



# OVERVIEW

**Mike Maddison**Chief Executive Officer



# STRATEGIC MOMENTUM DELIVERING RESULTS

- Created two distinct businesses Escode and Cyber Security
- Notably, revenue growth in Cyber Security's Managed Services and Digital Forensics & Incident Response services
- Created a global operating model and in-year efficiency
- Non-core asset disposal to create a more focused Cyber Security business
- Overall good progress on our transformation journey, with improvement in profitability, however work continues





## **GROUP MARGIN JOURNEY**



- Improvement in Gross Margin through cyber service mix, utilisation and cost efficiencies
- Profitability improvement as we continue our transformation journey



## DELIVERED ON STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS

#### 1. Our clients

- Launched market structure in North America cyber to enable sharper focus on key sectors
- Activated a price uplift on Escode contracts (new business and renewals) and verifications
- Began to scale Escode in North America and Australia

## 2. Our capabilities

- Grew global Managed Services and Digital Forensics & Incident Response services
- Established two new Consulting & Implementation practices in Digital Identity and Operational Technology
- Established a range of cyber partnerships and alliances with specific propositions



## DELIVERED ON STRATEGY AND OPERATIONAL TARGETS

## 3. Global delivery

- Implemented and launched global scheduling tool - Kantata in the UK, North America, and the Philippines
- Our new Manila office continues to grow in line with expectations with colleagues operational in delivery and enabling functions

#### 4. Differentiated brands

- Launched a distinct new brand for software escrow business – Escode
- Developed our industry analyst programme driving improvements in coverage for both Cyber Security and Escode businesses
- Focused and targeted activity at key industry events for both businesses





# FINANCIAL REVIEW

**Guy Ellis**Chief Financial Officer



## DELIVERING AGAINST ALL OF OUR FY24 FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK

# Sustainable revenue growth



Accelerating growth of recurring revenue in Managed Services

Maintaining momentum of quarterly growth in Escode

# Improved Gross Margin

Improved utilisation %

Globalised technical resource footprint

# Efficient cost base

Delivering c.£5m efficiencies in Cyber Security in FY24 (annualised c. £10m from FY25)

Annualising Escode efficiencies delivered in FY23

# Balance sheet resilience

Strong cash conversion

Reducing debt

Maintaining dividend



#### **GROUP INCOME STATEMENT**

Actual rates	2023 £m	2024 £m	% change
Revenue	335.1	324.4	(3.2%)
Gross profit	132.0	134.3	1.7%
Gross margin %	39.4%	41.4%	2.0% pts
Overheads	(90.6)	(90.6)	-
Share based payments	(2.2)	(1.6)	(27.3%)
Adjusted EBITDA	39.2	42.1	7.4%
Adjusted EBITDA margin %	11.7%	13.0%	1.3% pts
Depreciation and amortisation	(22.6)	(22.1)	(2.2%)
Adjusted EBIT	16.6	20.0	20.5%
Adjusted EBIT margin %	5.0%	6.2%	1.2% pts
Finance costs (including leases)	(6.2)	(6.2)	-
Adjusted PBT	10.4	13.8	32.7%
Adjusted tax	(1.6)	(3.0)	(87.5%)
Adjusted tax %	15.4%	21.7%	6.3% pts
Adjusted PAT	8.8	10.8	22.7%
Adjusted basic EPS	2.8p	3.5p	25.0%

- Adjusted EBITDA performance ahead of expectations <sup>2</sup> by c.5%, as we continue our transformation journey
- Revenue decreased, however delivered cost of sales efficiencies and overheads were managed appropriately
- Adjusted EBITDA on a constant currency basis increased by c.13% (2023 Adjusted EBITDA £37.2m - £2.0m impact)

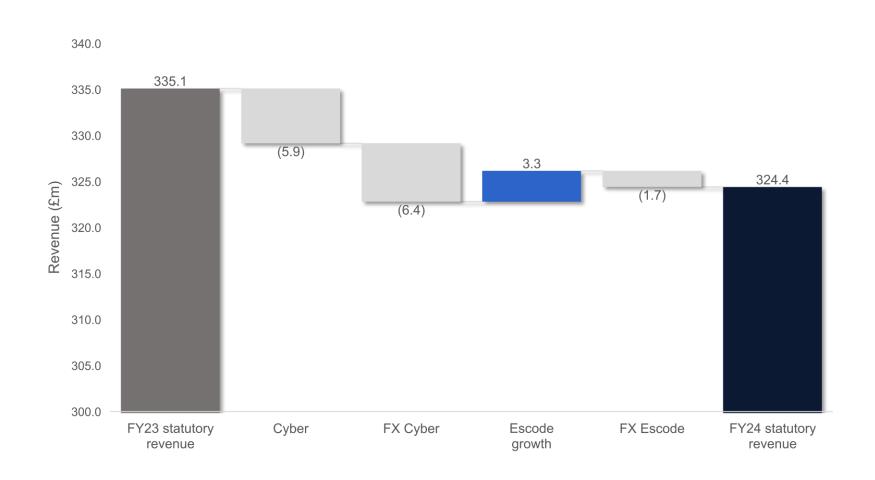
#### Disclosure changes – summary reconciliation <sup>1</sup>:

	2023 £m	2024 £m	Change £m
Adjusted EBITDA - previously	41.4	43.7	2.3
Share based payments	(2.2)	(1.6)	0.6
Adjusted EBITDA - revised	39.2	42.1	2.9
Adjusted EBIT - previously	28.8	31.1	2.3
Share based payments	(2.2)	(1.6)	0.6
Amortisation of acquired intangibles	(10.0)	(9.5)	0.5
Adjusted EBIT - revised	16.6	20.0	3.4

<sup>1:</sup> See Appendix for full reconciliation of all adjusted measures. Adjusted measure disclosures changed to reflect FRC best practice guidance – as signalled at H1 2024.

<sup>2:</sup> Consensus Adjusted EBITDA (inc. SBP) was £40m as outlined on ncc-group-consensus-12-june-2024.pdf (nccgroupplc.com).

## GROUP REVENUE BRIDGE



- Revenue slightly declined year on year at 0.8% on a constant currency basis
- Cyber Security constant currency decline of 2.2%, driven by North America (26.8%)
- H2 2024 cyber revenue YoY increased overall by +6.0% compared to (9.6%) in H1 2024
- Escode delivered positive revenue growth in constant currency of 5.4%
- FX impacting revenue (£8.1m)

## CYBER SECURITY REVENUE AND ADJUSTED EBITDA

#### Revenue by region

Constant Currency

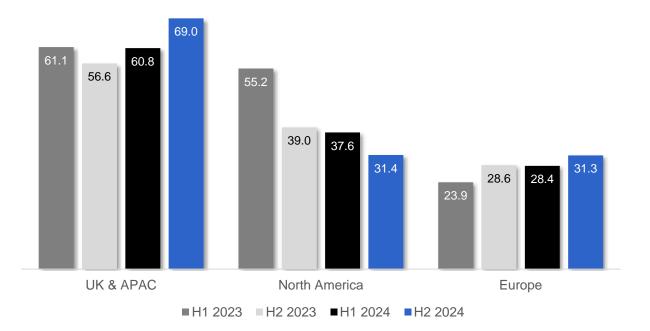
#### FY24 regional YoY CC growth:

• UK & APAC: +10.3%

• North America: (26.8%)

• Europe: +13.7%

Overall: (2.2%)



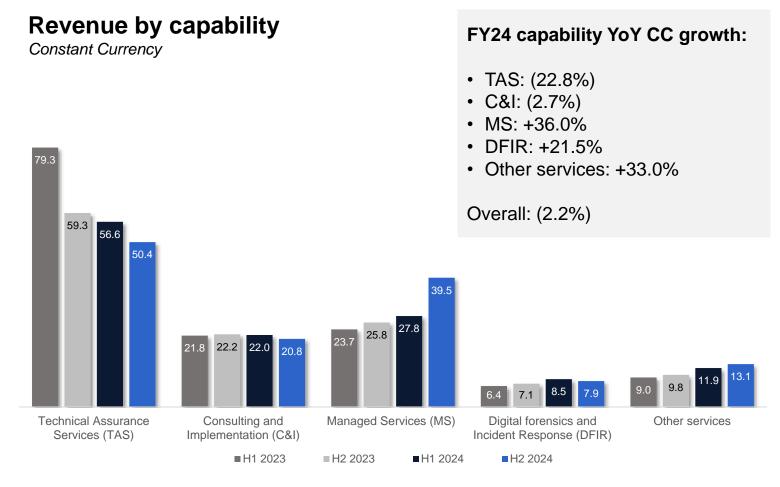
#### **Trajectory:**

- H2 2024 revenue YoY increased overall by +6.0%
- H2 2024 revenue ahead of H1 2024 by +3.9%
- TAS & C&I average utilisation for all locations improved to 68% contributing to improved gross margin following low performance in H2 2023
- Improved gross margin and Adjusted EBITDA performance

Actual rates	2023 £m	2024 £m	% change
Revenue	270.8	258.5	(4.5%)
Gross profit	86.1	88.3	2.6%
Gross margin %	31.8%	34.2%	2.4% pts
Overheads (inc. SBP)	(72.3)	(70.7)	(2.2%)
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	13.8	17.6	27.5%
Adjusted EBITDA margin %	5.1%	6.8%	1.7% pts

<sup>1:</sup> Now includes previously adjusted item of Share based payments (SBP) of £0.3m (2023: £1.6m) to align to FRC best practice guidance.

## CYBER SECURITY REVENUE – CAPABILITIES



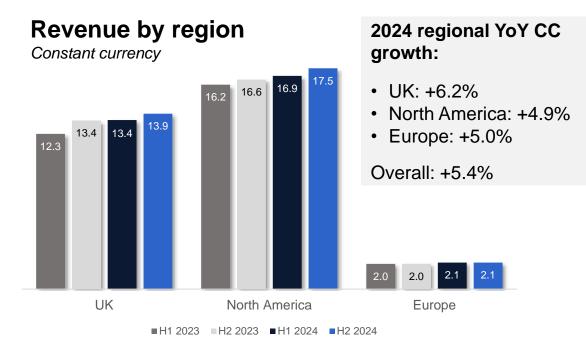
#### **Trajectory:**

- TAS declined by (15.0%) at CC in H2 2024 YoY and by (11.0%) from H1 2024 to H2 2024
- C&I slightly decreased YoY by (2.7%) with the new leadership now secured as we enhance the proposition
- MS increased by +36.0% YoY. MS as proportion of total Cyber Security revenue increased 7.5% pts to 26.0%
- DFIR increased by +21.5% YoY reflecting the number of incident responses of Ransomware

#### Capabilities:

- Technical Assurance Services (TAS): all types of penetration testing
- Consulting and Implementation (C&I): consultancy services across all industrial verticals
- Managed Services (MS): includes XDR
- Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR): includes incident responses to Ransomware
- Other services: include our Fox Crypto business, DetACT and Global Cyber Security Research

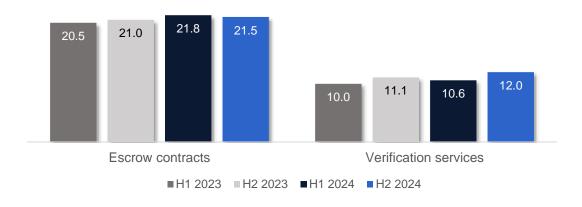
#### ESCODE REVENUE AND ADJUSTED EBITDA



Actual rates	FY 2023 £m	FY 2024 £m	% change
Revenue	64.3	65.9	2.5%
Gross profit	45.9	46.0	0.2%
Gross margin %	71.4%	69.8%	(1.6)% pts
Overheads (incl. SBP)	(14.8)	(17.7)	19.6%
Adjusted EBITDA <sup>1</sup>	31.1	28.3	(9.0%)
Adjusted EBITDA margin %	48.4%	42.9%	(5.4)% pts

#### Revenue by service line

Constant currency

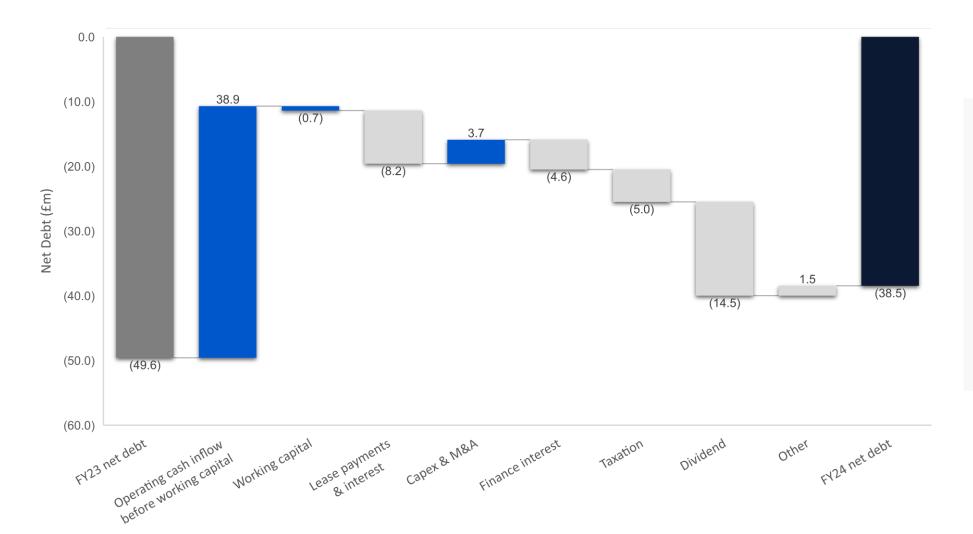


#### **Trajectory:**

- Sustained growth through last seven quarters
- 2024 growth driven by contracted price increases and increased verification revenues
- Client retention rate remains strong YoY at c.95%
- Gross margin % decline due to investment for future growth
- Adjusted EBITDA decline due to gross margin decline, prior year one offs and impact of FX (mainly USD)

<sup>1:</sup> Now includes previously adjusted item of Share based payments (SBP) of £0.2m (2023: £0.1m) to align to FRC best practice guidance.

# NET DEBT (EXC. LEASES) REDUCED BY £11.1m



- Cash conversion remains strong at 90.7%
- Multi-currency RCF of £162.5m with additional £75m uncommitted accordion option
- Dividend paid £14.5m and will have an unchanged 12-month dividend of 3.15p



# STRATEGY UPDATE

Mike Maddison
Chief Executive Officer



# GLOBAL, AGILE AND CLIENT-FOCUSED

#### Our businesses

# Our strategy

## Our ambition

#### **Cyber Security**

Protecting companies and governments against an evolving spectrum of cyber threats

#### **Escode**

A global market leader, protecting and verifying the code of leading private and public sector entities around the world



#### **Our clients**

Deeper client engagement on the most pressing cyber security needs

#### Our capabilities

Broader service portfolio addressing the full cyber security lifecycle

#### **Global delivery**

Transitioning from an international to a fully global business

#### **Brands**

Distinct and relevant brands for cyber security and software escrow business

#### Medium term:

#### **Cyber Security**

- Mid-teens revenue growth
- Mid-teens Adjusted EBITDA margin % <sup>1</sup>
- Low-teens Adjusted EBIT margin % <sup>2</sup>

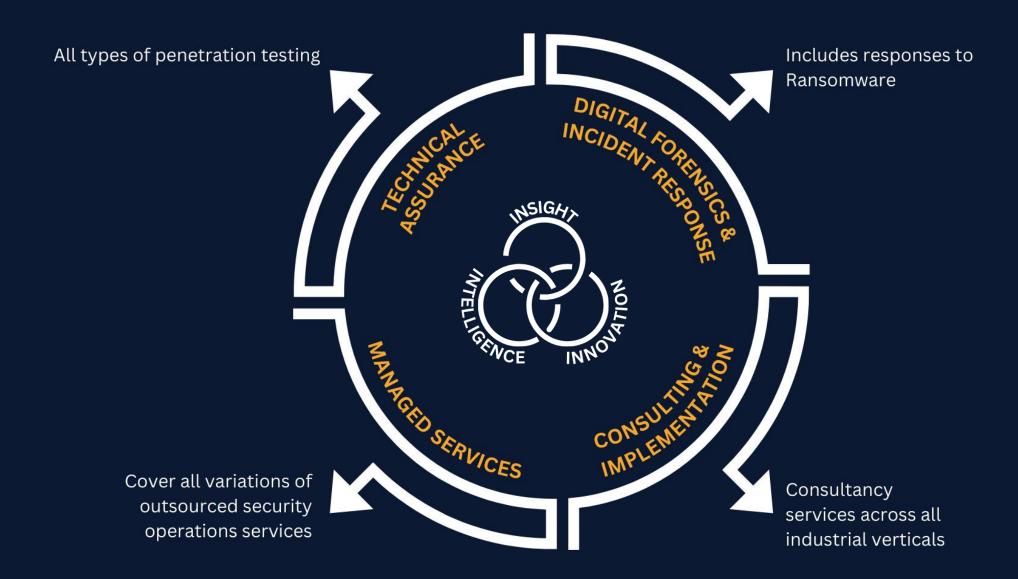
#### **Escode**

- Consistent low single-digit revenue growth
- Maintain global market leadership in software escrow

<sup>1:</sup> Now includes previously adjusted item of Share based payments (SBP) to align to FRC best practice guidance.

<sup>2:</sup> Now includes previously adjusted items of Share based payments (SBP) and Amortisation of acquired Intangibles to align to FRC best practice guidance.

# DEVELOPING OUR END-TO-END CYBER BUSINESS



# CYBER SECURITY STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR FY25



- Growth of key practices: Digital Identity and Operational Technology
- Focus on improving profitability in our Technical Assurance Services business (notably North America)
- Leverage the global model (inc. Manila) and complete the global rollout of Kantata scheduling tool
- Enhance and expand our cyber propositions that combine AI, data and automation (especially in Managed Services)



# ESCODE STRATEGIC FOCUS FOR FY25



- Continue growth plans in North America and Australia
- Develop expansion plans into Critical Infrastructure
  - Building on success with Doha Metro project and recent acquisition of EU-related contracts
- Implement new sales approach enabling greater alignment in sales and operations





# SUMMARY AND OUTLOOK

Mike Maddison
Chief Executive Officer



## MOVING INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF OUR TRANSFORMATION

Moving into the next phase with confidence, delivering on our strategy, clear on what we need to do:

- Continue to simplify our business with profitable growth and sustainable gross margins
- Align to client needs

The Group remains confident on medium-term financial goals.







# QUESTIONS



# Appendix – reconciliation of adjusted measures

		2023	
Adjusted measure	2024	(restated) <sup>2</sup>	Change
Adjusted EBITDA – previously (£m)	43.7	41.4	5.6%
Share based payments (£m)	(1.6)	(2.2)	(27.3%)
Adjusted EBITDA – revised (£m)	42.1	39.2	7.4%
Adjusted Operating profit – previously (£m)	31.1	28.8	8.0%
Share based payments (£m)	(1.6)	(2.2)	(27.3%)
Amortisation of acquired intangibles (£m)	(9.5)	(10.0)	(5.0%)
Adjusted Operating profit – revised (£m)	20.0	16.6	20.5%
Adjusted profit for the period – previously (£m)	19.0	18,9	0.5%
Share based payments (£m)	(1.6)	(2.2)	(27.3%)
Amortisation of acquired intangibles (£m)	(9.5)	(10.0)	(5.0%)
Tax effect of above items (£m)	2.9	2.1	38.1%
Adjusted profit for the period – revised (£m)	10.8	8.8	22.7%
Adjusted basic EPS - previously (pence)	6.1	6.1	
Effect of share-based payments (pence)	(0.5)	(0.7)	(28.6%)
Effect amortisation of acquired intangibles			
(pence)	(3.0)	(3.3)	(9.1%)
Tax effect of above items (pence)	0.9	0.7	28.6%
Adjusted basic EPS — revised (pence)	3.5	2.8	25.0%
Cash conversion – previously (%)	87.4%	102.9%	(15.5% pts)
Effect of share-based payments (%)	3.3%	5.8%	(2.5% pts)
Cash conversion – revised (%)	90.7%	108.7%	(18.0% pts)



# KPI's

Cyber Security	H1 2023	H2 2023	H1 2024	H2 2024	H1 to H2 2024 % change/ % pts	Definition
Delivery FTE	1,244	1,090	1,027	1,041	+1.4%	Number of Delivery colleagues (FTE) as at the end of the period
Number of clients >£0.25m (Parent account)	191	203	199	197	(1.0%)	Number of clients with spend (revenue or orders) over £250k in last 12 months
Number of long-term (>3 years) clients over £250k	140	149	136	132	(2.9%)	Minimum 1 order or revenue per year in prior 3 years, plus £250k+ net spend in prior 12 months
% of £250k clients using multiple capabilities	78%	82%	73%	73%	-	% of £250k+ clients who purchased multiple capabilities
TAS and C&I Utilisation (all locations)*	64%	58%	64%	68%	4% pts	Utilisation (For TAS & C&I only)
Escode						
FTE	257	262	296	292	(1.4%)	Number of all colleagues (FTE) as at the end of the period
Client retention rate	96%	91%	94%	95%	+1% pts	Retention rate of all clients
Number of clients (beneficiaries)	52,565	49,608	47,297	45,599	(3.6%)	Active Beneficiary Count



<sup>\*</sup>Updated utilisation metric includes all markets of Technical Assurance Services (TAS) and Consulting & Implementation (C&I)

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