9's 51.76% economic interest.

Since July 2022, the Company had invested £4.3 million seed capital into Giggle, a development opportunity that would have provided affordable broadband to social housing through a Fibre to the Home ("FTTH") network across the city of Glasgow. As set out in our Interim Report, due to the significant identified capex pipeline of £150 million and funding constraints, the Company was unable to continue to fund the development capital expenditure required by Giggle and made a provision against the full value of Giggle. The Company sold its 100% stake in Giggle to its senior management in Q4 2023 for £1.

### **Balance sheet stabilisation**

Notwithstanding solid operating performance of Investee Companies broadly in line with management expectations, liquidity at a fund level was adversely impacted by persistently high interest rates and inflation, coupled with large growth capital expenditure opportunities. This led the Company to decide on and execute the following key steps to stabilise D9's balance sheet:

- 1. Sale of the Verne Global group of companies
- 2. Suspension of the Company's dividend
- 3. Use of sale proceeds to repay and cancel part of the RCF and reduce interest payments.

## Sale of Verne Global

During the period, the Company ran a competitive sale process for the Verne Global group of companies (which has operations in Iceland, Finland and the United Kingdom). As announced on 28 September 2023, the Company received several non-binding offers for a majority stake in Verne Global. The Company, with the support of Goldman Sachs International (financial adviser for the transaction), assessed the merits of the non-binding offers for a majority stake to maximise shareholder value. The Company concluded that a sale of the Company's entire stake in Verne Global was in shareholders' best interests because, amongst other considerations, it provided an opportunity for the Company to substantially deleverage its balance sheet and provide the cash resources necessary for the Company to strengthen its financial position, particularly in light of Verne Global's significantly increased capital expenditure pipeline that the Company was unable to fund.

As announced on 15 March 2024, the Company completed the Verne Transaction for an equity purchase price of up to \$575 million (approximately £450 million\*). Following completion of the Verne Transaction, the Company received \$415 million (£325.8 million) (the "Initial Purchase Price"). The completion followed receipt of all applicable regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of all conditions in line with the previously communicated timetable. A further deferred consideration of US\$25 million (approximately £20 million\*\*) which formed part of the purchase price has now been received.

The purchase price also comprised a potential Earn-Out payment of up to \$135 million (approximately £108 million\*\*), which is payable subject to Verne Global achieving run-rate EBITDA targets for the financial year ending December 2026 (the "Performance Target"). The total Earn-Out will be payable if 100% of the Performance Target is met and will be reduced on a sliding scale with no Earn-Out being payable if Verne Global does not achieve 80% of the Performance Target. This target is as set in the business plan provided to all potential purchasers at the time of the sale process.

The Investment Manager believes that Ardian's own value creation objectives are aligned with deploying the requisite capital expenditures to enable Verne Global to deliver in line with or close to the Performance Target. The Company also benefits from customary protections to ensure Verne Global continues operating and reporting substantially in line with existing practices, including the provision of quarterly updates on its run-rate EBITDA.

Following the completion of the Verne Transaction as announced on 15 March 2024, the Initial Purchase Price proceeds were used as follows:

- £273.5\* million was used for partial repayment of the RCF (more details on this below);
- c.£17 million to pay costs incurred in relation to the Verne Transaction, including a contingency of £1.6 million\*\*\*:
- Around £12 million was retained to cover future operational expenses of the Company if and when required; and
- Around £23 million was retained for prudent capital management to cover possible future liabilities arising from certain indemnification provisions made in connection with the Verne Transaction.

\* GBP amounts based on a 1.28 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 13 March 2024.

\*\* GBP amounts based on a 1.25 USD/GBP exchange rate as of 25 April 2024.

\*\*\* It was agreed with the RCF lenders that £17 million would be set aside to pay costs arising from the Verne Transaction. This included:

• £1.0 million for financing arrangement costs related to the accordion facility for Verne Global and legal fees to implement the amendments to the RCF facility;

- £14.4 million for transaction advisory services, including £5.8 million for financial advice, £5.8 million for legal advice, and £2.8 million for vendor due diligence, tax, and other advice and expenses in relation to the Verne Transaction; and
- The remaining £1.6 million represents a contingency which has not yet been utilised and may be further used to pay down the RCF.

£9.2 million of the above mentioned £17 million was incurred in the period-ended 31 December 2023, and £6.2 million was incurred post-period end in 2024.

The level of costs due to advisory fees incurred for the Verne Transaction reflects the transaction's complexity in contemplating different transaction structures and executing the sale of three separate legal entities in three different jurisdictions.

### Suspension of the Company's dividend

In September 2023, at the time of considering the Q2 2023 dividend, the Board and Investment Manager were mindful of the uncertainty around the timing of the completion of the sale of Verne Global and were conscious, that the persistence of a high interest rate environment continued to weigh on the Company's liquidity position. Therefore it was agreed that a more conservative approach to capital allocation was required in the interest of the Company and its shareholders, and, on 28 September 2023 the Board elected not to declare the Q2 2023 dividend and withdrew its target dividend of 6.0 pence per Ordinary Share for the year ending 31 December 2023. During the year, the Company paid a total dividend of 3.0 pence per share: 1.5 pence was paid in March 2023 relating to the period to 31 December 2022, and a further 1.5 pence per share in June 2023 in relation to the period to 31 March 2023. No further dividends have been declared for 2023.

It is the company's intention to retain its Investment Company status during the managed wind down process. To maintain this status, under s1158 of the provisions the Company may be required to pay further distributions. The Board will continue to monitor this requirement.

### RCF partial repayments and cancellation

Following completion of the Verne Transaction, and receipt of the Initial Purchase Price, as announced on 15 March 2024, the Company has been able to substantially deleverage its balance sheet through the partial repayment and cancellation of its RCF. Following receipt of the Deferred Consideration and the cessation of certain indemnification provisions for which the Company had ringfenced £23 million for prudent capital management, the Company intends to further reduce its drawn RCF to c.£53 million by 3 May 2024, thus completing the execution of the 3-step plan to substantially deleverage its balance sheet and reinforce its financial position.

At the time of the partial RCF repayment and cancellation effected in March 2024, the RCF documentation was amended to set revised financial covenants to make it more bespoke for the reduced portfolio size going forward until the RCF is fully repaid. The new set of covenants include:

- The LTV test threshold at the Digital 9 HoldCo Limited level (being the ratio of total financial indebtedness of each obligor under the RCF documentation to adjusted portfolio investment value) is 20%;
- The global LTV test threshold (being the ratio of total financial indebtedness of Digital 9 Infrastructure plc, Digital 9 HoldCo Limited and all subsidiaries to enterprise value) is 62.5%; and
- An interest reserve based on any applicable residual RCF size must be maintained in the interest reserve account at all times to legal maturity (March 2025).

In addition to the final bullet point above, the Company also negotiated and agreed with its RCF Lenders that from 1 January 2024, the cash reserves locked up in the RCF's interest reserve account can be used for interest payments, which will enable the Company to pay interest for the residual RCF without using any unrestricted cash until the RCF's legal maturity in March 2025.

As at 29 April 2024, the balance of the interest reserve account was £9.9 million, which is sufficient to cover future outstanding interest payments due to the legal maturity. Part of these funds will also be used for the further partial repayment and cancellation planned at the beginning of May, as explained above.

Finally, the Minimum Aggregate Approved Investment Value threshold has changed from £700 million previously to 500% of the total commitments under the residual RCF.

The RCF in an important consideration for the Company, even though it is not held on the Company's balance sheet. The RCF is held by its main subsidiary D9 Holdco, but the Company is a guarantor of the facility.

### Strategic Review

Following the conclusion of the Strategic Review and the subsequent shareholder approval for the revised Investment Objective and Policy, the Company has entered into a Managed Wind-Down and has started to work to realise all of the Company's assets in a manner that maximises value to shareholders. The next steps for the Investee Companies are set out below.

### Next steps for the wholly-owned assets (Aqua Comms, EMIC-1, Elio Networks and SeaEdge UK1)

The Board and Investment Manager have commenced sale preparations and mandated advisers for the sale of the Company's wholly owned assets. Investor outreach for the sale of Aqua Comms, EMIC-1 and Elio Networks was launched in April 2024. Preparations for sales processes are ongoing and advisers have been appointed. The Company expects good progress to be achieved for the orderly sale of the wholly-owned assets in 2024 and will continue to update shareholders. The Company will continue to prioritise the achievement of best value for shareholders over speed of execution.

### Next steps for Argiva

As part of the Strategic Review, various options for realising the stake in Arqiva were considered on a preliminary basis by the Board. In consideration of Arqiva's complexity as a business and its co-shareholding structure, the Investment Manager and the Board believe that the maximisation of the value of D9's stake in Arqiva is likely to take longer to realise than the other investments held by the Company. As such, the Board has decided to defer launching a formal sale process for D9's stake in Arqiva for the time being but remains open to all value-accretive options, including in collaboration with Arqiva's co-shareholders.

# **Financial Review**

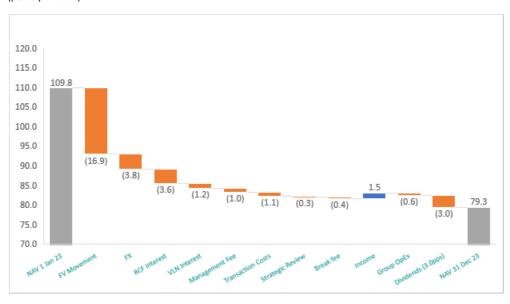
# Net Asset Value

The following charts show the movement in the Company's NAV on a pence per share basis, for the twelve-month period from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

In the 12 months to 31 December 2023, the portfolio's fair value movement including foreign exchange ("FX") was a reduction of £179 million or 20.7 pence per share, this is split between fair value movement and FX in the chart below with adverse FX movements comprising of 3.8 pence per share.

The total fall in value of the portfolio of 20.7 pence per share, was driven largely by a reduction in value of Verne Global platform, which contributed 14.8 pence of this reduction, whose NAV was rebased in line with the price realised in the Verne Transaction (further information on this is below). Of the 14.8 pence per share fall attributable to Verne Global, 9.2 pence was as a result of recognition of the Earn-out at £26.8 million (\$34.1 million out of a total contingent consideration of \$135 million), 2.3 pence was due to adverse FX movements with the balance being other valuation movement, including additional contributions to and repayments from, the Verne Group in the 12 month period to 31 December 2023.

### NAV per share movement - twelve months to 31 December 2023 (pence per share)



### Reconciliation to IFRS Valuation

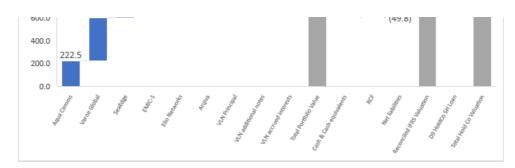
The below chart shows the build-up of the IFRS Investment Valuation held on the Balance Sheet of the Company. £639.9 million is the valuation of the Company's wholly-owned subsidiary Digital 9 HoldCo Limited which holds the investments in the underlying Investee Companies. There is also a £36.2 million shareholder loan the Company has made to Digital 9 HoldCo Limited; this is shown separately. The total valuation on the Balance Sheet of the Company is £676.1 million.

The chart below includes the gross equity valuation of the Company's share of Arqiva (£503.6 million) and shows deductions for the VLN principal (£163.0 million), for the additional VLN notes issued in June 2023 (£6.8 million) and for VLN interest accrued to 31 December 2023 (£5.1 million). This yields a proforma valuation of £328.7 million net of all VLN deductions. Deductions are also made for the RCF, which, for the avoidance of doubt, do not sit on the Company's Balance Sheet, but are held in underlying unconsolidated subsidiaries of the Company, being Digital 9 Wireless OpCo 2 Limited and Digital 9 HoldCo Limited respectively.

A pro-forma consolidation Group position, is provided below in the Company's Annual Report in the unaudited nonstatutory information section.

## <u>HoldCo valuation reconciliation as of 31 December 2023</u> (£ million)





## <u>Valuations</u>

The independent valuation process of the Company's portfolio of assets and the audit have now concluded for the December 2023 year end. During the audit process, the key inputs and assumptions for all operating models used in the valuation process were revisited and challenged to arrive at the audited fair value figures. As a result, the unaudited valuations for two of the Company's assets, Aqua Comms and the Verne Earn-out, have been revised to reflect a more conservative valuation than had been previously announced.

For Aqua Comms, the discount rateutilised was increased to reflect the nascent nature of the business' expansion into the Asia region alongside its well-established transatlantic business. This more conservative approach has resulted in a reduction of the Aqua Comm valuation of 7% relative to the unaudited NAV published on 28 March 2024.

For the Verne Earn-Out, measuring the fair value of contingent consideration presented a number of valuation challenges. In pricing the Earn-Out, a scenario-based technique (Monte Carlo Simulation) was usedby the independent valuer. This technique involved considering discrete scenario-specific cash flow estimates around Verne Global achieving its run-rate EBITDA targets. These amounts were then probability weighted and discounted using an appropriate discount rate.

After consultation with the auditor and the independent valuer the Board took a more conservative approach to the risk parameters which had been utilised in the initial independent valuation. This prudent approach recognises the inherent uncertainty and perceived risk around Verne Global's ability to meet future run-rate EBITDA targets, which in turn will determine the amount of the Earn-Out to be received by the Company in early 2027. This approach reflects the most recent update to the AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants) guidelines for valuing contingent consideration. W hen considering the above, the calculations were adjusted accordingly which reduced the Earn-Out valuation by £25.9 million from the unaudited number previously announced, a 49% reduction when compared to the unaudited NAV published on 28 March 2024.

Going forward, the fair value of the Earn-Out will be updated each reporting period to reflect the actual progress made by Verne Global in achieving the run-rate EBITDA target.

Valuations for the remainder of the Company's Investee Companies are unchanged from the unaudited figures published on 28 March 2024.

The total portfolio valuation stands at £1,029 million and this comprises the reduction for the VLN including additional notes issued in June 2023 and accrued interest on the VLN as at 31 December 2023 reflecting a 6% reduction to the unaudited figures published in March 2024.

The decrease was driven largely by the recognition of only \$34 million (25%) of the potential \$135 million Verne Global Earn-Out, reflecting the uncertainty and perceived risk around Verne Global's ability to meet future run-rate EBITDA targets.

# Summary of Portfolio Valuation methodology

The cash flows used in the valuations are from Investee Company operating models, which are reviewed and signed off by the respective Investee Company boards. These models are used to evaluate Investee Company performance and assess the performance of Investee Company management.

## Valuation

Investment valuations are calculated at the financial half-year (30 June) and the financial year-end (31 December) periods. For the current period ended 31 December 2023, in arriving at their fair value conclusions the Board obtained an independent valuation of Aqua Comms, Elio Networks, Arqiva Group and the Verne Earn-Out whose sale completion was announced on 15 March 2024 (the "Verne Transaction"). EMIC-1 continues to be held at cost and reflects cash contributed by the Company while SeaEdge remains consistent with prior years.

The fair valuation of the portfolio has also been reviewed by the Company's auditors, PwC, as at 31 December 2023 and further details are set out in the Independent Auditors' Report on pages 90 to 97 of the 2023 Annual Report.

### **Discount rates**

As described in Note 4, investments are typically valued on a discounted cash flow ("DCF") basis. The discounted cash flow from revenue is forecasted over an 8-to-10-year period followed by a terminal value based on a long-term growth rate. Discount rates are arrived at via a bottom-up analysis of the weighted average cost of capital, using both observable and unobservable inputs, and calculation of the appropriate beta based on comparable listed companies. Where appropriate, a sense-check to the DCF analysis is done by comparison to market multiples.

In respect of the portfolio of data centres where the disposals were completed after the year end, the fair value of these investments at the year-end equals the agreed disposal value plus an amount for the valuation of the Earn-Out as per the terms of the share purchase agreement ("SPA").

As a result of the above, discount rates are only relevant to Arqiva, Aqua Comms, Elio Networks and the Verne Global Earn-Out, which was valued utilising a Monte Carlo Simulation. The weighted average discount rate used in these valuations was 13.62%.

#### Liquidity

The chart below shows the unrestricted cash movements for the Group in the six-month period to 31 December 2023. For

the avoidance of doubt, this chart includes all unrestricted cash across the D9 subsidiaries to 31 December 2023 and is on a cash basis and not an accruals basis.

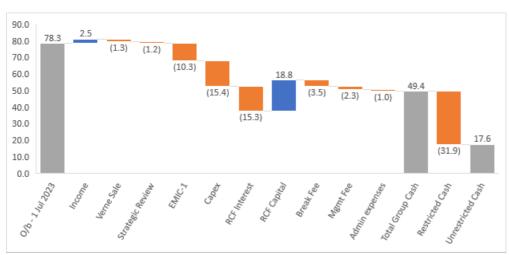
A second chart showing the cash flow movements across the Group from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024 has also been added in the unaudited non-statutory information section.

As at the period end, the Group held total cash of £49.4 million<sup>[iii]</sup>. Of this, unrestricted cash available for use was £17.6 million, shown in the chart below. Restricted cash consisted of an escrow account in relation to the EMIC-1 project, which in 2024 is being unwound as project milestones are hit.

At 31 December 2023, the Group had cash of £24.4 million in a restricted interest reserve account, under the terms of its RCF. In agreement with its RCF lenders, the Company negotiated and agreed that from 1 January 2024 the cash reserves in the RCF's interest reserve account can be used for interest payments which enables the Company to pay interest for the residual RCF without using any unrestricted cash until the RCF's legal maturity in March 2025.

### Unaudited Unrestricted Cash Group Waterfall - 1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023

#### (£ million)



Restricted cash of  $\pm$ 31.9 million included a Restricted Interest Reserve Account in relation to the RCF of  $\pm$ 24.4 million and an amount in a restricted escrow account in relation to the construction of EMIC-1 of  $\pm$ 7.5 million.

Unrestricted cash includes £14.8m held at the Company level, with the balance being held in unconsolidated subsidiaries.

The Company had fully drawn the RCF as at the reporting date in the form of  $\pm 373.8$  [iv] million drawn and  $\pm 1.2$  million committed through a Letter of Credit in favour of Verne Global Iceland.

As described in both the Interim Chair's Statement and Investment Manager's Review, the Group closed the sale of the Verne Global group of companies as announced on 15 March 2024. Subsequent to this, the cash position of the Group has strengthened.

A cash waterfall for the 3 months to 31 March 2024 is included within the unaudited non-statutory information section below.

### Inflation

The 12 months to 31 December 2023 saw some of the highest inflation in recent years, which had both positive and adverse effects on the Investee Companies. The Investment Manager and Board monitored developments closely and took steps to reduce forward macroeconomic exposure through hedging instruments and forward agreements.

High RPI in March 2023 (13.5%) had a direct short-term cash flow impact on Arqiva due to its inflation-linked swaps, with Arqiva paying £147 million in accretion payments (equating to c.£76 million prorated for D9's 51.76% economic interest in Arqiva). For the avoidance of doubt, accretion is paid by Arqiva, not D9. The long-term net impact of inflation on Arqiva is positive, increasing EBITDA due to the compounding effect of Arqiva's long-term inflation-linked contracts. RPI has fallen substantially from the Q1 2023 peak, dropping to 4.3% in March 2024, which will result in an accretion payment of c.£53 million in June 2024 (equating to c.£28 million prorated for D9's 51.76% economic interest in Arqiva's inflation collar implemented in June 2023 limits future downside inflationary exposure by capping accretion payments at an effective RPI of c.6.0% for the remaining life of the swaps, which expire in 2027. More information on Arqiva can be found below.

# Debt financing

As at 31 December 2023, the Group had unrestricted cash of £17.6 million and the RCF was fully drawn at £375 million

(divided into a £373.8<sup>[V]</sup> million cash draw and a £1.2 million non-cash draw for a Letter of Credit provided under the RCF in favour of Verne Global Iceland). In aggregate, excluding Investee Companies, D9 had gross debt of £544.8 million, comprising the VLN and RCF (including the Letters of Credit described above) as of 31 December 2023, which is 51% of Adjusted GAV. For the avoidance of doubt, the VLN balance also includes the additional PIK notes issued in June 2023, but does not include the accrued interest of £5.1m to 31 December 2023.

### Debt metrics

The below table shows the Group's leverage position as at 31 December 2023. Included within the unaudited nonstatutory information section below is a pro-forma position as at 31 March 2024, which shows the position following the Company's partial RCF repayment in March 2024.

# 31 December 2023

	£'million
Aqua Comms	222.5
Verne Global	372.2
SeaEdge	14.0
EMIC-1	36.0
Elio Networks	55.4
Arqiva	503.6
Arqiva Principal VLN	(163.0)
Arqiva Additional VLN	(6.8)
Arqiva Accrued VLN Interest	(5.1)
Total Portfolio Value	1,028.8
Subsidiary Cash & Equivalents	34.6
RCF	(373.8)
Net Subsidiary Other Liabilities	(49.8)
D9 Shareholder loan	36.2
Reconciled IFRS Valuation	676.1
PLC Other Current Assets	1.5
PLC Receivables & Cash	14.8
Total Assets	692.3
RCF*	375.0
Adjusted GAV	1,067.3

Total Group Leverage	544.8
VLN (including £6.8m additional notes)	169.8
RCF*	375.0
	£'million

# Leverage / Adjusted GAV 51.0%

\*As at 31 December 2023, the RCF was fully utilised at £375 million, which comprised £373.8vi] million drawn and the £1.2 million non-cash draw Letter of Credit. In Q1 2024, the Letter of Credit was cancelled and did not require a cash repayment.

As at 31 December 2023, the Company's net debt / EBITDA position has marginally increased since December 2022 as a result of the PIK loan notes on the VLN being capitalised on 30 June 2023 and a slight decline in portfolio EBITDA.

<b>Net Debt / EBITDA</b> Drawn RCF inc. Letter of Credit VLN*	At 31 December 2023 (£'million) 375.0 169.8
Group Cash & Equivalents (inc. restricted cash)	(49.4)
Net Debt	495.4
2023 Portfolio EBITDA	197.7
Net Debt / EBITDA	2.5x
Arqiva debt (prorated for D9 ownership)**	744.4
Verne Global debt	78.6
Adjusted Net Debt	1,318.4
Adjusted Net Debt / EBITDA	6.7x

\*Includes the additional notes of £6.8 million issued in June 2023.

\*\*This is D9's share of Arqiva gross debt. It is not an Arqiva net debt figure and as a result does not include cash held by Arqiva; it is a more conservative approach and is in line with previously reported figures.

### **Revolving Credit Facility**

As at the reporting date, the Group had a £375 million bespoke RCF in place with an international syndicate of four banks. The Group has fully drawn the facility as at the reporting date in the form of £373.8 million drawn and £1.2 million committed through a Letter of Credit in favour of Verne Global Iceland As set out above, the RCF has been partly repaid and cancelled following the completion of the Verne Transaction.

As previously disclosed and given the current economic landscape in the UK, characterised by high interest rates with SONIA trading around the 5% mark, the Group's RCF will reduce to c.£53 million on 3 May 2024 in order to reduce its financing costs and preserve shareholder value.

# <u>VLN</u>

Details of the Arqiva VLN are set out below.

# Investee Company leverage

As at 31 December 2023. only two of the Investee Companies had asset-level debt: Araiva and Verne Global Iceland.

#### Arqiva:

As at 31 December 2023, Arqiva's debt balance was £1,438 million (including project debt), of which the Company's share was £744 million.

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### Verne Global Iceland:

During the year, the Company sought asset-level financing into selected Investee Companies in the form of long-term structured debt. In June 2023, the Company achieved this through Verne Global Icelandwhich agreed a \$100 (c.£80) million green term-loan facility (the "Green Term Loan").

The Facility is structured as a syndicated facility, fully underwritten by Natixis and with a fixed term of five years, maturing in June 2028. The interest rate payable in the first three years of the facility is 3% per annum over the Secured Overnight Financing Rate ("SOFR"), stepping up to 3.25% per annum and 3.5% per annum, in fourth and fifth year, respectively. Verne Global Iceland has also put in place an interest rate swap for the first three years of the facility to manage longer-term fluctuations in interest rates. The fixed rate for the tenor of the swap is 4.14% per annum and the all-in fixed rate, including the applicable margin, is 7.14% per annum.

As announced on 15 February 2024, Verne Global Iceland signed a \$17 million increase (the "Accordion Facility") under the terms of the Green Term Loan to help fund growth capital expenditure and strengthen cash position ahead of closing the Verne Transaction, bringing the total indebtedness under the facility to \$117 million.

The Green Term Loan debt liability has been transferred in whole as part of the Verne Global sale.

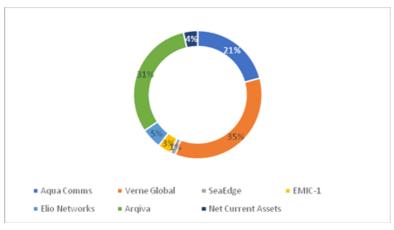
### Portfolio Summary and Key Value Drivers

As at 29 April 2024, the Company's portfolio consists of 5 attractive and complementary investments.

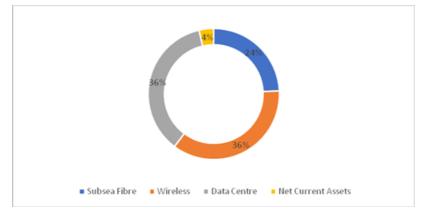
The below table shows the portfolio's asset and sector concentration levels comprising valuations as at 31 December 2023.

A pro forma basis as at 31 March 2024 following the completion of sale of the Verne Global group of companies is set out in the 'Unaudited Non-Statutory Information' section at the end of this report.

## Portfolio Concentration at 31 December 2023



### Sector Concentration at 31 December 2023



# **Review of Portfolio as of 31 December 2023**

In 2023, aggregate Investee Company revenue grew by 10% year-on-year, driven mainly by the performances of Arqiva, Aqua Comms and Verne Global. EBITDA during the period was negatively affected by Arqiva and Aqua Comms, as was factored into business plans. Further details are provided in the following sections.

The sale of the Verne Global group of companies, which completed in March 2024, removed the majority of D9's exposure to the data centre subsector. Adjusting for the sale, the pro-forma subsector exposure at year-end was predominantly subsea and wireless, with Aqua Comms and Arqiva being the largest contributors.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£446.6 million	£405.5 million
% growth	10%	4%
EBITDA	£197.7 million	£202.4 million
% growth	(2%)	0%
% margin	44%	50%

Pro-forma Portfolio Financial Performance (excluding Verne Global)

	2023	2022
Revenue	£395.9 million	£363.9 million
% growth	9%	1%
EBITDA	£180.6 million	£193.2 million
% growth	(7%)	(0%)
% margin	46%	53%

# Aqua Comms (excluding EMIC-1)

Aqua Comms is a leading carrier-neutral owner and operator of subsea fibre, providing essential connectivity through 20,000 km of transatlantic, North Sea and Atlantic, and Irish sea routes. Aqua Comms serves mainly hyperscalers and global carriers who have an exponential data demand.

Sector	Subsea	Initial investment	£170 million
Currency	USD	Total capex funded to date	£18 million
Date invested	April 2021	Total investment to date	£188 million
Ownership	100%	Closing value (31 December 2023)	£223 million
SDG9 alignment	Connectivity	Valuation movement (from 30 June 2023)	(2%)
Revenue (2023)	£28.1 million	EBITDA (2023)	£8.5 million

Compared to 2022, revenue increased by 4% in 2023 mainly driven by increased sales in Aqua Comms' lease business. EBITDA decreased by 33% mainly because of the planned addition of headcount to support sales, operations and expansion into new geographies such as Asian markets in line with the business' long-term strategy, along with additional and temporary overlapping costs to internalise its previously outsourced Network Operations Centre. In addition, the launch of Aqua Comms' third transatlantic cable, AEC-3, in August 2023 temporarily hindered profitability as all related costs were incurred upfront (e.g. backhaul leases). Therefore, Aqua Comms expects that revenue ramp-up will occur in future years. Aqua Comms also expects customer demand to remain strong in the foreseeable future whilst capacity demand continues to grow at very high rates.

Aqua Comms had a successful year in 2023 in its core transatlantic market, growing its lease business by double the growth rate of the overall market, demonstrating Aqua Comms' ability to capture market share and testament to the strength of the sales team. Aqua Comms also launched AEC-3 onto its network in August 2023, adding a third high-capacity system to their transatlantic footprint offering enhanced diversity in both the US and Europe and delivering the latest technology to its customers.

In February 2024, CEO Jim Fagan decided to leave the business to pursue an external opportunity. He hands over a company which has a strong, growing Atlantic business and a significant pipeline of future opportunities to extend its reach to new markets on the back of strong competences and market positioning. Aqua Comms' Chief Networks Officer Andy Hudson has been appointed acting CEO after leading all aspects of Aqua Comms' global operations and engineering since June 2017. Chair Alan Harper is providing enhanced commercial and strategic assistance to Andy Hudson as Aqua Comms continues to execute on its ambitious sale plans for its multiple Atlantic routes and the new EMIC-1 system, which is under construction.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£28.1 million	£27.1 million
% growth	4%	5%
EBITDA	£8.5 million	£12.6 million
% growth	(33%)	0%
% margin	30%	47%

# EMIC-1

Aqua Comms is also managing the EMIC-1 system with its development continuing through 2023 before expected launch in 2025. EMIC-1 has the potential to be delayed based on the geopolitical situation in the Red Sea and Middle East, which is impacting the ability of all new cable systems to be deployed in the region. Despite the geopolitical situation and potential for delay, the Aqua Comms team achieved a large pre-sale on EMIC-1 in Q4 of this year.

Sector	Subsea	Initial investment	-
Currency	USD	Total capex funded to date	£38 million *
Date invested	August 2021	Ownership	100%
Closing value (31 December 2023)	£36 million		

\* Includes £2 million of capex funded post balance sheet.

#### Verne Global Iceland

verne Groban Refaint is a reduing data centre playorn which provides inging scalable data centre capacity to its enterprise customers in a geographically optimal environment, powered by 100% baseload renewable energy. Energy is sourced exclusively from local, stable and predictable hydroelectric and geothermal power generation which is secured with a 10-year fixed-price supply contract, enabling customers to reduce their carbon footprint significantly. Verne Global's year-round, free-air cooling capabilities make it one of the most energy-efficient data centres in the world and reaffirms the Company's ambition to decarbonise digital infrastructure in line with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 9 ("UN SDG 9").

Sector	Data centre	Initial investment	£231 million
Currency	USD	Total capex funded to date	£14 million
Date invested	September 2021	Total investment to date	£245 million
Ownership	100%	Revenue (2023)	£24.7 million
SDG9 alignment	Decarbonisation	EBITDA (2023)	£9.9 million

In light of increased global temperatures, increasing ESG reporting requirements, and the recent power pricing and availability crisis in Northern Europe, enterprises are focused on sustainable data centre solutions, which benefit from low-cost, long-term, renewable power, and which bring stability, availability and scalability to support their rapidly increasing high performance compute needs.

During the period, Verne Global generated sustained and accelerated demand for its facilities from both new and existing customers. Revenue increased by 24% in 2023, driven by new colocation contracts coming online along with the continued ramp-up of existing colocation contracts. EBITDA grew by 41% in the period, with EBITDA margin increasing to 40% as the business continued to scale.

At 31 December 2023, Verne Global had 99% of recurring revenue benefitting from fixed annual uplifts ranging from 2% to 5% offering strong revenue inflation protection generated from c.40 leading global high-performance computing, supercomputing and enterprise customers. This delivers long-term, inflation-protected income across a variety of sectors, including automotive, artificial intelligence and financial services.

As previously noted, Verne Global drew a \$100 million (c.£80 million) green term-loan debt facility in June 2023 and subsequently put in place an interest rate swap for the first three years of the facility, applying an all-in fixed interest rate of 7.14% to the facility. The proceeds were used to:

- Fund additional capacity under construction and development in 2023
- Refinance Verne Global's existing bridge loan facility for \$26 million (£21 million)
- Repay \$50 million (£40 million) of the \$62 million (c.£49 million) shareholder loan owed to the Company by Verne Global

During the period in which the Company held Verne Global in its portfolio, the Investment Policy included a restriction that the Company could not invest more than 25% of Adjusted Gross Asset Value in any single asset or Investee Company (measured at the time of any investment into such asset or Investee Company). Therefore, due to Verne Global's large contribution to the portfolio's Adjusted Gross Asset Value, prior to the Verne Transaction, the Group could not have materially increased its exposure to Verne Global through further capital expenditure without breaching the Investment Policy.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£24.7 million	£19.9 million
% growth	24%	9%
EBITDA	£9.9 million	£7.0 million
% growth	41%	17%
% margin	40%	35%

# Verne Global Finland

Verne Global Finland is a leading Finnish data centre and cloud services platform. It has ultra-modern infrastructure, spread across three campuses (The Air, The Rock and The Deck) with industry-leading sustainability credentials and surplus heat distribution, offering a full suite of cloud infrastructure, connectivity and cybersecurity services. Verne Global Finland has existing buildings capable of providing up to 23 MW.

Sector	Data centre	Initial investment	£114 million
Currency	EUR	Total capex funded to date	£5 million
Date invested	July 2022	Total investment to date	£119 million
Ownership	100%	Revenue (2023)	£13.4 million
SDG9 alignment	Decarbonisation	EBITDA (2023)	£4.4 million

Although capital expenditure plans had been delayed pending closing of the Verne Global Sale, Verne Global Finland has continued to grow its client base and is looking to expand its data centre capacity further to meet increasing customer demand, particularly in its Helsinki campus.

In 2023, Verne Global Finland achieved revenue growth of 6% and EBITDA growth of 52% year-on-year as new customer contracts were secured, increasing utilisation on its sites. EBITDA growth also reflected year-end adjustments for one-off items relating to intergroup recharges and severance payments.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£13.4 million	£12.7 million
% growth	6%	14%

=		
EBITDA	£4.4 million	£2.9 million
% growth	52%	21%
% margin	33%	23%

# Verne Global London

Verne Global London wholly owns and operates a hyper-connected data centre in Farringdon, central London, providing up to 6 MW of colocation services. Verne Global London's facility is a fully accredited hub for connectivity and content distribution to networks across the UK and worldwide and is in an ideal location for latency-sensitive workloads.

Sector	Data centre	Initial investment	£45 million
Currency	GBP	Total capex funded to date	£21 million
Date invested	April 2022	Total investment to date	£66 million
Ownership	100%	Revenue (2023)	£12.6 million
SDG9 alignment	Connectivity	EBITDA (2023)	£2.9 million

2023 saw revenue growth of 40% as a result of power passthrough, customer contracts ramping up, upfront installation fees and smaller bespoke projects for customers. This resulted in strong growth overall in 2023, as revenue grew 40% year-on-year and EBITDA margin turned positive, at 23%.

Since acquisition, the data centre has been integrated into the Verne Global platform. The business has benefitted from this and a hedged power procurement policy, turning a loss-generating operation into a profit-making one. During the Company's ownership, we have continued to reinvest into the facility to maintain and improve its critical infrastructure and expand capacity towards 6 MW.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£12.6 million	£9.0 million
% growth	40%	30%
EBITDA	£2.9 million	(£0.7 million)
% growth	N/M*	N/A
% margin	23%	(8%)

\* Not material as previous year negative

### SeaEdge UK1

D9 owns the underlying real estate of the SeaEdge UK1 data centre asset and subsea fibre landing station, which is located in Newcastle on the UK's largest purpose-built data centre campus. D9 leases the facility to data centre operator, Stellium Data Centres Ltd, on a 25year occupational lease.

Sector	Data centre	Initial investment	£16 million
Currency	GBP	Total capex funded to date	-
Date invested	December 2021	Total investment to date	£16 million
Ownership	100%	Closing value (31 December 2023)	£14 million
SDG9 alignment	Connectivity & Decarbonisation	Valuation movement (from 31 December 2022)	(21%)
Revenue (2023)	£1.0 million	EBITDA (FY)	£1.0 million

SeaEdge UK1 is the UK's only landing station for the North Sea Connect subsea cable, which improves connectivity in northern England and forms part of the North Atlantic Loop subsea network, which includes Aqua Comms' AEC-1 and AEC-2 cables.

Revenue growth of 11% and EBITDA growth of 13% were achieved in 2023 due to positive revenue indexation and reduced expenses.

The asset is leased on fully repairing and insuring terms to the tenant and operator, Stellium Data Centres Ltd, via a 25-year occupational lease with over 21 years remaining. Stellium continues to meet its payment obligations under the lease, delivering on the Company's target yield at acquisition.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£1.0m	£0.9m
% growth	11%	N/A
EBITDA	£1.0m	£0.9m
% growth	13%	N/A
% margin	94%	93%

#### Elio Networks

Elio Networks is an enterprise high-speed connectivity provider that owns and operates the highest capacity fixed wireless access ("FWA") network in Greater Dublin, connecting c.1,600 enterprise customers with high-quality wireless access across over 50 base stations.

Sector	Wireless	Initial investment	£51 million
Currency	FUR	Total capex funded to date	-

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Date invested	invested April 2022 Total investment to date		£51 million
Ownership	100%	Closing value (31 December 2023)	£55 million
SDG9 alignment	Connectivity	Valuation movement (from 30 June 2023)	(4%)
Revenue (2023)	£8.2 million	EBITDA (2023)	£4.2 million

Elio Networks continued growing its high-quality wireless connectivity operations in 2023, with unique customer connections of c.2,700 in December 2023. Elio Networks completed a re-branding exercise and launched under its new name in February 2023. Furthermore, Elio Networks extended its services to Cork city in early 2023, reaffirming its position as the leading wireless fixed connectivity player in Ireland. Elio Networks achieved £8.2 million revenue in 2023, a 6% increase on 2022.

The provider has a diverse client base, including larger multinationals, government bodies, global technology companies, small professional service firms, retail and hospitality companies. Elio Networks was launched to address the growing requirement for affordable high-speed broadband in the greater Dublin area. Since then, it has grown to become the largest wireless internet service provider ("ISP") in the greater Dublin region, with the 2023 expansion into Cork city reaffirming its position as a leading connectivity player in Ireland.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£8.2 million	£7.7 million
% growth	6%	6%
EBITDA	£4.2 million	£4.1 million
% growth	2%	(14%)
% margin	51%	53%

# Arqiva

Arqiva is the UK's pre-eminent national provider of television and radio broadcast infrastructure and provides end-to-end connectivity solutions in the media and utility industries. It has been an early and leading participant in the development of smart utility infrastructure in the UK through its smart water and energy metering services. It is also a leading provider of satellite uplink infrastructure and distribution services in the UK.

Sector	Wireless	Initial investment	£300 million
Currency	GBP Total capex funded to date		-
Date invested	October 2022	Total investment to date	£300 million
Ownership	48.02%	Closing value (31 December 2023)	£341 million*
SDG9 alignment	Connectivity	Valuation movement (from 30 June 2023)	(1%)
Revenue (2023)	£358.6 million	EBITDA (2023)	£166.9 million

Note: Figures presented are prorated based on D9's 51.76% economic interest in Arqiva.

\* To enable comparison in line with previous valuations, NAV is presented as equity value (£504 million as of 31 December 2023) less VLN principal (£163 million). A proforma NAV is presented as £329 million, and this is net of £7 million PIK notes issued in June 2023 and £5 million further interest accrued to 31 December 2023.

Arqiva is a large, robust business with c.1,300 employees and predictable earnings underpinned by long-term contracts with blue-chip customers, including the BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Sky, Discovery, the DCC and Thames Water. Arqiva's utilities business continues to represent an exciting growth opportunity grounded in a quality product offering and enabling clear cost savings and environmental benefits.

Arqiva sustained good business momentum in 2023, with revenue up 9% year-on-year, reflecting strong growth in smart water metering, whilst the media business saw upwards indexation of inflation-linked revenue contracts and higher passthrough power charges. Limited offset was driven by some TV channel customers entering administration. EBITDA dropped by 5% year-on-year as a result of an increased mix of utility device sales, higher power costs and TV channel revenue reductions, as well as some one-offs. The Arqiva business plan already anticipated a drop in EBITDA in this period.

The UK government is currently drafting the Media Bill, which includes a range of provisions to modernise broadcasting regulation and support public service broadcasters. At its second reading in the House of Commons in November 2023, MPs spoke about the importance of protecting delivery of Broadcast TV in the long term to ensure broadcast services remain available to everyone in the UK.

W hilst macroeconomic factors impacted some customers during the year, Arqiva continued to see positive commercial momentum in both media and smart utilities. Several major Digital Audio Broadcasting ("DAB") contracts were extended to 2035, with DAB remaining the UK's dominant listening platform, delivering 42% of all listening hours. Arqiva also signed a multi-year deal with a UK public service broadcaster ("PSB"), representing the first Satellite Direct to Home deal (including satellite capacity) that has been signed with a PSB. Arqiva continues to carefully monitor customer demand and requirements to ensure efficient management of satellite transponder capacity. In November, Arqiva announced the extension of its smart water meter network through a contract to deliver an additional 300,000 meters for its existing customer Anglian Water ("Anglian") by 2025. This should allow Anglian to continue to improve network monitoring, identify and reduce leakages, and engage with customers to modify behaviour and help them reduce consumption. To date, Anglian's smart water metering programme has helped customers find and resolve over 200,000 leaks in their properties, on average saving three million litres of water per day over the past three years.

## Clarification on capital structure at Argiva and at HoldCo level

In October 2022, D9 acquired a 51.76% economic interest (48.02% equity stake) in Arqiva for £463 million, which consisted of £300 million paid in cash and £163 million owed to the vendor in the form of a vendor loan note (VLN). For further

details on the VLN, see below. Per the valuation conducted by the independent valuation adviser, Arqiva is held at a NAV of £341 million as of 31 December 2023, representing a 13.5% increase on the £300 million D9 paid initially. For comparative purposes, NAV is presented as equity value (£504 million as of 31 December 2023) less VLN principal (£163 million). As of 31 December 2023, D9 still owes the £163 million VLN principal to the vendor along with £6.8 million of P1K interest (P1Ked on 30 June 2023) as well as £5.1 million interest accrued from 01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023. Arqiva also holds a large balance of shareholder loans owed to its own shareholders. For the avoidance of doubt, these do not represent an external debt obligation and should be stripped out when examining Arqiva's leverage. Arqiva's total external debt as of 31 December 2023 was £1,438 million, which corresponds to £744 million attributable to D9 pro rata based on its 51.76% economic interest.

### Collar on Argiva's inflation-linked swaps

As disclosed in June 2023, Arqiva implemented a collar on its inflation-linked swaps, which applies a cap and floor to future accretion payments, limiting downside cash flow exposure for the business. For its financial year ending June 2023, Arqiva paid £147 million in accretion (equating to c.£76 million prorated for D9's 51.76% economic interest in Arqiva). This was based on a 13.5% Retail Price Index ("RPI") inflation rate in March 2023. As a result of the collar, accretion payments going forwards are effectively limited by the collar's cap of c.6.0%. If RPI is lower than c.6.0%, the accretion payment will be proportionally lower as well, down to an RPI floor of 2.5%. Driven by 4.3% RPI in March 2024, the June 2024 accretion payment will be c.£53 million, c.£28 million of which is attributed to D9 based on its 51.76% economic interest. For the avoidance of doubt, accretion payments are made by Arqiva out of its operational cash flows, not paid by D9. The swaps expire in April 2027.

### Argiva senior debt refinancing

Through late June and early July, Arqiva Group raised £345 million of new debt, the proceeds of which were used to repay £262 million of existing debt which was approaching maturity, whilst providing Arqiva Group with an additional £83 million for general corporate purposes. This followed £45 million of senior debt amortisations over the previous 12 months, as well as the net £175 million deleveraging of Arqiva Group's junior debt in Q3 2022. Arqiva Group's interest rate swap portfolio was also rebalanced to maintain compliance with hedging covenants, such that changes in gilt yields continue to have no material impact on Arqiva Group's interest costs net of the pre-existing swaps portfolio.

# Vendor loan note interest accrual

D9's 2022 acquisition of a 48.02% equity stake in Arqiva consisted of £300 million paid in cash and a £163 million vendor loan note issued by the vendor. The VLN, which matures in 2029, is non-recourse to the CompanyIn the event of a default, recourse is limited to the Company's shares in Arqiva Group Limited, and this charge is registered at Companies House against D9 Wireless Midco 1 Limited, a subsidiary of the Company.

The VLN is due to mature on 18 October 2029 and has the following stepped interest rate profile:

- 6% per annum up to and including 30 June 2025;
- 7% per annum from 1 July 2025 up to 30 June 2026;
- 8% per annum from 1 July 2026 up to 30 June 2027; and
- 9% per annum from 1 July 2027 to maturity.

Interest on the VLN is due annually in arrears on 30 June, and D9 has the choice either to settle each payment in cash or to accrue it. For the period ending 30 June 2023, the Company elected to accrue the interest, increasing the VLN's outstanding balance from £163.0 million to £169.8 million. The proforma VLN balance stood at £174.9 million as of 31 December 2023, which consisted of the £169.8 million of notes issued as of 30 June 2023 plus £5.1 million of interest accrued to 31 December 2023. PIK interest is capitalised into the balance of the VLN annually in June each year, and all interest on the Argiva VLN was PIK at 30 June 2023. No interest on the VLN has been settled in cash.

Accrued interest must be repaid in full before distributions can be made to the Group. After the fourth anniversary of the VLN (18 October 2026), the Group can only receive distributions if the entirety of the VLN principal and any rolled up interest have been repaid in full. The Company expects Arqiva's future cashflows to cover D9's VLN interest payments.

	2023	2022
Revenue	£358.6 million	£328.2 million
% growth	9%	0%
EBITDA	£166.9 million	£175.7 million
% growth	(5%)	1%
% margin	47%	54%

Note: Figures presented are pro-rated based on D9's 51.76% economic interest in Arqiva.

# Diego Massidda

Head of Digital Infrastructure

Triple Point Investment Management LLP

29 April 2024

# **SECTION 172(1) STATEMENT**

The Board is committed to promoting the success of the Company whilst conducting business in a fair, ethical, and transparent manner.

The Board makes every effort to understand the views of the Company's key stakeholders and to take into consideration these views as part of its decision-making process.

As an investment company, the Company does not have any employees and conducts its core activities through third-party service providers. The Board seeks to ensure each service provider has an established track record, has in place suitable policies and procedures to ensure they maintain high standards of business conduct, treat shareholders fairly, and employ corporate governance best practice.

As a Jersey incorporated entity, the Company voluntarily discloses how the Directors have had regard to the matters set out in section 172(1)(a) to (f) and fulfils the reporting requirements under section 414CZA of the Companies Act 2002 (the "Act").

The following disclosure describes how the Directors have had regard to the matters set out in section 172(1) (a) to (f) when performing their duty under s172 and forms the Directors' statement required under section 414CZA of the Act.

# Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder	Why is it important to engage?	How have the Investment Manager/Directors engaged?	What were the key topics of engagement?	What was the feedback obtained and the outcome of the engagement?
Shareholders	Shareholders and their continued support is critical to the continuing existence of the business and delivery of our long- term strategy.	The Investment Manager and Board have been continuously engaged with shareholders throughout the period. During the period, the Company and Investment Manager have hosted a number of events, including webinars following key Company Updates and the Capital Markets Day held on 20 March 2023, in addition to direct engagement. The Board initiated a formal consultation with shareholders and in October 2023 met with shareholders representing c.74% of the Company's issued share capital, in conjunction with the Investment Manager and the Company's Joint Corporate Brokers, J.P. Morgan Cazenove and Peel Hunt (Joint Corporate Broker from 12 April 2023 to 3 April 2024), and in addition to hosting a retail shareholder-only webinar. The Board has maintained continuous dialogue with shareholders and the Directors have made themselves available to meet to discuss a wide range of topics.	Key topics through the year related to the Investment Manager Personnel, the Verne Global syndication and sale, the Company's dividend policy, the material uncertainty around going concern and future direction of the Company.	The Board considered that the feedback from shareholders, especially that received during the consultation, has been invaluable this year, through enhanced understanding of shareholder expectations. Following the shareholder consultation, the Board initiated a Strategic Review of the Company on 27 November 2023.
Investment Manager	The Investment Manager is responsible for executing the Investment Objective within the Investment Policy of the Company.	The Board maintains regular and open dialogue with the Investment Manager at Board meetings and has regular contact on operational and investment matters outside of meetings.	The Board have engaged with the Investment Manager throughout the year on the most strategic topics for the Company, including on the syndication and sale of Verne Global, the decision to suspend the Company's dividend, the shareholder consultation, during the period of change of personnel of the Investment Manager; and reporting processes.	As a result of the engagement between the Board and the Investment Manager, the Group has been able to enter into a definitive agreement for the sale of Verne Global during the period. Post year end, the Board has served notice to the Investment Manager with the 12 months' notice period set to end on 31 March 2025, in line with the expiry of the lock-in period.
Investee Companies	The performance and long-term success of the Company is linked to the performance of the	The Investment Manager has held regular meetings with the Board and management of each of the Investee Companies and received regular reporting, including financial.	On an ongoing basis the Investment Manager engages with the Investee Companies on matters including finance, capex	Through this engagement, particularly between the Investment Manager and the Investee Companies, the Investment Manager has

	companies in which the Company invests.	The Board has directly engaged with the Investee Company CEOs and operating partners during the year, including inviting key members of management to present at Board meetings with the opportunity to ask questions directly. The Board has frequently engaged with Verne management during the sale process.	requirements, sustainability and strategy. During the year, the Board has engaged with the Investee Companies on their strategy, and other key matters relevant to the Investee Companies. The key topic of engagement with Verne has been in relation to its sale and ongoing matters between signing and completion.	enhanced the sustainability practices and reporting of the Investee Companies, explored opportunities for synergies and optimisation between the Investee Companies.
Suppliers	The Company's suppliers include third- party service providers, and the RCF lenders, each of which is essential in ensuring the ongoing operational performance of the Company. The Company relies on the performance of third-party service providers to undertake all its main activities.	The Board maintains close working relationships with all its key advisers and with the RCF lenders. The Management Engagement Committee has responsibility for overseeing and monitoring the performance of each supplier. A detailed annual assessment is undertaken of each supplier to ensure they continue to fulfil their duties to a high standard.	The Management Engagement Committee met in the year and undertook a thorough review of the performance of the service providers and agreed feedback to provide to the service providers to enhance performance moving forward or assist in the process of changing service providers where this was considered appropriate. The Board and Investment Manager has directly engaged with the RCF Ienders in respect to the partial repayment and cancellation, as well as the covenants amendments.	The Board has continued to be open in providing feedback to its service providers to make clear their expectations, following the Management Engagement Committee process and, where appropriate, on an ad hoc basis. The relationship with the RCF lenders has been key to ensuring that the Company can carry out the actions necessary for its strategic actions.
Regulators	Engagement with the regulator is imperative to the Company's ability to operate.	During the year, the Company has had to engage with various regulators (including the Financial Conduct Authority and Jersey Financial Services Commission) on a number of different matters.	The key topics of engagement with regulators during the year have been in relation to the change of Directors and receipt of shareholder complaints. Following year-end, the Company engaged with the FCA and JFSC in relation to the change of Investment Policy.	Engagement with the regulator has been important to ensure that the Company can carry out strategically important actions, including change of Directors, and following year-end the change of Investment Policy. In respect of the shareholder complaints, this has been important in respect of the Company's regulatory requirements.

# **Principal Decisions**

Principal decisions have been defined as those that have a material impact to the Group and its key stakeholders. In taking

these decisions, the Directors considered their duties under section 172 of the Act.

### Verne Global sale

In November 2023, the Company announced the sale of its entire stake in the Verne Global group of companies which completed following the year end in March 2024. The Board concluded that a sale of the Company's entire stake in Verne Global was in shareholders' best interests because it provided an opportunity for the Company to deleverage its balance sheet and provide the cash resources necessary for the Company to strengthen its financial position.

# Decision to suspend the Company's dividend target

The Board elected to not declare the O2 2023 dividend and withdrew its target dividend of 6.0 pence per Ordinary Share for

the year ended 31 December 2023. The Board carried out a formal consultation with shareholders to discuss the future direction of the Company which included gathering feedback with regard to dividend policy. The Board met with shareholders representing c.74% of the Company's issued share capital, in conjunction with the Investment Manager and the Company's Joint Corporate Brokers, J.P. Morgan Cazenove and Peel Hunt (Joint Corporate Broker from 12 April 2023 to 3 April 2024), and in addition to hosting a retail shareholder-only webinar.

### Initiation of a Strategic Review

In November 2023, following the announcement of the Verne Global sale and shareholder consultation, the Board initiated a Strategic Review to develop a set of actions with a view to maximising shareholder value going forward.

The Company announced the conclusion of the Strategic Review on 29 January 2024 following year end. Further information in relation to the Strategic Review can be found in the Investment Manager's Report.

### **Change of Directors**

During the year, the Company undertook a formal recruitment process led by the Nomination Committee, with the support of an independent search consultancy, for the appointment of a new Board member. This process actively encouraged a diverse pool of candidates who could contribute specific skills and experience identified by the Board and would support the Board's commitment to diversity, in line with the FCA's targets under the Listing Rules. The Board was pleased to announce the appointment of Gailina Liew on 1 July 2023 as an Independent Non-Executive Director.

During the period, Phil Jordan and Lisa Harrington stepped down as Directors of the Company effective 14 December 2023, and Richard Boléat and Brett Miller were appointed as Independent Non-Executive Directors of the Company with effect from 19 December 2023 and 21 December 2023 respectively. Following the period end on 3 January 2024, Keith Mansfield stepped down as a Director of the Company, and on 23 March 2024 Brett Miller and Richard Boléat stepped down as Directors of the Company.

# **RISK MANAGEMENT**

## Framework

The Board and the Investment Manager recognise that risk is inherent in the operation of the Company and are committed to effective risk management to ensure that shareholder value is protected and maximised.

As an externally managed investment company, the Company outsources key services to the Investment Manager and other service providers and rely on their systems and controls. The Board has ultimate responsibility for risk management and internal controls within the Company and has convened a Risk Committee to assist it in these responsibilities. The Risk Committee undertakes a formal risk review twice a year to assess and challenge the effectiveness of our risk management and on help define risk appetite and controls to manage risks within that appetite, particularly those which would threaten its business model, future performance, solvency, valuation, liquidity or reputation. Further details of the Risk Committee's activities can be found in the Risk Committee Report on pages 72 to 73 of the 2023 Annual Report.

The Investment Manager has responsibility for identifying potential risks at an early stage, escalating risks or changes to risk and relevant considerations and implementing appropriate mitigations which are recorded in the Group's risk register. Where relevant, the financial model is stress tested to assess the potential impact of recorded risks against the likelihood of occurrence and graded suitably. In assessing risks, both internal controls and external factors that could mitigate the risk are considered. A post-mitigation risk score is then determined for each principal risk. The Board regularly reviews the risk register to ensure gradings and mitigating actions remain appropriate.

### **Risk Appetite Statement**

Managing risk is fundamental to the delivery of the Company's strategy, and this is achieved by defining risk appetite and managing risks within that appetite. Risk appetite is the level of risk the Company is willing to take to achieve its strategic objectives. Post year end, this is being re-assessed to align to the revised strategy of being in a Managed Wind-Down.

The Board is responsible for setting the Company's risk appetite and ensuring that the Company operates within these parameters. The Board defines its risk appetite using a category of risks inherent to the environment in which the Company operates. Risk appetite is set for each category of risk enabling the actual risks which are identified by management to be compared to the defined appetite, to identify where any additional mitigation activity is required. Any risks outside of tolerance are subject to additional oversight and action planning. The Board has reviewed the Company's appetite for each of the principal risks set out below.

The Board will review and monitor the Company's risk appetite at least on an annual basis or when there is a material change in the internal or external environment, to ensure that it remains appropriate and consistent with the Investment Policy.

# **Principal Risks and Uncertainties**

The table below sets out what we believe to be the principal risks and uncertainties facing the Group. The table does not cover all the risks that the Group may face. The Board defines the Group's risk appetite, enabling the Group to judge the level of risk it is prepared to take in achieving its overall objectives. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to management or deemed to be less material at 29 April 2024 may also have an adverse effect on the Group.

	Risk	Risk Impact/Context	Risk Mitigation	Impact	Likelihood	Risk Exposure Change-in- Year
1.	PERSISTENT, NEGATIVE MARKET SENTIMENT, LEADING TO INCREASED ACTIVISM	The fund has suffered as a result of a lengthy period where share price has traded at a discount to NAV. There are a number of legacy drivers behind the market sentiment, which include: wider macroeconomic and market conditions, Group's leverage position*, Investment Manager and Board personnel changes. Combined, these have	The Board has continued to maintain an open dialogue with shareholders and provided regular market updates on the execution of its strategy. At the end of 2023, the Board instigated a formal consultation with shareholders to determine the forward- looking strategy, including the management of the fund; which sought to address shareholder concerns.	High	High	Increase

	<ul> <li>led to a reduced level of shareholder confidence which has manifested itself in increased activism.</li> <li>Post year end, the fund has been subject to an increased volume of complaints and Board engagements.</li> <li>Specifically, the Board have experienced several changes to its constitution with both a number of longer- standing and newer Board members voluntarily resigning their position. This has in part caused disruption to the ongoing governance and oversight of the fund and is seen as a contributor to the increased level of activism.</li> <li>There is a risk that changes to, and/or further loss of the existing Directors from the fund would lead to further knowledge loss, adversely impacting the credibility and suitability of governance.</li> <li>*The Group leverage position has reduced considerably following the successful completion of the Verne transaction.</li> </ul>	Ongoing, the Board and Investment Manager have sought appropriate corporate and legal advice to ensure the fund conducts itself appropriately and informed decisions and actions have been taken to deliver the best possible outcome to shareholders. Further appointments to the Board are expected to be made in the near term, which will add depth, capacity and ensure all Committees can operate appropriately and enable the Board to fulfil its obligations.			
INFORMATION SECURITY BREACH	suitability of governance. *The Group leverage position has reduced considerably following the successful completion of the Verne	All Investee Companies have a core suite of controls for the mitigation of information security risks and, where possible, companies are working to comply with ISO 27001. Cyber security is a regular feature in Risk and Audit Committee monitoring/discussions. It is recognised that cyber security is a constantly changing landscape and, accordingly, each Investee Company has a commitment to continue enhancements to ensure that controls keep pace with the changing profile of the risk.	Moderate to High	Moderate to High	Stable
3. TRANSACTION / EXECUTION RISK	The execution of the wind-down strategy will be completed in an appropriate and timely manner and one that achieves best outcomes for investors. The underlying quality and performance of the Investee Companies	Each transaction will be supported by a carefully selected team of advisers, which together with the experience of the Investment Management team are best placed to navigate the inherent risks in selecting the most appropriate deal and	Moderate to High	Moderate	New

		are considered robust both financially and operationally; notwithstanding that access to capital for further investment would enhance value in certain instances. Where appropriate and available, this will still be explored, subject to there being no detriment to overarching achievement of strategy. The closure of transactions may prove materially more complex than anticipated given the geography and regulatory bias of the Investee Companies.	respectively concluding; with the priority of delivering best investor outcomes.			
4.	LIQUIDITY AND SOLVENCY RISK	The Company has an agreed repayment profile with the RCF lenders and has a suite of management actions in place to manage this obligation. Other obligations such as the VLN are considered appropriate in size and nature and have been structure accordingly and will be fulfilled through successful execution of the overall strategy. Quality and performance of the underlying asset is considered strong.	The Company has several management actions in place to manage the debt obligations of the Company, most notably the sale of Verne which will see the majority of the RCF repaid. General liquidity is managed via regular cashflow monitoring, supplier negotiations, and regular visibility at Board level through ongoing reporting.	Moderate to High	Moderate	Decrease
5.	DEPENDENCE ON INVESTMENT MANAGER	The Company is heavily reliant on the full range of an Investment Manager's services, their expertise and specific knowledge pursuant to the strategic direction of the fund. Successful execution of the strategy to manage a wind-down of the fund, maximising shareholder value, is dependent upon the appointment of an Investment Manager who has knowledge and experience of the individual dynamics of each individual Investee Companies, the markets that they operate in, which can be leveraged to developed an approach which achieves the maximum for shareholders.	The selection of a new and/or continuation of engagement with the Investment Manager, forms part of the Strategic Review, which is being facilitated by independent advisers. The decision will be based upon who can achieve the best outcome for investors. Post year end, the Board has served notice to the Investment Manager with the 12 months' notice period set to end on 31 March 2025, in line with the expiry of the lock-in period. Any changes to the Investment Manager will see new fee arrangements entered into and the Board will ensure that return and reward are aligned with delivery of strategy. It is acknowledged that a change of Investment Management team have	Moderate to High	Moderate	Increase

			suitable retention packages to ensure continuity of service and delivery of objective. Knowledge is shared across the wider business to mitigate reliance on any single individual. Support functions that deliver wider services are sufficiently resourced and have experience and competency to ensure deliverables are met.			
6.	INTERUPTIONS TO OPERATIONS INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY FAILURE	D9's Investee Companies rely on infrastructure and technology to provide their customers with a highly reliable service. There may be a failure to deliver this level of service because of numerous factors. This could result in the breach of performance conditions in customer contracts, resulting in financial or regulatory implications.	The Digital Infrastructure Investments in which the Group invests use proven technologies, typically backed by manufacturer warranties, when installing applicable machinery and equipment. Investee Companies hire experts with the technical knowledge and seek third-party advice where required. Where appropriate, there are insurances in place to cover issues such as accidental damage and power issues.	Moderate to High	Moderate	Increase
7.	REGULATORY RISK	There are several regulatory stakeholders involved both at a Fund but also individual Portfolio Company level. The Board operates in an open and transparent manner and have external advisers appointed to support and ensure obligations are met. Breach of obligation and/or failure to maintain adequate engagement can lead to increased scrutiny, resulting in financial and/or reputational impacts.	Compliance with regulatory expectations is a key focus of the Board. Relationships with FCA and JFSC are supported through engagement with the Investment Manager Triple Point Investment Management LLP and corporate service providers such as Ocorian Fund Services (Jersey) Ltd and INDOS Financial Limited. Individual Investee Companies have direct engagement with their regulators and recruit staff that have experience and deep understanding of the obligations in which they operate under.	Moderate	Moderate	Increase

# **Emerging Risks**

Introduction of, or amendment to, laws, regulations, or technology (especially in relation to climate change)

The global ambition for a more sustainable future has never been greater, particularly in light of various climate-related events across the globe. There is increasing pressure for governments and authorities to enforce green-related legislation. This could materially affect organisations which are not set up to deal with such changes in the form of financial penalties, operational and capital expenditure to restructure operations and infrastructure, or even ceasing of certain activities.

The Investment Manager has a strong pedigree in understanding the current and future expectations with regards to climate change and all strategic decisions are assessed against a backdrop of understanding the impacts on compliance with these obligations and commitments made.

# Development of disruptive technology

The digital infrastructure sector is constantly evolving. As a result, there is a risk that disruptive technology emerges which results in current digital infrastructure assets becoming obsolete. The Investment Manager constantly monitor, the emerging technology trends with digital infrastructure to ensure Investee Companies evolve their business models where requires the minimum terminate.

# GOING CONCERN AND VIABILITY

# Going Concern

Following the recent shareholder vote at the General Meeting, the Company is now in a Managed Wind-Down. The audited Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

As part of the Strategic Review, various options for realising the stake in Arqiva were considered by the Board and after careful consideration of Arqiva's plans and current market conditions, the Board believes that the maximisation of the value of the Company's stake in Arqiva is likely to take longer to realise than the other investments held by the Company. As such, whilst the Company will continue to consider and be open to all options for Arqiva which are value-accretive to shareholders, the Board has decided to defer launching a sale process for the Company's stake in Arqiva.

As part of the recent sale of Verne Global, the Company has the potential to receive an Earn-Out payment of up to \$135 million, subject to Verne Global achieving run-rate EBITDA targets for the financial year ending December 2026. At the year end, the Earn-Out was valued at \$34 million (£26.8 million). Given the time frame involved for both the sale of Arqiva and the receipt of any potential Earn-Out payment, the Board believes that the Going Concern approach to the preparation of the Financial Statements remains appropriate.

No provision has been made for the costs of winding up the company as these will be charged to the Income Statement on an accruals basis as they are incurred or as the Company becomes obligated to make such payments in the future.

The Directors believe that the Company and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months since the reporting date. However, given that a degree of uncertainty exists in the timing of ongoing strategic initiatives which includes management's ability to refinance or repay the Group's existing RCF (of which c.f.100 million remains at 29 April 2024) due in the next 12 months (March 2025), there exists a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt over the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Company intends to make a total additional repayment and partial cancellation of its Group's RCF in the amount of c. £47 million in May 2024.

The RCF in an important consideration for the Company, even though it is not held on the Company's balance sheet. The RCF is held by its main subsidiary D9 Holdco, but the Company is a guarantor of the facility.

### **Viability Statement**

At least once a year the Directors are required to carry out a robust assessment of the principal and emerging risks and make a statement which explains how they have assessed the prospects of the Company, over what period they have done so and why they consider that period to be appropriate, considering the Company's current position.

The principal and emerging risks faced by the Company are described above. As detailed above, the Company is preparing the audited Financial Statements on a going concern basis despite the recent announcement that the Company is in a Managed Wind-Down. Accordingly, the Directors have not assessed the longer-term viability of the Company other than for a period of three years to the end of the Earn-Out period, relevant to the sale of Verne Global, which is noted above.

The Directors have assessed the Managed Wind-Down of the Company to be within 24 to 36 months of the date of the approval of these audited Financial Statements (being 29 April 2024), although there is no guarantee that it will be possible to realise maximum value for the assets within that timeframe and therefore the Managed Wind-Down could potentially take longer.

# **BOARD APPROVAL OF STRATEGIC REPORT**

The Strategic Report has been approved by the Board of Directors and signed on its behalf by the Chair.

# Charlotte Valeur

Interim Independent Chair

29 April 2024

### SUSTAINABILITY

Throughout the reporting period, the Company continued to uphold its sustainability-related commitments. During the reporting period the Investment Manager, on behalf of the Company, continued to uphold the commitment to consider environmental, social and governance issues in interactions with Investee Companies. For example, during this reporting period there has been a focus on working with Investee Companies on their net zero actions and diversity and inclusion.

Details of the sustainability-related commitments and activities of the Company and the Investee Companies are captured in a separate Sustainability Report. This separate report aims to make it easier for investors to locate sustainability-related information. The report includes all required Company sustainability reporting elements, including, but not limited to, SFDR indicators and the Task Force on Climate Related Disclosure (TCFD).

We direct readers to this report, which is available here: <u>https://www.d9infrastructure.com/digital-9-infrastructure-plc-sustainability-report-2023/</u>.

### Greenhouse gas emissions (please refer to page 31 of the Sustainability Report)

			Impact 2022 <sup>1</sup>	Impact 2023
Greenhouse	GHG emissions	Scope 1 GHG emissions	92	637
gas emissions		Scope 2 GHG emissions (location-based)	5,502	13,195
		Scope 2 GHG emissions (market-based)	1,397	6,709
		Scope 3 GHG emissions	N/A	7,8312
		Total GHG emissions	1,489	15,1773
	Carbon footprint	Carbon footprint	1.25	14
	GHG intensity of investee companies	GHG intensity of investee companies4	23	86
	Exposure to	Share of investments in companies active in the fossil fuel sector	0	0

companies active	50000	1	1
in the fossil fuel			
sector			
Share of non- renewable energy consumption and production	Share of non-renewable energy consumption and non- renewable energy production of investee companies from non-renewable energy sources compared to renewable energy sources, expressed as a percentage	1.34	13
Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector	Energy consumption in GWh per million GBPs of revenue of investee companies, per high impact climate sector	N/A	N/A

# 1. 2022 figures do not include Arqiva data.

- 2. Scope 3 emissions have been disclosed on a best endeavours basis. The methodology and information pertaining to Scope 3 data can be found on page 45 of the Sustainability Report. This data encompasses a part of Scope 3 emissions for Arqiva for the fiscal year ending on 30 June 2023, and for Verne Global, Aqua Comms, and Elio Networks for the fiscal year ending on 31 December 2022. This follows PCAF recommendations, with their latest guidance stating "PCAF recognises that there is often a lag between financial reporting and the reporting of required emissions-related data for the borrower or investee. In these instances, financial institutions should use the most recent data available even if it is representative of different years, with the intention of aligning as much as possible. For example, it would be expected and appropriate that a financial institution's reporting in 2020 for its 2019 financial year would use 2019 financial data alongside 2018 (or other most recent) emissions data." page 42: https://carbonaccountingfinancials.com/files/downloads/PCAF-Global-GHG-Standard.pdf). We are committed to collaborating with portfolio companies to actively enhance Scope 3 emission reporting in future reports.
- 3. Total GHG emissions for 2022 only include Scope 1 and 2, no Scope 3 emissions were disclosed in 2022.
- $\label{eq:constraint} 4. Weighted Average Carbon Intensity (tCO_2e/£M). This includes Scope 1, 2 and 3 for 2023 (previously only included Scope 1 and 2). \\$

# AUDITED ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

# STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the year ended 31 December 2023

		Year	ended 31 De	cember 2023	Ye	ear ended 31	December 2022
		Revenue	Capital	Total	Revenue	Capital	Total
	Note	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income							
Income from investments held at fair value (Losses) / gains on	5	27,972	-	27,972	4,129	-	4,129
investments held at fair value	10	-	(252,014)	(252,014)	-	97,228	97,228
Other income	5	3,471	-	3,471	773	-	773
Total income		31,443	(252,014)	(220,571)	4,902	97,228	102,130
Expenses							
Investment management fees	6	(6,501)	(2,167)	(8,668)	(5 <i>,</i> 802)	(1,934)	(7,736)
Other operating expenses	7	(4,615)	-	(4,615)	(2,323)	-	(2,323)
Total operating expenses		(11,116)	(2,167)	(13,283)	(8,125)	(1,934)	(10,059)
Exceptional item	8	-	(3,478)	(3,478)	-	-	-
Operating (loss)/profit		20,327	(257,659)	(237,332)	(3,223)	95,294	92,071
Finance expense		(1)	-	(1)	(2)	-	(2)
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation		20,326	(257,659)	(237,333)	(3,225)	95,294	92,069
Taxation	9	-	-	-	-	-	-
(Loss)/profit and total comprehensive (expense)/income attributable to shareholders		20,326	(257,659)	(237,333)	(3,225)	95,294	92,069

silarenouers							
(Loss)/earnings per Ordinary Share - basic and diluted	23	2.35p	(29.78p)	(27.43p)	(0.39p)	11.48p	11.09p

The total column of this statement is the Statement of Comprehensive Income of Digital 9 Infrastructure Plc ("the Company") prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards, as adopted by the European Union ("EU"). The supplementary revenue return and capital columns have been prepared in accordance with the Association of Investment Companies Statement of Recommended Practice (AIC SORP).

All revenue and capital items in the above statement derive from continuing operations. The Company does not have any other income or expenses that are not included in the net profit for the year. The net profit for the year disclosed above represents the Company's total comprehensive income.

This Statement of Comprehensive Income includes all recognised gains and losses.

The accompanying notes below form part of these Financial Statements.

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As at 31 December 2023

	Note	31 December 2023 £'000	31 December 2022 £'000
Non-current assets			
Investments at fair value through profit or loss	10	676,060	920,971
Total non-current assets		676,060	920,971
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	11	1,471	1,417
Cash and cash equivalents	12	14,809	30,001
Total current assets		16,280	31,418
Total assets		692,340	952,389
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	13	(6,009)	(2,769)
Total current liabilities		(6,009)	(2,769)
Total net assets		686,331	949,620
Equity attributable to equity holders			
Stated capital	14	793,286	819,242
Capital reserve		(123,765)	133,894
Revenue reserve		16,810	(3,516)
Total Equity		686,331	949,620
Net asset value per Ordinary Share - basic and diluted	24	79.33p	109.76p

The Financial Statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 29 April 2024 and signed on its behalf by:

Charlotte Valeur Independent Interim Chair 29 April 2024

The accompanying notes below form part of these Financial Statements.

# STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Stated capital £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance as at 31 December 2021		717,547	38,600	(291)	755,856
Transactions with owners					
Ordinary Shares issued	14	155,201	-	-	155,201
Share issue costs		(3,232)	-	-	(3,232)
Dividends paid	15	(50,274)	-	-	(50,274)
Profit /(loss) and total comprehensive income/(expense) for the period		-	95,294	(3,225)	92,069

Balance as at 31 December 2022		81	9,242 133	,894 (3,5	516) 949 <i>,</i> 6
	Note	Stated capital £'000	Capital reserve £'000	Revenue reserve £'000	Total equity £'000
Balance as at 31 December 2022		819,242	133,894	(3,516)	949,620
Transactions with owners					
Dividends paid	15	(25 <i>,</i> 956)	-	-	(25,956)
(Loss)/profit and total comprehensive (expense)/income for the period		-	(257,659)	20,326	(237,333)
Balance as at 31 December 2023		793,286	(123,765)	16,810	686,331

The accompanying notes below form part of these Financial Statements.

# STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Year ended 31 December 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 December 2022 £'000
Cash flows from operating activities			
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation		(237,333)	92,069
Adjustments for:			
(Losses)/gains on investments held at fair value	10	252,014	(97,228)
Cash flow used in operations		14,681	(5,159)
Increase in trade and other receivables	11	(55)	(1,189)
Increase in trade and other payables	13	3,241	871
Net cash outflow from operating activities		17,867	(5,477)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Loans to subsidiaries		(7,103)	(29,105)
Purchase of investments at fair value through	10	-	(48,409)
profit or loss	-	(=	,
Net cash flow used in investing activities		(7,103)	(77,514)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Proceeds from issue of Ordinary Shares	14	-	155,201
Dividends paid	15	(25,956)	(50,274)
Cost of issue of shares	14	-	(3,246)
Net cash flow generated from financing activities		(25,956)	101,681
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash		(15,192)	18,690
equivalents		,	
Reconciliation of net cash flow to movements in cash and cash equivalents			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		30,001	11,311
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(15,192)	18,690
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	12	14,809	30,001

The accompanying notes below form part of these Financial Statements.

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2023

# 1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

Digital 9 Infrastructure plc (the "Company" or "D9")is a Jersey registered alternative investment fund, and it is regulated by the Jersey Financial Services Commission as a "listed fund" under the Collective Investment Funds

(Jersey) Law 1988 (the "Funds Law") and the Jersey Listed Fund Guide published by the Jersey Financial Services Commission. The Company is registered with number 133380 under the Companies (Jersey) Law 1991.

The Company is domiciled in Jersey and the address of its registered office, which is also its principal place of business, is 26 New Street, St Helier, Jersey, JE2 3RA. The Company is tax domiciled in the United Kingdom.

The Company was incorporated on 8 January 2021 and is a public company. The Company's Ordinary Shares were admitted to trading on the Specialist Fund Segment of the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange under the ticker DGI9 on 31 March 2021. It was admitted to the premium listing segment of the Official List of the Financial Conduct Authority and migrated to trading on the premium segment of the Main Market on 30 August 2022.

The Company's principal activity is investing in a diversified portfolio of critical digital infrastructure assets which contribute to improving global digital communications whilst targeting sustainable income and capital growth for investors.

These financial statements comprise only the results of the Company, as its investment in Digital 9 Holdco Limited ("D9 Holdco") is measured at fair value through profit or loss.

## 2. BASIS OF PREPARATION

These financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards as adopted by the European Union.

Where presentational guidance set out in the Association of Investment Companies Statement of Recommended Practice (the "AIC SORP") is consistent with the requirements of International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS") as adopted by the EU, the Directors have sought to prepare the financial statements on a basis compliant with the recommendations of the AIC SORP. In particular, supplementary information which analyses the Statement of Comprehensive Income between items of a revenue and capital nature has been presented alongside the total Statement of Comprehensive Income.

The functional and reporting currency is sterling, reflecting the primary economic environment in which the Company operates. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling on the date of the transaction. Foreign currency monetary assets and liabilities are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date.

The financial statements have been prepared on a historical cost basis, except for the following:

• Investments at fair value through profit or loss

The accounting policies adopted are consistent with those of the previous financial year.

### (a) Going Concern

## Material Uncertainty

The Directors believe that the Company and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence until the conclusion of the Managed Wind-Down of the Company. However, the Company's going concern assessment is dependent on the Group either completing the sale of assets to fund the repayment of the remaining balance of the Group's Revolving Credit Facility due by March 2025 or alternatively refinancing this debt. Given that a degree of uncertainty exists in the timing of ongoing strategic initiatives, the Board believes that there continues to be a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt over the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis as disclosed in the Strategic Report, as the Directors are satisfied that the Company has the resources to continue in business for the foreseeable future. The Directors have made an assessment of going concern, taking into account a wide range of information relating to present and future conditions, including the Company's cash and liquidity position, current performance and outlook, which has considered the ongoing geopolitical uncertainties arising from the war in Ukraine and the conflict in the middle east, the volatile macro landscape and existing inflationary pressures and current and expected financial commitments using information available to the date of issue of these Financial statements.

Following the recent shareholder vote at the General Meeting, the Company is now in a Managed Wind-Down. The audited financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2023 continue to be prepared on a going concern basis.

As part of the Strategic Review, various options for realising the stake in Arqiva were considered by the Board and after careful consideration of Arqiva's plans and current market conditions, the Board believes that the maximisation of the value of the Company's stake in Arqiva is likely to take longer to realise than the other investments held by the Company and therefore no certainty as to when the wind down of the Company's business will conclude and whether this will occur within the foreseeable future.

As such, whilst the Company will continue to consider and be open to all options for Arqiva which are valueaccretive to Shareholders, the Board has decided to defer launching a sale process for the Company's stake in Arqiva.

As part of the recent sale of Verne Global, the Company may receive a potential Earn-Out payment of up to \$135 million, which is subject to Verne Global achieving run-rate EBITDA targets for the financial year ending December 2026. Given the time frame involved, for both the sale of Arqiva and the receipt of any Earn-Out payment, which are expected to be well in excess of 12 months, the Board believes that the Going Concern approach to the preparation of the financial statements remains appropriate.

No provision has been made for the costs of winding up the Company as these will be charged to the Income Statement on an accruals basis as they are incurred or as the Company become obligated to make such payments in the future.

The Directors believe that the Company and the Group have adequate resources to continue in operational existence for a period of at least 12 months since the reporting date. However, given that a degree of uncertainty

exists in the timing of ongoing strategic initiatives which includes management's ability to refinance or repay the Group's existing RCF (of which c.£100 million remains at 29 April 2024) due in the next 12 months (March 2025), there exists a material uncertainty which may cast significant doubt over the Company's ability to continue as a going concern.

The Company intends to make a total additional repayment and partial cancellation of its Group's RCF in the amount of c.£47 million in May 2024.

The RCF in an important consideration for the Company, even though it is not held on the Company's balance sheet. The RCF is held by its main subsidiary D9 Holdco, but the Company is a guarantor of the facility.

As part of this assessment the Directors considered an analysis of the adequacy of the Company's liquidity, solvency and capital adequacy. As at 31 December 2023, the Company had a cash balance of £14.8 million. The Company has considered at least two years when assessing its going concern position. The base case assumption in this scenario, include disposing of the Company's portfolio of investments excluding Arqiva and the use of proceeds to repay the RCF.

Numerous scenarios have been prepared which includes downside scenarios, including disposing of assets with up to a 40% discount to NAV.

# (b) Investment entities

Following the recent shareholder vote at the General Meeting, the Company is now in a Managed Wind-Down and as a result the objective of the Company is no longer to acquire digital infrastructure projects, it is to ensure an orderly wind down and return proceeds to Shareholders. The Company, via D9 Holdco has begun the process to start selling select Investee Companies.

The Directors have concluded that in accordance with IFRS 10, the Company meets the definition of an investment entity, having evaluated against the criteria presented below that needs to be met. Under IFRS 10, investment entities are required to hold financial investments at fair value through profit or loss rather than consolidate them on a line-by-line basis. There are three key conditions to be met by the Company for it to meet the definition of an investment entity.

For each reporting period, the Directors will continue to assess whether the Company continues to meet these conditions:

- It obtains funds from one or more investors for the purpose of providing these investors with professional investment management services;
- It commits to its investors that its business purpose is to invest its funds solely for returns (including having an exit strategy for investments) from capital appreciation. investment income or both: and
- It measures and evaluates the performance of substantially all its investments on a fair value basis.

The Company satisfies the first criteria as it has multiple investors and has obtained funds from a diverse group of shareholders for the purpose of providing them with investment opportunities to invest in a large pool of digital infrastructure assets.

In satisfying the second criteria, the notion of an investment timeframe is critical. An investment entity should not hold its investments indefinitely but should have an exit strategy for their realisation. The intention of the Company is to seek equity interests in digital infrastructure projects that have an indefinite life; the underlying assets that it invests in will have a medium to long-term expected life. The exit strategy for each asset will depend on the characteristics of the assets, transaction structure, exit price potentially achievable, suitability and availability of alternative investments, balance of the portfolio and lot size of the assets as compared to the value of the portfolio. Whilst the Company intends to hold the investments on a medium-term basis, the Company may also dispose of the investments should an appropriate opportunity arise where, in the Investment Manager's opinion, the value that could be realised from such disposal would represent a satisfactory return on the investment and enhance the value of the Company as a whole.

Post year end the Company sold 100% of its ownership in the Verne Global Group of Companies, reinforcing the exit strategy point described above. As the Company enters into its wind-down phase, it will continue to realise its exit strategy across its portfolio.

The Company satisfies the third criteria as it measures and evaluates the performance of all of its investments on a fair value basis which is the most relevant for investors in the Company. Management use fair value information as a primary measurement to evaluate the performance of all of the investments and in decision making.

In assessing whether it meets the definition, the Company shall also consider whether it has the following typical characteristics of an investment entity:

- a) it has more than one investment
- b) it has more than one investor
- c) it has investors that are not related parties of the entity
- d) it has ownership interests in the form of equity or similar interests.

As per IFRS 10, a parent investment entity is required to consolidate subsidiaries that are not themselves investment entities and whose main purpose is to provide services relating to the entity's investment activities.

The Directors have assessed whether D9 Holdco satisfies those conditions set above by considering the characteristics of the whole Group structure, rather than individual entities. The Directors have concluded that the Company and D9 Holdco are formed in connection with each other for business structure purposes. When considered together, both entities display the typical characteristics of an investment entity.

The Company entering into a Managed Wind-Down, a decision which was made and voted on by shareholders following the year end, and the changes in the Group structure following the sale of Verne Global have not

impacted the management's judgement and conclusion over the IFRS 10 investment entity application and the Company has applied the same accounting policies described.

The Directors are therefore of the opinion that the Company meets the criteria and characteristics of an investment entity and therefore, subsidiaries are measured at fair value through profit or loss, in accordance with IFRS 13 "Fair Value Measurement", IFRS 10 "Consolidated Financial Statements" and IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments".

# (c) New and amended standards adopted by the Company

A number of amended standards became applicable for the current reporting period. The Group did not have to change its accounting policies or make retrospective adjustments as a result of adopting these amended standards. Management do not expect the new or amended standards will have a material impact on the Company's financial statements. The most significant of these standards are set out below:

### New standards and amendments - applicable 1 January 2023

- (a) IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts
- (b) Classification of Liabilities as Current or Non-current Amendments to IAS 1
- (c) Disclosure of Accounting Policies Amendments to IAS 1 and IFRS Practice Statement 2
- (d) Definition of Accounting Estimates Amendments to IAS 8
- (e) Deferred Tax related to Assets and Liabilities arising from a Single Transaction Amendments to IAS 12
- (f) Sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture Amendments to IFRS 10 and IAS 28

# FORTHCOMING REQUIREMENTS

The following standards and interpretations had been issued but were not mandatory for annual reporting periods ending on 31 December 2023.

- (a) Amendments to IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements
  - Non-current liabilities with covenants
  - Deferral of Effective Date Amendment (published 15 July 2020)
  - Classification of liabilities as Current or Non-current (Amendment to IAS1)
- (b) Lease liability in a Sale and Leaseback (Amendment to IFRS 16)
- (c) IAS 7 "Statement of Cash Flows" and IFRS 7 "Financial Instruments: Disclosures (Amendment Supplier Finance Arrangements)"

# 3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

# (a) Financial Instruments

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised on the Company's Statement of Financial Position when the Company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are to be derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the instrument expire or the asset is transferred, and the transfer qualifies for de-recognition in accordance with IFRS 9 "Financial Instruments".

The Company did not use any derivative financial instruments during the period.

### (i) Financial assets

The Company's investment in D9 Holdco comprises both equity and debt. The Company classifies its financial assets as either investments at fair value through profit or loss or financial assets at amortised cost (e.g. cash and cash equivalents and trade and other receivables). The classification depends on the purpose for which the financial assets are acquired. Management determines the classification of its financial assets at initial recognition.

# (ii) Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss

At initial recognition, the Company measures its investments through its investment in D9 Holdco, at fair value through profit or loss and any transaction costs are expensed to the Statement of Comprehensive Income. The Company will subsequently continue to measure all investments at fair value and any changes in the fair value are to be recognised as unrealised gains or losses through profit or loss within the capital column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

IFRS 13 defines fair value as the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (an exit price). When measuring fair value, the Company takes into consideration the characteristics of the asset or liability if market participants would take those characteristics into account when pricing the asset or liability at the measurement date, including assumptions about risk.

# (iii) Financial liabilities and equity

Debt and equity instruments are measured at amortised cost and are classified as either financial liabilities or as equity in accordance with the substance of the contractual arrangement.

All financial liabilities are classified as at amortised cost. These liabilities are initially measured at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently using the effective interest method.

### (IV) Equity instruments

The Company's Ordinary Shares are classified as equity under stated capital and are not redeemable. Costs associated or directly attributable to the issue of new equity shares, including the costs incurred in relation to the Company's IPO on 31 March 2021 and its subsequent equity raises, are recognised as a deduction in equity and are charged against stated capital.

# (b) Finance income

Finance income is recognised using the effective interest method. This is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the gross carrying amount of a financial asset unless the assets subsequently became credit impaired. In the latter case, the effective interest rate is applied to the amortised cost of the financial asset. Finance income is recognised on an accruals basis.

# (c) Finance expenses

Borrowing costs are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income in the period to which they relate on an accruals basis.

## (d) Fair value estimation for investments at fair value

The fair value of financial investments at fair value through profit or loss is based on the valuation models adjusted in accordance with the IPEV (International Private Equity and Venture Capital) valuation guidelines December 2022 to comply with IFRS 13.

The Company records the fair value of D9 Holdco by calculating and aggregating the fair value of each of the individual investments in which the Company holds an indirect investment. The total change in the fair value of the investment in D9 Holdco is recorded through profit and loss within the capital column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

# (e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash balances and deposits held on call with banks. Deposits to be held with original maturities of greater than three months are included in other financial assets. Cash and cash equivalents are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method and assessed for expected credit losses at each reporting date.

There are no material expected credit losses as the bank institution has high credit ratings assigned by international credit rating agencies.

# (f) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment. They are included in current assets, except where maturities are greater than 12 months after the reporting date, in which case they are to be classified as non-current assets.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts through the expected life of the financial instrument to the relevant asset's carrying amount.

Impairment provisions for all receivables are recognised based on a forward-looking expected credit loss model using the simplified approach. The methodology used to determine the amount of the provision is based on whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition of the financial asset. For those where the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognised. For those for which credit risk has increased significantly since are recognised. For those for which credit risk has increased significantly, lifetime expected credit losses along with the gross interest income are recognised. For those are recognised. For those that are determined to be credit impaired, lifetime expected credit losses along with interest income on a net basis are recognised.

# (g) Amortised costs

Assets that are held for collection of contractual cash flows, where those cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest, are measured at amortised cost. Interest income from these financial assets is included in finance income using the effective interest rate method. Any gain or loss arising on derecognition is recognised directly in profit or loss and presented in other gains/(losses) together with foreign exchange gains and losses. Impairment losses are presented as a separate line item in the statement of profit or loss.

### (h) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less from the end of the current accounting period. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade and other payables are recognised initially at their fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method until settled.

# (i) Segmental reporting

The Chief Operating Decision Maker (the "CODM") being the Board of Directors, is of the opinion that the Company is engaged in a single segment of business, being investment in digital infrastructure projects.

The internal financial information to be used by the CODM on a quarterly basis to allocate resources, assess performance and manage the Company will present the business as a single segment comprising the portfolio of investments in digital infrastructure assets.

### (j) Foreign currency transactions and balances

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the reporting date are translated at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on translation

are recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Incomeas a revenue or capital item depending on the income or expense to which they relate.

All exchange differences recognised in income or expenses, except for those arising on financial instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss in accordance with IFRS 9, is on an aggregate net basis. The total amount of exchange differences recognised in income or expenses includes exchange differences recognised on subsequent settlement and re-translation to the closing rate on balances arising from foreign currency transactions.

## (k) Revenue recognition

Gains and losses on fair value of investments in the Statement of Comprehensive Income will represent gains or losses that arise from the movement in the fair value of the Company's investment in D9 Holdco.

Investment income comprises dividend income received from the Company's subsidiary. Interest income is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income using the effective interest method.

Other income is recognised to the extent that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the income can be reliably measured. Income is measured as the fair value of consideration received or receivable, excluding discounts, rebates and value added tax. Other Income comprises fees charged to Investee Companies under a Management Services Agreement. Other Income is recognised 100% through revenue.

Dividend income receivable on equity shares is recognised on the ex-dividend date. Dividend income on equity shares where no ex-dividend date is quoted is brought into account when the Company's right to receive payment is established.

# (I) Dividends

Dividends payable are recognised as distribution in the financial statements in the period in which they are paid or when the Company's obligation to make payment has been established.

## (m) Fund Expenses

Expenses are accounted for on an accruals basis. Share issue costs of the Company directly attributable to the issue and listing of shares are charged to stated capital. The Company's investment management fee, administration fees and all other expenses are charged through the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

In order to better reflect the activities of an investment trust company and in accordance with guidance issued by the AIC SORP, supplementary information which analyses the Statement of Comprehensive Income between items of a revenue and a capital nature has been presented alongside the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Expenses have been charged wholly to the revenue column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income, except as follows:

- expenses which are incidental to the acquisition or disposal of an investment are treated as capital;
- expenses are treated as capital where a connection with the maintenance or enhancement of the value of the investments can be demonstrated; and
- the investment management fee has been allocated 75% to revenue and 25% to capital on the Statement of Comprehensive Income in line with the Board's expected long-term split of returns, in the form of income and capital gains respectively, from the investment portfolio.

### (n) Acquisition costs and disposals

In line with SORP, acquisition costs and disposals are expensed to the capital column of the Statement of Comprehensive Income as they are incurred for investments which are held at fair value through profit or loss.

### (o) Taxation

The tax expense represents the sum of the tax currently payable and deferred tax. The tax currently payable is based on the taxable profit for the year. Taxable profit differs from net profit as reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Income because it excludes items of income or expenses that are taxable or deductible in other years and it further excludes items that are never taxable or deductible. The Company's liability for current tax is calculated using tax rates that were applicable at the balance sheet date.

Where expenses are allocated between the capital and revenue accounts, any tax relief in respect of expenses is allocated between capital and revenue returns on the marginal basis using the Company's effective rate of corporation tax for the accounting period.

Deferred taxation is recognised in respect of all temporary differences that have originated but not reversed at the financial reporting date, where transactions or events that result in an obligation to pay more taxation in the future or right to pay less taxation in the future have occurred at the financial reporting date. This is subject to deferred tax assets only being recognised if it is considered more likely than not that there will be suitable profits from which the future reversal of the temporary differences can be deducted. Deferred tax is measured on a non-discounted basis, at the average tax rates that are expected to apply in the periods in which the timing differences are expected to reverse based on tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date.

# (p) Earnings per share

The Company presents basic and diluted earnings per share ("EPS").

(i) Basic earnings per share

### Basic earnings per share is calculated by dividing:

• the profit attributable to owners of the Company, excluding any costs of servicing equity other than

Ordinary Shares

by the weighted average number of Ordinary Shares outstanding during the financial year, adjusted for bonus elements in Ordinary Shares issued during the year and excluding treasury shares

## (ii) Diluted earnings per share

Diluted earnings per share adjusts the figures used in the determination of basic earnings per share to take into account:

- the after-income tax effect of interest and other financing costs associated with dilutive potential Ordinary Shares, and
- the weighted average number of additional Ordinary Shares that would have been outstanding assuming the conversion of all dilutive potential Ordinary Shares.

### 4. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

In the application of the Company's accounting policies, the Directors are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. It is possible that actual results may differ from these estimates.

# (a) Significant accounting judgements

### (i) Investment entity

As discussed above in Note 2(b), the Company meets the definition of an investment entity as defined in IFRS 10 and therefore its subsidiary entities have not been consolidated in these financial statements.

### (b) Key sources of estimation uncertainty

The estimates and underlying assumptions underpinning our investments are reviewed on an ongoing basis by both the Board and the Investment Manager. Revisions to any accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

### (i) Fair value measurement of investments at fair value through profit or loss

The fair value of investments in digital infrastructure projects is calculated by discounting at an appropriate discount rate future cash flows expected to be generated by the trading subsidiary companies and received by D9 Holdco, through dividend income, equity redemptions and Shareholder loan repayments or restructurings and adjusted in accordance with the IPEV (International Private Equity and Venture Capital) valuation guidelines, where appropriate, to comply with IFRS 13 and IFRS 9. During the year, an Independent Valuer was appointed to carry out the fair valuation of financial assets for financial reporting purposes, including level 3 fair valuations.

Estimates such as the forecasted cash flows from investments form the basis of making judgements about the fair value of assets, which is not readily available from other sources. The discounted cash flows from earnings are forecasted over an 8-to-10-year period followed by a terminal value based on a long-term growth rate or exit multiple. Discount rates are arrived at via a bottom-up analysis of the weighted average cost of capital, using both observable and unobservable inputs, and calculation of the appropriate beta based on comparable listed companies where appropriate, a sense-check to the DCF analysis is compared to market multiples.

The discounted cash flow from earning is forecasted over an 8-to-10-year period followed by a terminal value based on a long-term growth rate or exit multiples. The discounted cash flow comprises a bottom-up analysis of the weighted average cost of capital over time, using unobservable inputs; and calculation of the appropriate beta based on comparable listed companies. Where appropriate, a sense-check to the DCF analysis is compared to market multiples.

To do this, implied multiples from the DCF analysis are calculated and considered against the multiples available for reasonably comparable quoted companies and any relevant recent sector transactions. It should be noted that finding directly comparable companies to Aqua Comms, Arqiva and Elio Networks is challenging and as a result no directly comparable companies have been identified. Similarly, there have been few recent transactions with publicly available information where the target is directly comparable to the businesses. As a result, whilst the market multiples approach is a useful crosscheck to the DCF analysis, less reliance should be placed upon it. Finally, the last round of funding in each of the business is somewhat dated as at the Valuation Date and so no reliance was placed on this approach.

In respect of portfolio of data centres where the disposals were completed after the year-end, the fair value of these investments at the year-end equal the agreed disposal value, plus an amount for the valuation of the Earn-Out as per the terms of the SPA.

A broad range of assumptions are used in the Company's valuation models, which are arrived at by reviewing and challenging the business plans of the Investee Companies with their management. The Investment Manager exercises its judgement and uses its experience in assessing the expected future cash flows from each investment and long-term growth rates. The impact of changes in the key drivers of the valuation are set out below.

The following significant unobservable inputs were used in the model, cash flows, terminal value and discount rates. The key area where estimates are significant to the financial statements and have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year is in the valuation of the investment portfolio. The portfolio is diversified by sector, geography and underlying risk exposures. The key risks to the portfolio are discussed in further detail in the Risk report.

The majority of assets in the investment portfolio are typically valued on a discounted cash flow basis which requires assumptions to be made regarding future cash flows, terminal value and the discount rate to be applied to these cash flows. For this reporting period, the Company had a signed SPA for its data centre assets, including

Verne Global Iceland, London and Finland. At the reporting date, these assets were held at the value of proceeds to be received under the SPA, with an allocation of the valuation of the Earn-Out ascribed to each on a pro rata basis. The Earn-Out valuation methodology is described in more detail below.

The discount rate applied to the cash flows in each investment portfolio company is a key source of estimation uncertainty. The acquisition discount rate is adjusted to reflect changes in company-specific risks to the deliverability of future cash flows and is calibrated against secondary market information and other available data points, including comparable transactions. The weighted average discount rate used in these valuations was 13.62%.

The cash flows on which the discounted cash flow valuations are based are derived from detailed financial models. These incorporate a number of assumptions with respect to individual portfolio companies, including: forecast new business wins or new orders; cost-cutting initiatives; liquidity and timing of debtor payments; timing of non-committed capital expenditure and construction activity; the terms of future debt refinancing; and macroeconomic assumptions such as inflation and energy prices.

The terminal value attributes a residual value to the portfolio company at the end of the projected discrete cash flow period based on market comparables. The valuation of each asset has significant estimation in relation to asset-specific items but there is also consideration given to the impact of wider megatrends such as the transition to a lower-carbon economy and climate change. The effects of climate change, including extreme weather patterns or rising sea levels in the longer term, could impact the valuation of the assets in the portfolio in different ways. The weighted average long-term growth rate used in the valuation was 0.85%.

The fair value of the Earn-Out, attributable to the Verne Global transaction was computed by way of a Monte Carlo analysis. In this approach a random value is selected for each of the simulations, based on a range of estimates. The model is calculated based on this random value. The result of the model is recorded, and the process is repeated. A typical Monte Carlo simulation calculates the model hundreds or thousands of times, each time using different randomly selected values. The results are used to describe the likelihood, or probability, of reaching various results in the model.

### 5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Year ended Year 31 December 2023 31 Dece £'000		
UK dividends	27,972	3,226	
Loan interest income	2,617	903	
Other Income	854	772	
	31,443	4,901	

Other Income comprises Management Services Fees charged to the Company's subsidiaries.

### 6. INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT FEES

	Year ended 31 December 2023			Year ended 31 December 2022		
	Revenue	Revenue Capital Total		Revenue	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Management fees	6,501	2,167	8,668	5,802	1,934	7,736
Total management fees	6,501	2,167	8,668	5,802	1,934	7,736

The Company and the Investment Manager entered into an Investment Management Agreement on 8 March 2021 and a Side Letter dated 17 March 2021. The Company served notice of termination to the Investment Manager before 31 March 2024 following the completion of the Verne Global sale, with the Investment Management Agreement to terminate on 31 March 2025.

The Company and Triple Point Investment Management LLP (the "Investment Manager") have entered into the Investment Management Agreement pursuant to which the Investment Manager has been given responsibility, subject to the overall supervision of the Board, for active discretionary investment management of the Company's portfolio in accordance with the Company's Investment Objective and Policy.

The Investment Manager is appointed to be responsible for risk management and portfolio management and is the Company's AIFM. The Investment Manager has full discretion under the Investment Management Agreement to make investments in accordance with the Company's Investment Policy from time to time.

This discretion is, however, subject to: (i) the Board's ability to give instructions to the Investment Manager from time to time; and (ii) the requirement of the Board to approve certain investments where the Investment Manager has a conflict of interest in accordance with the terms of the Investment Management Agreement.

With effect from 31 March 2021, the date of admission of the Ordinary Shares to trading on the Specialist Fund Segment of the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange, the Company shall pay the Investment Manager a management fee (the "Annual Management Fee") calculated, invoiced and payable quarterly in arrears based on the Adjusted Net Asset Value which is based on funds deployed and committed at the relevant quarter date.

The total amount accrued and due to Triple Point at the year-end was £4.2 million (2022: £2.2 million).

The management fee is calculated at the rates set out below:

	Asset Value)
On such part of the Adjusted Net Asset Value that is up to and including GBP 500 million	1.0%
On such part of the Adjusted Net Asset Value that is above GBP 500 million and up to and including GBP 1 billion	0.9%
On such part of the Adjusted Net Asset Value that exceeds GBP 1 billion	0.8%

# 7. OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES

	Year ended 31 December 2023	Year ended 31 December 2022
	£'000	£'000
Legal and professional fees	539	344
Auditors' fees - audit services <sup>1</sup>	389	257
Auditors' fees - non-audit services <sup>2</sup>	145	120
Directors' fees	271	261
Administration and company secretarial fees	208	207
Premium segment admission costs	-	677
Strategic review costs <sup>3</sup>	2,423	-
Other administrative expenses	640	457
	4,615	2,323

1 - Fees excludes audit fees on the financial statements of subsidiaries totalling £616,000 (2022 - £429,000).

2 - Fees for non-audit services relate to the review of interim financial statements and limited assurance on environmental, social and corporate governance.

3 - Strategic Review Costs also include technical advisory fees to develop contingency planning to address the Company's historical residual financial uncertainty prior to the completion of the Verne Transaction.

### 8. EXCEPTIONAL ITEM

During the year, the Company incurred exceptional costs of £3.5 million in connection with the disposal of its data centre subsidiaries. The break fee incurred by the Company was under a previous transaction structure for the sale of Verne Global, which was under consideration by the Board prior to the definitive agreement reached on 27 November 2023.

### 9. TAXATION

The Company is registered in Jersey, Channel Islands but resident in the United Kingdom for taxation. The standard rate of corporate income tax currently applicable to the Company is 25% (2022: 19%).

The financial statements do not directly include the tax charges for the Company's intermediate holding company, as D9 Holdco is held at fair value. D9 Holdco is subject to taxation in the United Kingdom.

The tax charge for the period is less than the standard rate of corporation tax in the UK of 25% (2022: 19%). The differences are explained below.

	Year e Revenue £'000	nded 31 Dece Capital £'000	ember 2023 Total £'000	Ye Revenue £'000	ar ended 31 De Capital £'000	cember 2022 Total £'000
Net (loss)/profit before tax	20,326	(257,659)	(237,333)	(3,225)	95,294	92,069
Tax at UK corporation tax standard rate of 25% (2022 -19%) Effects of:	5,082	(64,415)	(59,333)	(613)	18,106	17,493
Loss/(Gain) on financial assets not taxable	-	63,004	63,004	-	(18,473)	(18,473)
Exempt UK dividend income Expenses not	(6,993)	-	(6 <i>,</i> 993)	(613)	-	(613)
deductible for tax purposes		660	660	-	-	-
Excess of allowable expenses	1,911	751	2,662	1,226	367	1,593
Total tax charge	-	-	-	-	-	-

Investment companies which have been approved by HM Revenue & Customs under section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 are exempt from tax on capital gains. The Directors are of the opinion that the Company has complied with the requirements for maintaining investment trust status for the purposes of section 1158 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010. The Company has not provided for deferred tax on any capital gains or losses arising on the revaluation of investments.

The Company has unrelieved excess management expenses of £18 million (2022: £8 million). It is unlikely that

the Company will generate sufficient taxable profits in the future to utilise these expenses and therefore no deferred tax asset has been recognised.

The unrecognised deferred tax asset calculated using a tax rate of 25% amounts to £4.5 million (2022: £2 million).

# 10. FINANCIAL ASSET AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

As set out in Note 2, the Company designates its interest in its wholly owned direct subsidiary as a financial asset at fair value through profit or loss.

Summary of the Company's valuation:

Summary of the company's variation.	Total £'000
Period Ending 31 December 2023:	
Opening balance 1 January 2023	920,971
Equity investments addition in D9 Holdco	-
Debt investments addition in D9 Holdco	7,103
Change in fair value of investments	(252,014)
As at 31 December 2023	676,060
Pariad Ending 21 December 2022.	
Period Ending 31 December 2022:	746 220
Opening balance 1 January 2022	746,229
Equity investments addition in D9 Holdco	48,409
Debt investments addition in D9 Holdco	29,105
Change in fair value of investments	97,228
As at 31 December 2022	920,971

The Company views equity and debt instruments as one investment and measures the performance of these investments together. Therefore, the Company's equity and debt investments are presented as investments at fair value through profit or loss in the Statement of Financial Position.

Included in debt investments as at the year-end is a loan of £36.2 million (2022: £29.1 million) due from D9 Holdco upon which interest is charged at a rate of Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) plus a 3.75% margin. Interest of £2.6 million (2022: £0.9 million) was charged during the year on the loan. The debt instrument is measured at fair value as at 31 December 2023.

Breakdown of investments in D9 Holdco between equities and debts:

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	£'000	
Equity investments	639,852	891,866
Debt investments	36,208	29,105
	676,060	920,971

During the period the Company, through its subsidiary companies, made further investments in existing subsidiaries as follows:

Date	D9 Subsidiaries <sup>[vii]</sup>	Investments	Amount
Jan-Dec 2023	Digital 9 Subsea Limited	EMIC 1 - progress payments for the construction of subsea cables	\$16.7m (£13.2m)
Jan-Dec 2023	Digital 9 Holdco Limited	Provided capex loans to GSS Propco for the construction of data centre	£7.9m
Jul 2023	Digital 9 Holdco Limited	Provided capex loan to Aqua Comms for undersea cables construction.	\$14.7m (£11.6)
Jan-Dec 2023	Digital 9 Holdco Limited	Provided loans to Volta Data Centres	£4m

As at the year end, the breakdown of fair valued investments held by D9 Holdco were as follows:

Subsidiary company	Investments	Equity	Debt	Total
		£ '000	£ '000	£ '000
Digital 9 DC Limited	Data centres	343,638	35,938	379,576
Digital 9 Wireless Limited	Wireless networks	83,838	299,744	383,582
Digital 9 Subsea Holdco Limited	Subsea fibre optic	244,507	18,336	262,843
Disital O Fibra limitad	Fibra antia	25		זר

טופונטו א דוסרפ נוחונפס	networks	ορτις	35	-	55
TOTAL			£672,018	£354,018	£1,026,036

The subsidiary valuations also include any net current assets or liabilities across the holding company structure. Included in the above subsidiary valuations, is the valuation of the underlying Investee Company as presented below.

Portfolio Company	Investments	31 December 23 £ '000	31 December 22 £ '000
Aqua Comms	Subsea fibre optic	222,509	234,778
EMIC-1	Subsea fibre optic	35,981	22,617
SeaEdge	Data centres	14,042	17,550
Elio Networks	Wireless networks	55,444	59 <i>,</i> 385
Verne Global	Data centres	372,221	517,255
Arqiva Group	Wireless networks	503,598	518,266
Arqiva Group	VLN and interests	(174,939)	(162,998)
Giggle	Fibre optic networks	-	3,000
Total		1,028,856	1,209,853

### Valuation process

During the year, an independent valuer was appointed to carry out the fair valuation of financial assets for financial reporting purposes, including level 3 fair valuations. In respect of the Verne Global entities, the fair value of these investments equals their agreed disposal value; completed post year end. This valuation is presented to the Board for its approval and adoption. The valuation is carried out on a six-monthly basis as at 30 June and 31 December each year and is reported to shareholders in the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

### Valuation methodology

The Company owns 100% of its subsidiary D9 Holdco. The Company meets the definition of an investment entity as described by IFRS 10, as such, the Company's investment in D9 Holdco is valued at fair value. D9 Holdco's cash, working capital balances and fair value of investments are included in calculating fair value of D9 Holdco. The Company acquires underlying investments in special purpose vehicles ("SPV") through its investment in D9 Holdco.

The Board has carried out fair market valuations of Arqiva, Aqua Comms, Elio Networks and the Verne Global Earn-Out as at 31 December 2023 and the Directors have considered the valuation of SeaEdge and satisfied themselves as to the methodology used, the discount rates and key assumptions applied, and the valuations. All SPV investments are at fair value through profit or loss and are valued using the IFRS 13 framework for fair value measurement.

The following economic assumptions were used in the valuation of the SPVs.

The main Level 3 inputs used by the Group are derived and evaluated as follows:

- The valuer uses its judgement in arriving at the appropriate discount rate using a capital asset pricing
  model to calculate a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessment. This is based on its knowledge of
  the market, considering intelligence gained from its bidding activities, discussions with financial advisers
  in the appropriate market and publicly available information on relevant transactions. The bottom-up
  analysis of the discount rate and the appropriate beta is based on comparable listed companies.
  Investments are valued using a discounted cash flow approach, being valued on a Free Cash Flow to Equity
  ("FCFE") basis. The portfolio weighted average discount rate for investments valued under the FCFE
  discounted cash flows approach was 13.62%.
- To calculate portfolio NAV, 62% of total NAV from Investment companies is valued using the FCFE discounted cash flows approach, 35% of total NAV is valued using evidence of post year end disposal value either agreed or indicative offer and the remaining 3% of investments being valued at cost.
- Expected cash inflows are estimated based on terms of the contracts and the Company's knowledge of the business and how the current economic environment is likely to impact it taking into consideration of growth rate factors. The portfolio weighted long-term growth rate for investments valued under the FCFE discounted cash flows approach was 0.85%.
- Future Foreign exchange rates of GBP against USD and EUR.

#### Fair value measurements

As set out above, the Company accounts for its interest in its wholly owned direct subsidiary as a financial asset at fair value through profit or loss.

IFRS 13 requires disclosure of fair value measurement by level. The level of fair value hierarchy within the financial assets or financial liabilities is determined on the basis of the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Financial assets and financial liabilities are classified in their entirety into only one of the following 3 levels:

Level 1 - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;

Level 2 - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the assets or liabilities, either directly (i.e., as prices) or indirectly (i.e. derived from prices); and

Level 3 - inputs for assets or liabilities that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

The following table presents the Company's financial assets and financial liabilities measured and recognised at fair value at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022:

		Total	Quoted prices in active markets (Level 1)	Significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)
	Date of valuation	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Assets measured at fair value:					
Equity investment in D9 Holdco	31 December 2023	639,852	-	-	639,852
Debt investment in D9 Holdco	31 December 2023	36,208	-	-	36,208
Assets measured at fair value:					
Equity investment in D9 Holdco	31 December 2022	891,866	-	-	891,866
Debt investment in D9 Holdco	31 December 2022	29,105	-	-	29,105

There have been no transfers between Level 1 and Level 2 during the period, nor have there been any transfers between Level 2 and Level 3 during the year.

The Company's investments are reported as Level 3 in accordance with IFRS 13 where external inputs are "unobservable" and value is the Directors' best estimate, based upon advice from relevant knowledgeable experts.

## Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

As set out within the significant accounting estimates and judgements in Note 3(b), the valuation of the Company's financial asset is an estimation uncertainty. The sensitivity analysis was performed based on the current capital structure and expected performance of the Company's investment in D9 Holdco. For each of the sensitivities, it is assumed that potential changes occur independently of each other with no effect on any other base case assumption, and that the number of investments in the SPVs remains static throughout the modelled life. The following table summarises the quantitative information about the significant unobservable inputs used in Level 3 fair value measurement and the changes to the fair value of the financial asset if these inputs change upwards or downwards by 0.25% for long-term growth rate and 1% for discount rate:

Unobservable inputs	Valuation if rate increases	Movement in valuation	Valuation if rate decreases	Movement in valuation
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Long-term growth rate (+/- by 0.25%)	683,030	6,970	669,307	(6,753)
Discount rates (+/- by 1%)	605,682	(70,378)	758,302	82,242

The movement in valuation column is the movement in the value of D9 Holdco which is held on the Company's balance sheet.

# 11. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

	31 December 2023 £'000	31 December 2022 £'000
Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings	385	601
Other receivables	1,086	816
	1,471	1,417

The Directors consider that the carrying value of trade and other receivables approximate their fair value.

## 12. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	31 December 2023 £'000	31 December 2022 £'000
Cash at bank	14,809	30,001
	14,809	30,001

The Directors consider that the carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximate their fair value.

# 13. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	£'000	£'000
Trade payables	421	216

Accruals	5,588	2,553
	6,009	2,769

The Directors consider that the carrying value of trade and other payables approximate their fair value. All amounts are unsecured and due for payment within one year from the reporting date. £4.1 million (2022: £2.2 million) of the above accruals figure relates to fees payable to the Investment Manager, which were settled following the year end.

# 14. STATED CAPITAL

Ordinary shares of no par value			31 December 2022
Allotted, issued and fully paid:	No of shares	Price	£'000
As at 1 January 2022	722,480,620		717,547
Allotted during the period			
28 January 2022	88,148,880	108.0p	95,201
8 July 2022	54,545,454	110.0p	60,000
Ordinary Shares at 31 December 2022	865,174,954		872,748
Dividends paid (Note 15)			(50,274)
Share issue costs			(3,232)
Stated capital at 31 December 2022			819,242

Allotted, issued and fully paid:	No of shares	Price	31 December 2023 £'000
, ,,		Thee	
As at 1 January 2023	865,174,954		819,242
Ordinary Shares at 31 December 2023	865,174,954		819,242
Dividends paid (Note 15)			(25,956)
Stated capital at 31 December 2023			793,286

Shareholders are entitled to all dividends paid by the Company and, on a winding up, provided the Company has satisfied all its liabilities, the shareholders are entitled to all of the residual assets of the Company.

## 15. DIVIDENDS PAID

	Dividend per share	Year ended 31 December 2023 £'000	Year ended 31 December 2022 £'000
Dividends period 1 October 2021 to 31 December 2021	1.5 pence	-	12,159
Dividend period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022	1.5 pence	-	12,159
Dividend period 1 April 2022 to 30 June 2022	1.5 pence	-	12,978
Dividend period 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022	1.5 pence	-	12,978
Dividends period 1 October 2022 to 31 December 2022	1.5 pence	12,978	-
Dividend period 1 January 2023 to 31 March 2023	1.5 pence	12,978	-
Total dividends paid		25,956	50,274

# 16. SUBSIDIARIES

At the reporting date, the Company had one wholly owned subsidiary, being its 100% investment in Digital 9 Holdco Limited. The following table shows subsidiaries of the Company. As the Company is regarded as an Investment Entity as referred to in Note 2, these subsidiaries have not been consolidated in the preparation of the financial statements.

Name	Place of business	% Interest	Principal activity	Registered office
Digital 9 Holdco Limited	UK	100%	Holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF

The following companies are held by D9 Holdco Limited and its underlying subsidiaries:

Digital 9 DC Limited	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Digital 9 Fibre Limited	UK	100%	Intermediate holding	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Digital 9 Wireless Limited	UK	100%	company Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF

Digital 9 Subsea Holdco Limited	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Digital 9 Subsea Limited <sup>1</sup>	UK	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Digital 9 Seaedge Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Lease holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 DC Opco 1 Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 DC Opco 2 Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 DC Opco CAN 1 Limited <sup>14</sup>	Canada	100%	company Dormant	44 Chipman Hill Suite 1000 Saint John NB E2L 2A9 Canada
D9 DC Opco 3 Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Wireless Opco 1 Limited <sup>3</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Wireless Midco 1 Limited <sup>3</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Wireless Opco 2 Limited <sup>4</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Wireless Opco 3 Limited <sup>3</sup>	UK	100%	Dormant	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Fibre Opco 1 Limited <sup>13</sup>	UK	100%	Dormant	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
D9 Fibre Opco 2 Limited <sup>13</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Aqua Comms Designated Activity Company <sup>1</sup>	Ireland	100%	Holding company	The Exchange Building, 4 Foster Place, Dublin 2
Aqua Comms Connect Limited <sup>5</sup>	Ireland	100%	Intermediate holding company	The Exchange Building, 4 Foster Place, Dublin 2
America Europe Connect 2 Limited <sup>5</sup>	Ireland	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	The Exchange Building, 4 Foster Place, Dublin 2
America Europe Connect 2 Denmark ApS <sup>5</sup>	Denmark	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	c/o Bech-Bruun Langeline Alle 35, Copenhagen
North Sea Connect	Denmark	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	c/o Bech-Bruun Langeline Alle 35, Copenhagen
Denmark ApS <sup>5</sup> Aqua Comms Management	UK	100%	Management company	85, Copenhagen 85 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7LT
(UK) Limited <sup>5</sup> Aqua Comms Denmark	Denmark	100%	Subsea fibre	c/o Bech-Bruun Langeline Alle
ApS <sup>5</sup> Aqua Comms (Ireland)	Ireland	100%	optic network Subsea fibre	35, Copenhagen The Exchange Building, 4
Limited <sup>5</sup> America Europe Connect	Ireland	100%	optic network Subsea fibre	Foster Place, Dublin 2 The Exchange Building, 4
Limited <sup>5</sup> Celtix Connect Limited <sup>5</sup>	Ireland	100%	optic network Subsea fibre	Foster Place, Dublin 2 The Exchange Building, 4
Aqua Comms Management	Ireland	100%	optic network Management	Foster Place, Dublin 2 The Exchange Building, 4
Limited <sup>5</sup> Sea Fibre Networks	Ireland	100%	company Subsea fibre	Foster Place, Dublin 2 The Exchange Building, 4
Limited <sup>5</sup>			optic network	Foster Place, Dublin 2
Aqua Comms (IOM) Limited <sup>5</sup>	Isle of Man	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	c/o PCS Limited, Ground Floor, Murdoch Chambers, South Quay, Douglas, IOM IM1 5AS
Aqua Comms (UK) Limited <sup>5</sup>	UK	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	85 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7LT
Aqua Comms Services Limited <sup>5</sup>	Ireland	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	The Exchange Building, 4 Foster Place, Dublin 2
America Europe Connect (UK) Limited <sup>5</sup>	UK	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	85 Great Portland Street, London W1W 7LT
America Europe Connect 2 USA Inc <sup>5</sup>	USA	49%	Subsea fibre optic network	251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware, 19808
Aqua Comms (Americas) Inc <sup>5</sup>	USA	49%	Subsea fibre optic network	USA 3500 South Dupont Highway, Dover, Delaware 19901 Kent,
Verne Holdings Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Holding	United States 1 King William Street, London
Verne Global GmbH <sup>17</sup>	Germany	100%	company Data centre	EC4N 7AF Äußere Sulzbacher Straße 118, 90491 Nürnberg
Verne Global hf. <sup>6</sup>	Iceland	100%	solutions Data centre	90491 Nürnberg Valhallarbraut 868, 262 Pavkianesbaer, Iseland
Verne Global Ltd <sup>17</sup>	UK	100%	operation Data centre	Reykjanesbaer, Iceland 1 King William Street, London ECAN 745
Verne Global Inc. <sup>17</sup>	USA	100%	solutions Data centre	EC4N 7AF 1825 Washington Street,
- · - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	larcau	1000/	solutions	Canton MA 02021 USA

GAData Holdings Limited'	Jersey	100%	notaing company	28 Espianade, St Heiler, Jersey JE3 30A
Volta Data Centres Limited <sup>8</sup>	UK	100%	Data centre operator	36-43 Great Sutton Street London EC1V 0AB
GSS Propco Limited <sup>8</sup>	Jersey	100%	Property investment	28 Esplanade, St Helier, Jersey JE3 3QA
Leeson Telecom Limited <sup>9</sup>	Ireland	100%	Enterprise broadband	6-9 Trinity St, Dublin, D02 EY47, Ireland
Leeson Telecom One Limited <sup>9</sup>	Ireland	100%	Enterprise broadband	6-9 Trinity St, Dublin, D02 EY47, Ireland
Leeson Telecom Holdings Limited <sup>10</sup>	Ireland	100%	Enterprise broadband	6-9 Trinity St, Dublin, D02 EY47, Ireland
W R Computer Network Limited <sup>10</sup>	Ireland	100%	Enterprise broadband	6-9 Trinity St, Dublin, D02 EY47, Ireland
Ficolo Oy <sup>11</sup>	Finland	100%	Data centre operator	Konepajanranta 4, 28100 Pori, Finland
Verne Global DC Holdco Limited <sup>2</sup>	UK	100%	Intermediate holding company	1 King William Street, London EC4N 7AF
Aqua Comms Ireland 2 Limited <sup>18</sup>	Ireland	100%	Subsea fibre optic network	The Exchange Building, 4 Foster Place, Dublin 2
Arqiva Group Limited <sup>12</sup>	UK	48.02%	Holding Company	Crawley Court, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 2QA

1	- Held by Digital 9 Subsea Holdco	10	- Held by Leeson Telecom Limited
2	- Held by Digital 9 DC Limited	11	- Held by D9 DC Opco 3 Limited
3	- Held by Digital 9 Wireless Limited	12	- Held by D9 Wireless Opco 2 Limited
4	- Held by D9 Wireless Midco 1 Limited	13	- Held by Digital 9 Fibre Limited
5	- Held by Aqua Comms Designed Activity Company	14	- Held by D9 Opco 2 Limited
	and its intermediate holding companies		
6	- Held by Verne Holdings Limited	15	- Held by Giggle Fibre Limited
7	- Held by D9 DC Opco 1 Limited	16	- Held by D9 Fibre Opco 2 Limited
8	- Held by GAData Holdings Limited	17	- Held by Verne Global hf
9	- Held by D9 Wireless Opco 1 Limited	18	- Held by Digital 9 Subsea Limited

The Investee Companies above are restricted in transferring cash to the Company due to the need to fulfil their capex and operational cash requirements first.

The Company is committed to fund capex totalling £11.3 million for Aqua Comms Ireland 2 Limited in respect of EMIC-1 project.

# 17. TRANSACTIONS WITH THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS AND RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURE

### Directors

Directors are remunerated for their services at such rate as the directors shall from time to time determine. The Directors are each paid an annual fee of £40,000 other than the Chair of the Audit Committee and Chair of the Risk Committee who are entitled to an additional £5,000 and the Chair of the Company who is entitled to receive an annual fee of £75,000. Directors are entitled to recover all reasonable expenses properly incurred in connection with performing their duties as a director.

Director	Number of Ordinary shares held	*Dividends received 31 December 2023	*Dividends received 31 December 2022
Jack Waters (resigned 23 May 2022)	70,000	-	£1,050
Philip Jordan (resigned 13 December 2023)	94,611	£2,528	£1,518
Aaron Le Cornu (appointed 1 April 2022)	107,024	£2,693	£2,437
Lisa Harrington (resigned 14 December 2023)	38,604	£1,158	£2,316
Keith Mansfield (resigned 3 January 2024)	294,819	£3,218	£3,934
Monique O'Keefe (resigned 23 May 2022)	10,000	-	£150
Charlotte Valeur	10,000	£300	£600
Gailina Liew (appointed 1 July 2023)	-	-	-
Richard Boléat (appointed 14 December 2023)	65,000	-	-
Brett Miller (appointed 14 December 2023)	400,000	-	-

\* - Dividends disclosed for the period from the date of appointment and up to the date of resignation.

## Investment Manager

The Company considers Triple Point as the Investment Manager to be key management personnel and therefore a related party. Further details of the investment management contract and transactions with the Investment Manager are disclosed in Note 6.

### Transaction with subsidiary undertakings

During the period, the Company made equity investments in Digital 9 Holdco Limited totalling £Nil (2022: £48.4 million).

During the period, the Company received dividend income of  $\pm 28$  million (2022:  $\pm 3.2$  million) from Digital 9 Holdco Limited.

As per Note 19, the Company, through its subsidiary undertakings has capital expenditure commitments totalling £11.3 million (2022: £46 million).

## Loan to subsidiary undertaking

As at the year-end, the Company had provided a total loan of £36.2 million (2022: £29.5 million) to Digital 9 Holdco Limited. The total loan outstanding at the year-end was £36.2 million (2022: £29.5 million). During the period an additional £7m was provided. This was used to assist the underlying Investee Companies with their capital expenditure requirements. Interest of £2.6 million (2022: £0.9 million) were charged on the loan during the year.

### Amounts due from subsidiary undertakings

Included within Note 11 is an amount due from subsidiary undertakings:

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Subsidiary undertakings:	£'000	£'000
Aqua Comms DAC	120	160
D9 DC Opco 1 Limited	27	32
D9 DC Opco 3 Limited	51	34
D9 Wireless Opco 1 Limited	22	30
D9 Wireless Opco 2 Limited	129	-
Digital 9 Seaedge Limited	7	15
Digital 9 Subsea Limited	11	42
Verne Holdings Limited	-	288
Digital 9 Holdco Limited	18	-
	385	601

#### 18. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

#### **Completion of Verne disposal**

On 14 March 2024, the Company completed the sale of its entire stake in the Verne Global group of companies to funds managed or advised by Ardian France SA for an equity purchase price of up to \$575 million (approximately £450 million). Following the Verne Transaction's completion the Company received \$415 million (£325.8 million). The completion follows receipt of all applicable regulatory approvals and the satisfaction of all conditions in line with the previously communicated timetable.

#### Managed Wind-Down

The Board published a circular to shareholders on 28 February 2024 to convene a general meeting and seek approval from shareholders to amend the Company's Investment Objective and Policy. The appropriate resolution was subsequently approved on 25 March 2024 with 99.9% of the votes cast in favour. The revised Investment Objective and Policy is set out above.

The Company will not make any new investments save that investments may be made in existing Investee Companies when considered appropriate to maximise value for shareholders.

#### Independent Review of Investment Management Arrangements

The Company served notice of termination to the Investment Manager before 31 March 2024 following the completion of the Verne Global sale, with the Investment Management Agreement to terminate on 31 March 2025.

Liberum Capital Limited ("Liberum") has been engaged as financial advisor to support the proposed wind-down process and to provide the Board with an independent review of the investment management arrangements. It will include evaluating the following options for the Company (i) continuing to be managed by Triple Point on different fee arrangements; (ii) managed by a new investment manager, or (iii) becoming a self-managed alternative investment fund, a proposal for which Brett Miller and Richard Boléat had indicated would be provided to the Company.

## 19. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

The Company, through its subsidiary undertakings has committed £11.3 million for capital expenditures at 31 December 2023 (2022: £46.3 million). This future capex is related to the Company's investment in EMIC-1.

At the year end, the Company had entered into an SPA to sell its entire equity stake in the Verne Global Group of companies. An element of the fees applicable to this transaction were contingent on the transaction being successful. As a result, at the year end the Company had not accrued £5.6 million of fees, as there was still sufficient uncertainty surrounding the closure of the deal. Following the year end, the deal was successfully completed, and these fees were paid.

#### 20. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Company is exposed to market risk, interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk in the current and future periods. The Board oversees the management of these risks. The Board's policies for managing each of these risks are summarised below.

### Market Risk

The Company's activities are exposed to a potential reduction in demand for internet, data centre or cell network service and competition for assets and services. Whilst the Company seeks to invest in a diverse portfolio of digital infrastructure, demand for the Company's digital infrastructure assets is dependent on demand for internet, data, network or other telecom services and the continued development of the internet. Furthermore, the ongoing use of the infrastructure services D9 is providing requires competitive prices which are cost-effective to the end users. Some factors that could impact the volume of demand or the ability to provide competitive pricing includes:

- continued development and expansion of the internet as a secure communications medium and marketplace for the distribution and consumption of data and video
- continued growth in cloud hosted services as a delivery platform
- ongoing growth in demand for access to high-capacity broadband
- continued focus on technologies, assets and services which can offer competitive pricing and high-quality reliable services
- continued partnership with suppliers and Hyperscalers to maintain and provide the most cost-effective access

Variations in any of the above factors can affect the valuation of assets held by the Company and as a result impact the financial performance of the Company.

#### Market risk arising from foreign currency risk

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument translated into GBP will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates. The Company, being Digital 9 Infrastructure PLC does not hold any cash balances in different currencies, however its subsidiaries do as detailed below.

As a result, the Company is exposed to changes in fair value in its investments, as a result of foreign currency changes. The below tables present the Company's exposure to currency risk through its subsidiaries with foreign currency cash balances.

The Group had the following foreign currency and their GBP equivalent balances at the end of the reporting period:

	USD \$'000	EUR €'000	GBP £'000
Bank balances	11,675	562	9,659
Investment at fair value	779,753	105,362	704,491

The Company is primarily exposed to changes in USD/GBP and EUR/GBP exchange rates as its investments in Aqua Comms DAC and Verne Holdings Limited held by D9 Holdco and its subsidiary are primarily in USD, and to changes in EUR/GBP exchange rates as its investments in Leeson Telecom (Elio Networks) and Verne Finland are primarily in EUR. The sensitivity of profit or loss to changes in the exchange rates arises mainly on the fair value of investment. To demonstrate the impact of foreign currency risk (in GBP), a 10% increase / decrease in USD/GBP and EUR/GBP rates are measured as this is in line with the relevant change in the rate during the last six months.

	Impact on post tax profit £'000	Impact on other components of equity £'000
USD/GBP and EUR/GBP exchange rates - increase by 10%	(65,446)	(65,446)
USD/GBP and EUR/GBP exchange rates - decrease by 10%	65,446	65,446

The above figures represent impacts of changes in USD/GBP and EUR/GBP exchange rates. The Company's exposure to other foreign exchange movements is not material.

#### Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Company's interest rate risk on interest bearing financial assets is limited to interest earned on cash deposit. Exposure to interest rate risk on the liquidity funds is immaterial to the Company.

#### Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty of the Company will be unable or unwilling to meet a commitment that it has entered into with the Company. It is a key part of the pre-investment due diligence. The credit standing of the companies which we intend to lend or invest is reviewed, and the risk of default estimated for each significant counterparty position. Monitoring is ongoing and period end positions are reported to the Board.

Credit risk arises on the debt investments held at fair value through profit or loss, this includes loan provided to Digital 9 Holdco Limited. The Company's debt investments at fair value through profit or loss is considered to have low credit risk, and management have not recognised any loss allowance during the year.

Credit risk also arises from cash and cash equivalents, derivative financial instruments and deposits with banks

and financial institutions. The Company and its subsidiaries may mitigate their risk on cash investments and derivative transactions by only transacting with major international financial institutions with high credit ratings assigned by international credit rating agencies. The Company's cash and cash equivalents are all deposited with Barclays Bank plc which has a Fitch rating of A+.

The Company had no derivatives during the period.

The carrying value of the investments, trade and other receivables and cash represent the Company's maximum exposure to credit risk.

## Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Company may not be able to meet its financial obligations as they fall due. Prudent liquidity risk management implies maintaining sufficient cash and marketable securities and the availability of funding through an adequate amount of committed credit facilities to meet obligations when due and to close out market positions.

The Investment Manager and the Board continuously monitor forecast and actual cash flows from operating, financing, and investing activities to consider payment of dividends, repayment of trade and other payables or funding further investing activities. The Company ensures it maintains adequate reserves and will put in place banking facilities and it will continuously monitor forecast and actual cash flows to seek to match the maturity profiles of financial assets and liabilities. Further analysis on the Company's liquidity is included within the Basis of Preparation - Going Concern assessment.

31 December 2023	Total £'000	1-3 months £'000	3-12 months £'000	1-2 years £'000	2-5 years £'000	More than 5 years £'000
Trade payables Accruals	421 5,588 <b>6,009</b>	421  421	5,588 <b>5,588</b>		- 	- - -
31 December 2022	Total £'000	1-3 months £'000	3-12 months £'000	1-2 years £'000	2-5 years £'000	More than 5 years £'000
Trade payables Accruals	216 2,553 <b>2,769</b>	216 	2,553 <b>2,553</b>	- - -	- 	- -

### 21. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

**Total liabilities** 

Net assets

				Financial	
	Cash at bank	Financial	Financial	assets at fair	
	balances at	assets at	liabilities at	value	
	amortised	amortised	amortised	through	<b>T</b>
	cost £'000	cost £'000	cost £'000	profit or loss £'000	Total value £'000
Year ended 31 December 2023	£ 000	1 000	£ 000	£ 000	£ 000
Non-current assets:					
Equity investments held at fair					
value through profit or loss	-	-	-	639,852	639 <i>,</i> 852
Debt investment held at fair value					
through profit or loss	-	-	-	36,208	36,208
Current assets:					
Trade and other receivables	-	1,471	-	-	1,471
Cash and cash equivalents	14,809	-	-	-	14,809
Total Assets	14,809	1,471	-	676,060	692,340
Current liabilities:					
Trade and other payables	-	-	(6,009)	-	(6,009)
Total liabilities	-	-	(6,009)	-	(6,009)
Net assets	14,809	1,471	(6009)	676,060	686,331
Year ended 31 December 2022					
Non-current assets:					
Equity investments held at fair	-	-	-	891,866	891,866
value through profit or loss				,	,
Debt investment held at fair value	-	-	-	29,105	29,105
through profit or loss				,	,
Current assets:					
Trade and other receivables	-	1,417	-	-	1,417
Cash and cash equivalents	30,001	-	-	-	30,001
Total Assets	30,001	1,417	-	920,971	952,389
Current liabilities:			(2.765)		(0.765)
Trade and other payables	-	-	(2,769)	-	(2,769)

30,001

(2,769)

(2,769)

920,971

1,417

(2,769)

949,620

# 22. CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

The Company's objectives when managing capital are to safeguard the Company's ability to continue as a going concern in order to provide returns for shareholders and to maintain an optimal capital structure to minimise the cost of capital.

In order to maintain or adjust the capital structure, the Company may adjust the amount of dividends paid to shareholders, return capital to shareholders or issue new shares.

### 23. EARNINGS PER SHARE

Earnings per share ("EPS") amounts are calculated by dividing profit for the period attributable to ordinary equity holders of the Company by the weighted average number of Ordinary Shares in issue during the period. As there are no dilutive instruments outstanding, both basic and diluted earnings per share are the same.

The calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share is based on the following:

Year ended 31 December 2023:

	Revenue	Capital	Total
Calculation of Basic Earnings per share			
Net (loss)/profit attributable to ordinary shareholders (£'000)	20,326	(257,659)	(237,333)
Weighted average number of Ordinary Shares	865,174,954	865,174,954	865,174,954
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	2.35p	(29.78p)	(27.43p)

There is no difference between basic or diluted Loss per Ordinary Share as there are no convertible securities.

There is no difference between the weighted average Ordinary or diluted number of Shares.

# Calculation of Weighted Average

Number of Shares in Issue

No of days	1	-Jan-23 365	<b>31-Dec-23</b> 365
Ordinary Shares No. of shares Opening Balance New Issues	865,1	865,174,954	
Closing Balance	865,1	174,954	865,174,954
Weighted Average	865,174,954		865,174,954
Year ended 31 December 2022:	Revenue	Capital	Total
Calculation of Basic Earnings per share			
Net (loss)/profit attributable to ordinary shareholders (£'000)	(3,225)	95,294	92,069
Weighted average number of ordinary shares	829,961,949	829,961,949	829,961,949
Earnings per share - basic and diluted	(0.39p)	11.48p	11.09p

There is no difference between basic or diluted Loss per Ordinary Share as there are no convertible securities.

There is no difference between the weighted average Ordinary or diluted number of Shares.

# Calculation of Weighted Average Number of Shares in

Average	Number	UI JIIai C3	
lssue			

	01-Jan-22	28-Jan-22	12-Jul-22	31-Dec-22
No of days	365	338	173	365
Ordinary Shares				
No. of shares				
Opening Balance	722,480,620	722,480,620	810,629,500	865,174,954
New Issues	-	88,148,880	54,545,454	-
Closing Balance	722,480,620	810,629,500	865,174.954	865,174,954
Weighted Average	722,480,620	81,628,278	25,853,051	829,961,949

## 24. NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

Net Asset Value per share is calculated by dividing net assets in the Statement of Financial Position attributable to Ordinary equity holders of the parent by the number of Ordinary Shares outstanding at the end of the period. Although there are no dilutive instruments outstanding, both basic and diluted NAV per share are disclosed below.

Net asset values have been calculated as follows:

	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Net assets at end of period (£'000)	686,331	949,620
Shares in issue at end of period	865,174,954	865,174,954
IFRS NAV per share - basic and dilutive	79.33p	109.76p

# 25. ULTIMATE CONTROLLING PARTY

In the opinion of the Board, on the basis of the shareholdings advised to them, the Company has no ultimate controlling party.

# UNAUDITED ALTERNATIVE PERFORMANCE MEASURES

### 1. ONGOING CHARGES RATIO

		31 December 2023 £'000	31 December 2022 £'000
Management fee		8,668	7,736
Other operating expenses		2,192	1,645
Total management fee and other operating expenses	(a)	10,860	9,381
Average undiluted net assets	(b)	817,975	852,738
Ongoing charges ratio % (c = a/b)	(c)	1.33%	1.10%

Average undiluted net assets is calculated as the average of net assets at 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2023.

## 2. TOTAL RETURN

ſ

		31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Closing NAV per share (pence)		79.33p	109.76p
Add back dividends paid* (pence)		12.00p	9.00p
Adjusted closing NAV (pence)		91.33p	118.76p
Adjusted NAV per share as at the period end less NAV per share at 31 December 2022 (31 December 2021)	(a)	(91.33p-118.76p)	(118.76p - 107.62p)
NAV per share at 31 December 2022 (31 December 2021)	(b)	118.76p	107.62p
Total return % (c = a/b)	(c)	(23.10%)	10.40%

\*total cumulative dividends paid since IPO.

# 3. MARKET CAPITALISATION

		31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Closing share price at period end	(a)	29.75p	86.40p
Number of shares in issue at period end	(b)	865,174,954	865,174,954
Market capitalisation (c) = (a) x (b)	(c)	£257,389,549	£747,511,160

# 4. CAPITAL DEPLOYED

Deployment including co	mmitted funding		31 December 2023	31 December 2022
	Deployed	Committed fund	£'000	£'000
Aqua Comms DAC	187,508	-	187,508	189,564
EMIC-1	35,981	11,281	47,262	47,374

Giggle**	-	-	-	3,000
Arqiva*	469,830	-	469,830	462,998
Ficolo Oy	118,927	-	118,927	118,927
Volta Data Centres	65,456	-	65,456	61,418
Leeson Telecom	50,807	-	50,807	50,807
SeaEdge UK1	16,355	-	16,355	16,355
Verne Holdings Limited	256,595	-	256,595	292,441

\* - Includes £170 million Vendor Loan Notes issued by D9 Wireless Opco 2 Limited.

\*\* - Giggle was disposed during the year.

# 5. TOTAL SHAREHOLDER RETURN

A measure of the return based upon share price movements over the period and assuming reinvestment of dividends.

		31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Closing share price (pence)		29.75	86.40
Add back effect of dividend reinvestment (pence)		1.29	5.14
Adjusted closing share price (pence)	(a)	31.04	91.54
Opening share price at beginning of the year (pence)	(b)	86.40	113.80
Total shareholder return (c = (a-b)/b)	(c)	(64.08) %	(19.56) %

# 6. INVESTEE COMPANY FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

Financial Period	31 December 2023	31 December 2022
Revenue	£446.6m	£405.5m
% growth year on year	10%	4%
EBITDA	£197.7m	£202.4m
% growth year on year	(2%)	0%
% margin	44%	50%
Cash Flow from Operations	£162.0m	£174.3m
Capital Expenditure ("Capex")	£109.5m	£95.5m

# 7. DIGITAL 9 HOLD CO REVOLVING CREDIT FACILITY

The Company has fully drawn the facility as at the reporting date in the form of £373.8 million drawn and £1.2 million committed through a Letter of Credit in favour of Verne Global Iceland. The Letter of Credit restricted the amount available to draw.

This Letter of Credit was cancelled post period end, resulting in a drawn balance of £373.8 million.

31 March 2024 £'000
373,800
(273,512)
100,288

### 8. LIQUIDITY

The Group cash position comprised of the following at December 2023 and 31 March 2024:

Total Group Cash at 31 December 2023	£'000
D9 PLC Unrestricted Cash Balance	14,809
Subsidiary Cash Balances	34,621
Total Group Cash	49,430
Restricted Cash	
RCF Interest Reserve	(24,445)
EMIC-1 Escrow	(7,371)
Total Unrestricted Cash	17,614
Total Group Cash at 31 March 2024	£'000
D9 PLC Unrestricted Cash Balance	22,054

Subsidiary Cash Balances	43,951	
Total Group Cash	66,005	
Restricted Cash		
RCF Interest Reserve	(9,855)	
EMIC-1 Escrow	(5,459)	
Indemnification provision (held back by the		
Company)	(23,548)	
Total Unrestricted Cash	27,143	

# **Unaudited Non-Statutory Information**

As the Company completed its disposal of Verne Global following the period end, it falls outside the scope of these financial statements. To provide additional information to shareholders, additional unaudited pro-forma information has been provided to the period ending 31 March 2024.

Unaudited pro forma consolidated Balance Sheet at 31 March 2024

In accordance with IFRS 10, and in line with the criteria presented in Note 2, the Company meets the definition of an investment entity. Under IFRS 10, investment entities are required to hold financial investments at fair value through profit or loss rather than consolidate them on a line-by-line basis.

To assist the reader, we have presented below a pro forma consolidated Balance Sheet for the Group as at both 31 December 2023 and 31 March 2024. This is following the successful disposal of the Verne Global group of companies and shows the total debt of the Group (including D9's share of debt at the Arqiva company level).

	3	1 March 2024	31 De	cember 2023
	£'m	£'m	£'m	£'m
Non-current assets				
Investments	1,559.7		1,945.7	
Verne Earn-Out	26.8		26.8	
Loans to portfolio companies	17.8		54.3	
		1,604.3		2,026.8
Total non-current assets		1,604.3		2,026.8
Current assets				
Trade and other receivables	3.6		4.0	
Cash - Unrestricted	27.1		17.6	
Cash - Restricted	38.8		31.8	
Total current assets		69.5		53.4
Total assets		1,673.8		2,080.2
Current liabilities				
Other creditors	(13.7)*		(29.8)	
Total current liabilities		(13.7)		(29.8)
Non-current liabilities				
RCF loan	(100.3)		(373.8)	
Capitalised set-up costs	2.5		2.5	
Vendor loan notes 2029	(163.0)		(163.0)	
Additional notes issued	(6.8)		(6.8)	
Verne Iceland debt	-		(78.6)	
Arqiva (D9 share of debt)	(744.4) **		(744.4)	
Total non-current liabilities		(1,012.0)		(1,364.1)
Total liabilities		(1,025.7)		(1,393.9)
Total net assets		648.1		686.3

\* Includes accrued VLN interest for the period to 31 March 2024. \* As of 31 December 2023

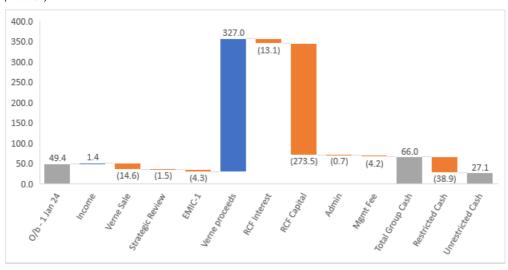
# <u>Liquidity</u>

The below chart shows the cash movements for the Group from 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024, on a cash basis and not an accruals basis. At 29 April 2024, the Group had total cash of £84.0 million. Of this, unrestricted cash available for use was £25.2 million. The EMIC-1 escrow account has reduced by £1.9 million, since December as further payments have been made to EMIC-1 to enable continued fulfilment of its contractual

### obligations.

# Unrestricted Cash Waterfall - 1 January 2024 to 31 March 2024

(£'million)



Restricted cash of £38.9 million includes a Restricted Interest Reserve Account in relation to the RCF of £9.9 million, and an amount in a restricted escrow account in relation to the construction of EMIC-1 of £5.5 million. It also includes the £23.5 million the Company has set aside for an indemnification provision in relation to the Verne Global Sale, which will be utilised to make a further RCF repayment in May 2024.

In agreement with its RCF lenders, the Company has negotiated and agreed that from 1 January 2024 the cash reserves locked up in the RCF's interest reserve account can be used for interest payments which enables the Company to pay interest for the residual RCF without using any unrestricted cash until the RCF's legal maturity in March 2025.

 $Unrestricted \ cash \ of \ \pounds 27.1 \ million \ includes \ \pounds 22.0 \ million \ held \ at \ the \ Company \ level, \ with \ the \ balance \ being \ held \ in \ unconsolidated \ subsidiaries.$ 

### Debt Financing

The below table shows the Company's leverage position at 31 December 2023 and also on a pro-forma basis as at 31 March 2024, following the completion of the Verne Global sale and the repayment and part cancellation of the RCF.

The RCF adjustment of £274.7 million includes the cancellation of the £1.2m Letter of Credit and the cash repayment of £273.5 million. For the avoidance of doubt an adjustment has not been made in the below table in respect of the c.£47 million repayment to be made in May 2024.

The impact of the Verne Global transaction and the repayment and cancellation of the RCF is to reduce Group Leverage from 51% at 31 December 2023 to 36% on a pro forma basis at 31 March 2024.

	31 December 2023	Adjustments	Pro forma 31 March 2024
	£'m	£'m	£'m
Aqua Comms	222.5	-	222.5
Verne Global	372.2	(345.4)	26.8
SeaEdge	14.0	-	14.0
EMIC-1	36.0	2.1	38.1
Elio Networks	55.4	-	55.4
Arqiva	503.6	-	503.6
Arqiva Principal VLN	(163.0)	-	(163.0)
Arqiva Additional VLN	(6.8)	-	(6.8)
Argiva Accrued VLN Interest	(5.1)	(2.5)	(7.6)
Total Portfolio Value	1,028.8	(345.8)	683.0
Subsidiary Cash & Equivalents	34.6	9.3	43.9
RCF	(373.8)	273.5	(100.3)
Net Subsidiary Other Liabilities	(49.8)	26.5	(23.3)
D9 Shareholder Ioan	36.2	(12.3)	23.9
Reconciled IFRS Valuation	676.1	(48.8)	627.2
PLC Other Current Assets	1.5	(0.3)	1.2
PLC Receivables & Cash	14.8	7.2	22.0
Total Assets	692.3	(41.9)	650.4
RCF*	375.0	(274.7)	100.3
Adjusted GAV	1,067.3	(316.6)	750.7

	£'m	£'m	£'m
RCF*	375.0	(274.7)	100.3
VLN (including £6.8m additional notes)	169.8	-	169.8
Total Group Leverage	544.8	(274.7)	270.1
Leverage / Adjusted GAV	51.0%		36.0%

\*As at 31 December 2023, the RCF was fully utilised at £375 million, comprised of £373.8 viii] million drawn and the £1.2 million non-cash draw Letter of Credit. In Q1 2024, the Letter of Credit was cancelled and did not require a cash repayment.

As at 31 December 2023, the Company's net debt / EBITDA position has marginally increased since December 2022 as a result of the PIK loan notes on the VLN being capitalised on 30 June 2023 and a slight decline in portfolio EBITDA. Looking forward and on a pro forma basis, the Group's net debt and adjusted net debt to EBITDA metrics have reduced following the disposal of Verne Global.

	At 31 December 2023	Adjustments £'m	Pro forma at 31 March 2024
Net Debt / EBITDA	£'m	()	£'m
Drawn RCF inc. Letter of Credit	375.0	(274.7)	100.3
VLN*	169.8	-	169.8
Group Cash & Equivalents (inc. restricted cash)	(49.4)	16.5	(32.9)
Net Debt	495.4	(258.2)	237.2
2023 Portfolio EBITDA	197.7	(17.2)	180.5
Net Debt / EBITDA	2.5x	(1.2x)	1.3x
Arqiva debt (prorated for D9 ownership)**	744.4	-	744.4
Verne Global debt	78.6	(78.6)	-
Adjusted Net Debt	1,318.4	(336.8)	981.6
Adjusted Net Debt / EBITDA	6.7x	(1.2x)	5.5x

\*Includes the additional notes of £6.8m issued in June 2023.

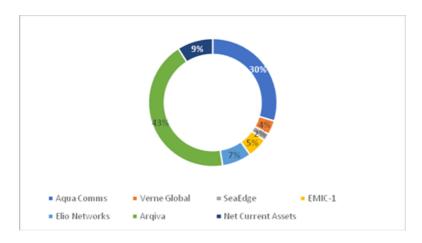
\*\*This is D9's share of Arqiva gross debt. It is not an Arqiva net debt figure and as a result does not include cash held by Arqiva; it is a more conservative approach and is in line with previously reported figures.

### Portfolio Concentration Summary

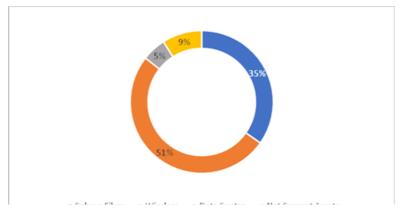
As at 29 April 2024, the Company's portfolio consists of 5 attractive and complementary investments.

The below table shows the portfolio's asset and sector concentration levels comprising valuations as at 31 March 2024 on a pro forma basis following the completion of sale of the Verne Global group of companies.

# Pro forma Portfolio Concentration



### Pro forma Sector Concentration



# **GLOSSARY AND DEFINITIONS**

"Adjusted Gross Asset Value"	The aggregate value of the total assets of the Company as determined with the accounting principles adopted by the Company from time to time as adjusted to include any third-party debt funding drawn by, or available to, any Group company (which, for the avoidance of doubt, excludes Investee Companies);
"Admission"	The admission of the Company's Ordinary Share capital to trading on the Premium Segment of the Main Market of the London Stock Exchange;
"Aqua Comms"	Aqua Comms Designation Activity Company, a private company limited by shares incorporated and registered in Ireland;
"AIC Code"	AIC Code of Corporate Governance produced by the Association of Investment Companies;
"AIC Guide"	AIC Corporate Governance Guide for Investment Companies produced by the Association of Investment Companies;
"AIFM"	the alternative investment fund manager of the Company being Triple Point Investment Management LLP;
"AIFMD"	The EU Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive 2011/61/EU;
"Board"	The Directors of the Company from time to time;
"CTA 2010"	Corporation Tax Act 2010 and any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof
"D9" or the "Company"	for the time being in force; Digital 9 Infrastructure plc, incorporated and registered in Jersey (company
	number 133380); Key services and technologies that enable methods, systems and processes for
"Digital Infrastructure"	the provision of reliable and resilient data storage and transfer; An investment which falls within the parameters of the Company's investment
"Digital Infrastructure Investments"	policy and which may include (but is not limited to) an investment into or acquisition of an Investee Company or a direct investment in digital infrastructure assets or projects via an Investment SPV or a forward funding arrangement.
"DTR"	The Disclosure Guidance and Transparency Rules sourcebook containing the Disclosure Guidance, Transparency Rules, corporate governance rules and the rules relating to primary information providers;
"EBITDA"	Earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation;
"EU or European Union"	The European Union first established by the treaty made at Maastricht on 7 February 1992;
"EPS"	Earnings per share;
"ESG"	Environmental, Social and Governance;
"FCA"	The Financial Conduct Authority
"FTTH"	Fibre to the home;
"C A\/"	The gross assets of the Company in accordance with applicable accounting rules
"GAV"	from time to time; The Company and any other companies in the Company's Group for the purposes
"Group"	of Section 606 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 from time to time but excluding Investee Companies;
"Investee Company"	A company or special purpose vehicle which owns and/or operates Digital Infrastructure assets or projects in which the Group invests or acquires;
"Investment Manager"	Triple Point Investment Management LLP (partnership number OC321250);
"Investment Objective"	The Company's investment objective as approved by shareholders on 25 March 2023 and set out above;
"Investment Policy"	The Company's investment policy as set out in the Prospectus approved by shareholders on 25 March 2023 and set out above;
"Investment SPV"	A special purpose vehicle used to acquire or own one or more Digital Infrastructure Investments.
"IPO"	The Company's initial public offering launched on 8 March 2021 which resulted in the admission of, in aggregate, 300 million Ordinary Shares to trading on the Specialist Fund Segment of the Main Market on 31 March 2021;
"NAV"	Net Asset Value being the net assets of the Company in accordance with applicable accounting rules from time to time;
"Ongoing Charges Ratio"	A measure of all operating costs incurred in the reporting period, calculated as a percentage of average net assets in that year. Operating costs exclude costs of buying and selling investments, interest costs, taxation, non-recurring costs and the costs of buying back or issuing ordinary shares;
"Ordinary Shares"	Ordinary shares of no-par value in the capital of the Company;
"RCF"	Revolving Credit Facility
"SDG9"	The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 9;
"Total Shareholder Return"	The increase in Net Asset Value in the period plus distributions paid in the period.

- [i] Alternative Performance Measure. Further information on APMs can be found in the Annual Report. N/M: not meaningful
- [ii] <u>https://www.ardian.com/news-insights/press-releases/ardian-completes-acquisition-leading-green-data-center-platform-verne</u>
- [iii] Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found above.
- [iv] Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found above.
- [V] Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found above.
- [vi] Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found above.
- [vii] Subsidiaries of Digital 9 Holdco Limited are the companies that make investments.
- [viii] Alternative Performance Measure, further information on APMs can be found above.

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