# Fixed Income Presentation Q3 2024

Mercedes-Benz Group AG

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#### **AGENDA**

- I. Mercedes-Benz Group Review Q3 2024
- II. Divisional Review Q3 2024
- III. Outlook FY 2024
- IV. Funding
- V. Sustainability
- VI. Luxury
- VII. Automated Driving & Operating System

#### Mercedes-Benz Group: Key messages



Sales: Solid sales for Cars and Vans. Cars mix soft amidst subdued environment, particularly in China.

**Products**: World premieres of the Mercedes-Maybach SL Monogram series and AMG GT special editions. VAN.EA prototypes on the roads.

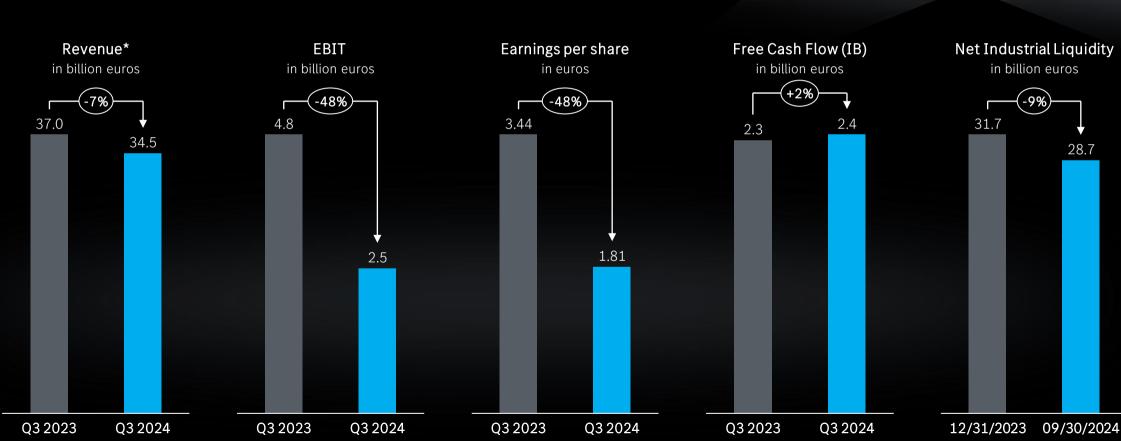
**Profitability**: Cars weak. Vans very good. MBM navigating challenging market conditions.

**Technology**: Level 3 automated driving progressing to 95 km/h. Mercedes-Benz battery recycling factory opened in Kuppenheim.

Capital Allocation: Strong cash generation continued. Share buyback cash outs at EUR 4.3 bn YTD.

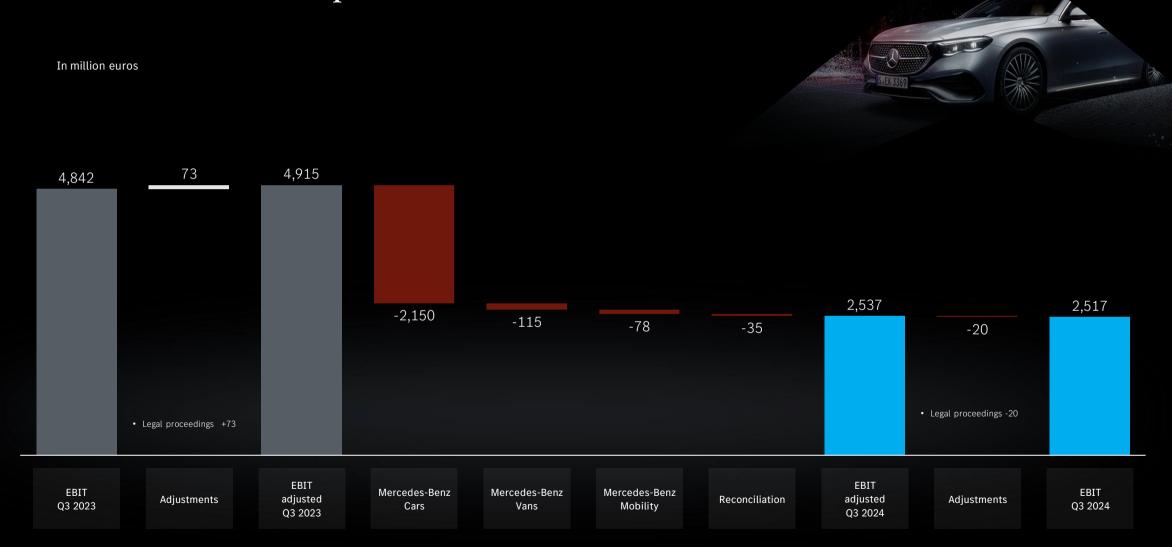
#### Mercedes-Benz Group: Key figures





<sup>\*</sup> Adjustments in the prior-year quarterly figures without impact on EBIT. Further information can be found in the interim report.

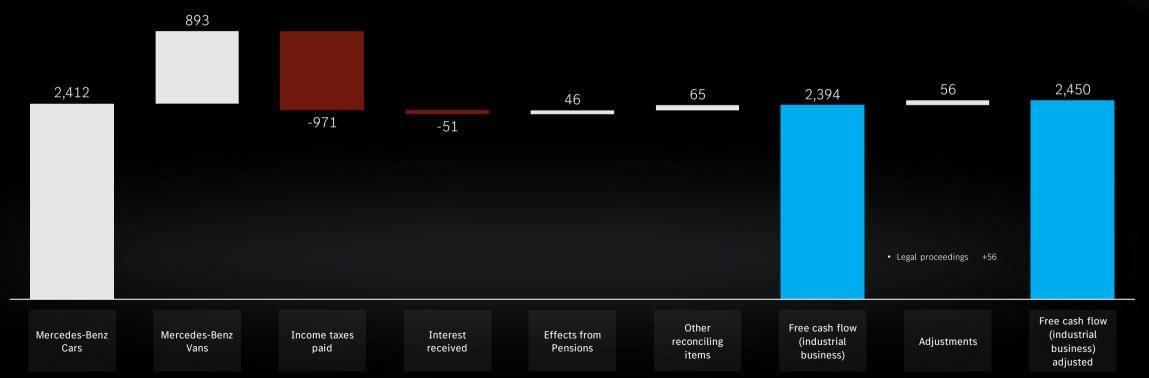
### Mercedes-Benz Group: EBIT



### Mercedes-Benz Group: Reconciliation from CFBIT to Free Cash Flow

In million euros





Mercedes-Benz Group: Net Industrial Liquidity In billion euros 1.6 1.0 0.1 1.9 28.7 28.0 -2.2 -1.2 -0.5 Free cash flow industrial business Q3 2024: € 2.4 billion

Additions to

property, plant,

equipment and

intangible assets

Investments in

and disposals of

shareholdings

Share buyback

Depreciation and

amortization/

impairments

Earnings and

other cash flow

impact

Working capital

impact

**Net Industrial** 

Liquidity

06/30/2024

Others\*

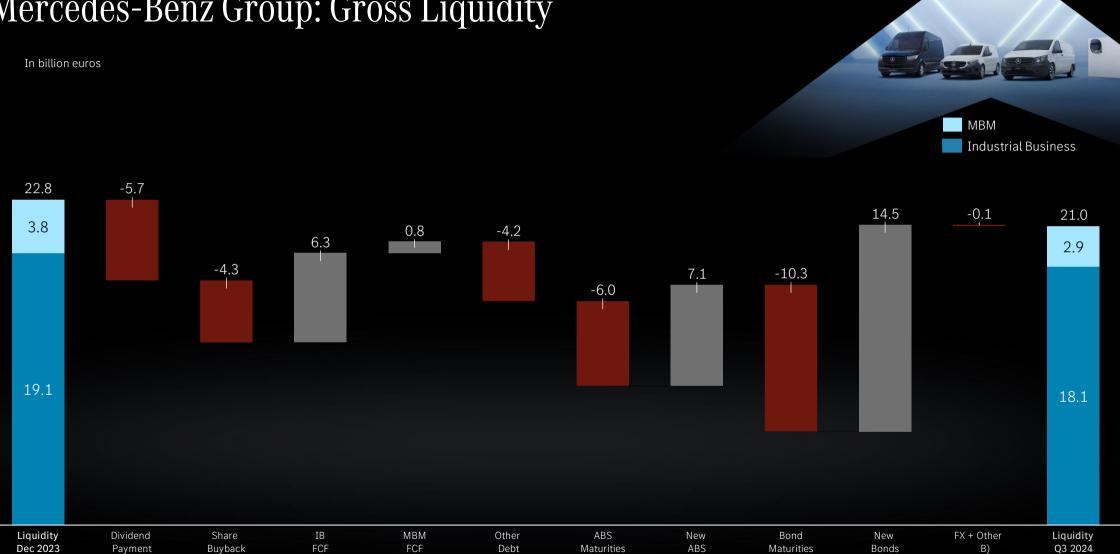
Net Industrial

Liquidity

09/30/2024

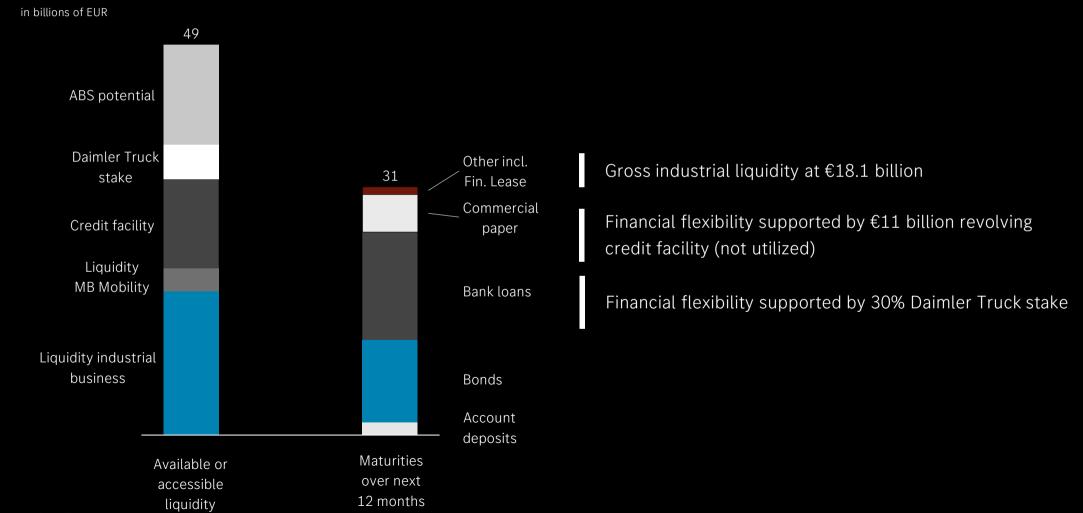
<sup>\*</sup> Mainly FX and MBM related effects

#### Mercedes-Benz Group: Gross Liquidity



Note: Figures may not be additive due to rounding.

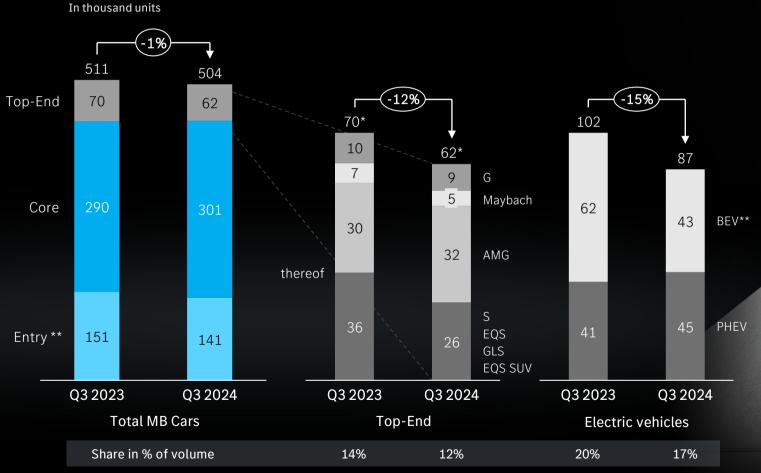
## Mercedes-Benz Group: Financial flexibility over a 12-month period Q3 2024



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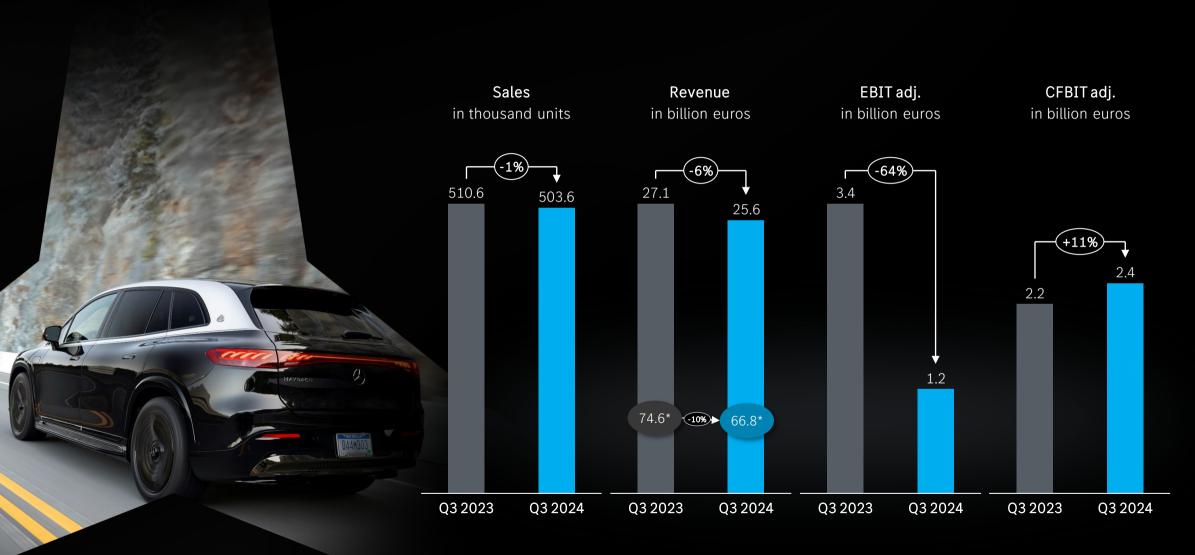


w/o double counting (e.g. G63, S-Class, Maybach)

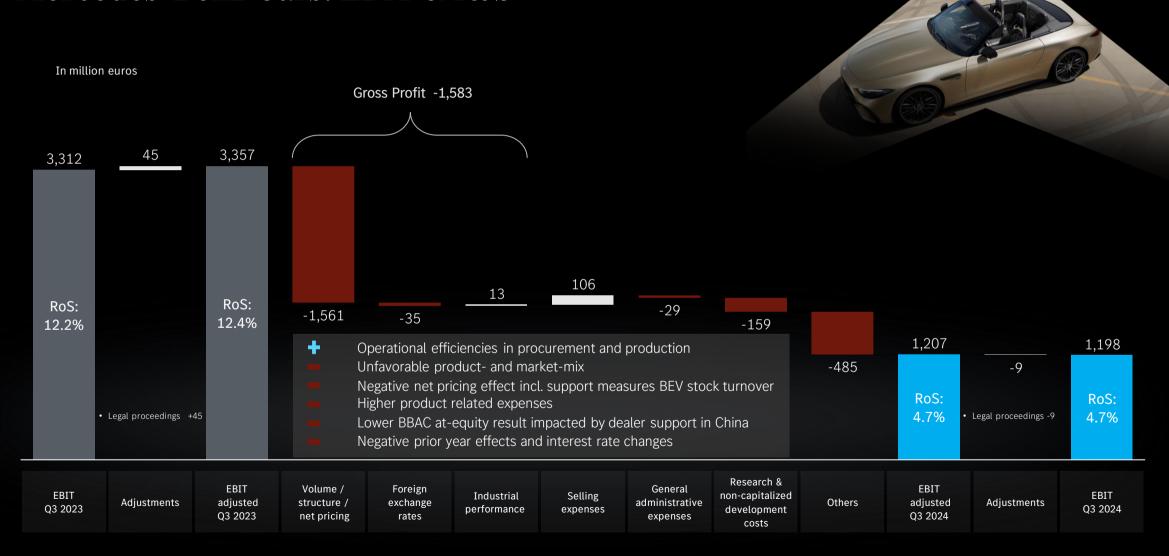
<sup>\*\*</sup> incl. smar

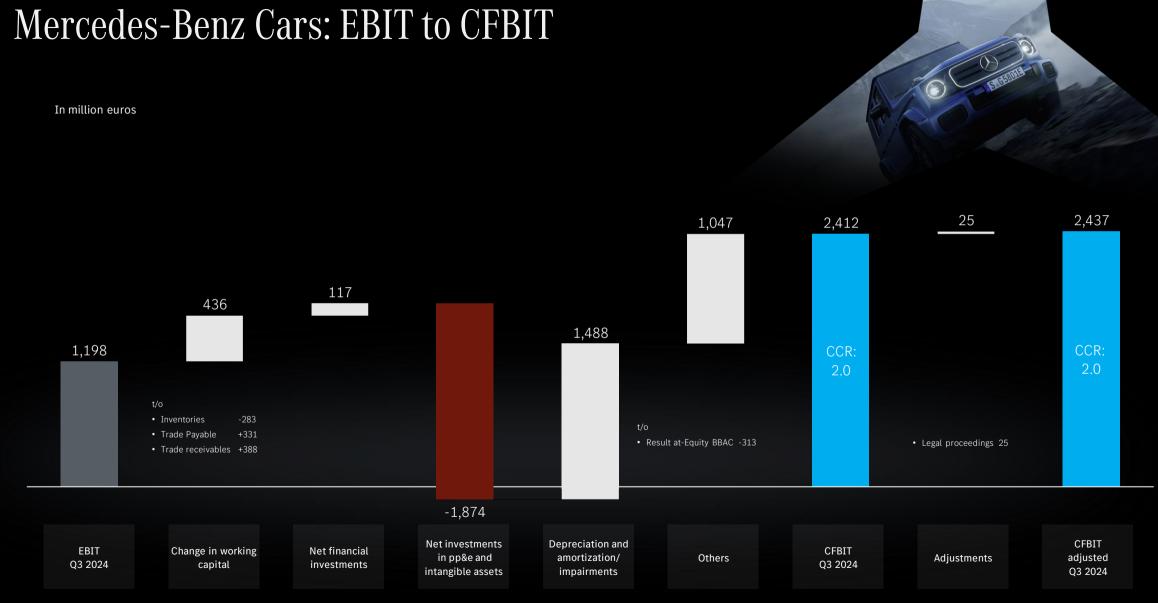
#### Mercedes-Benz Cars: Financials

Mercedes-Benz

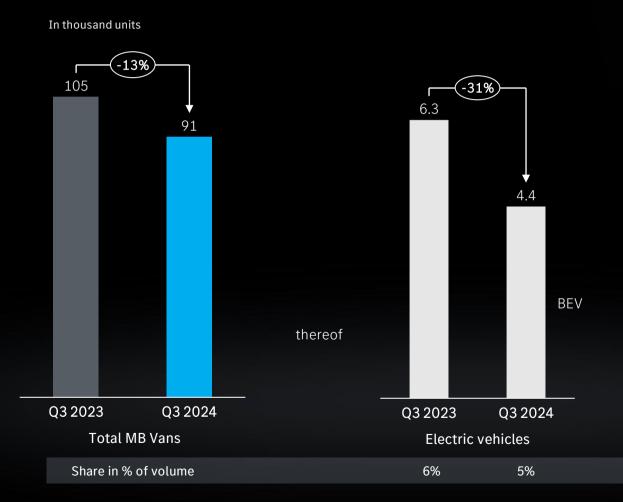


#### Mercedes-Benz Cars: EBIT & RoS





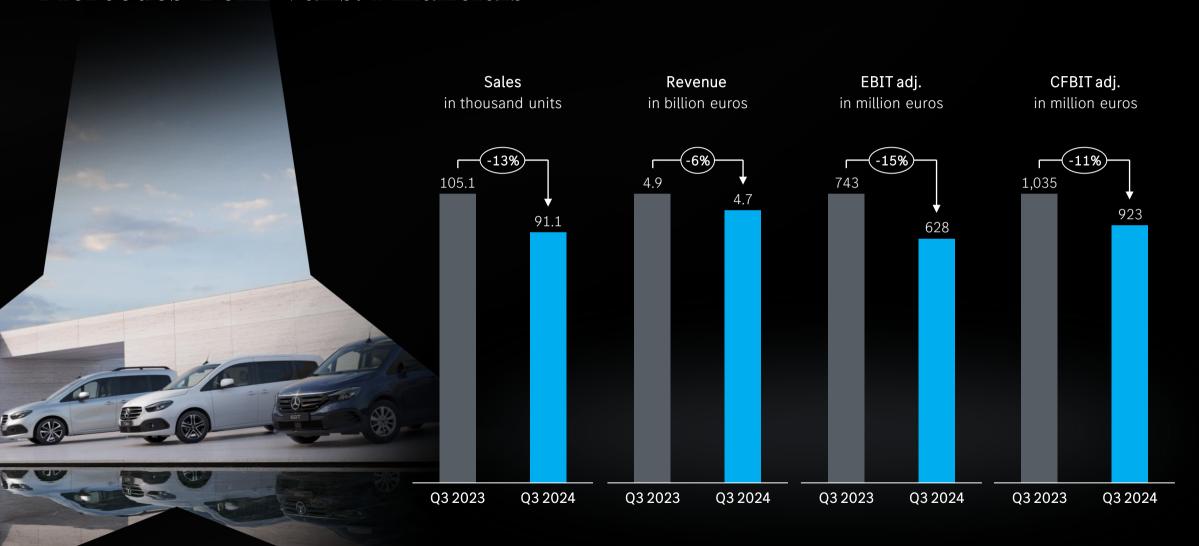
#### Mercedes-Benz Vans: Electric vehicle unit sales

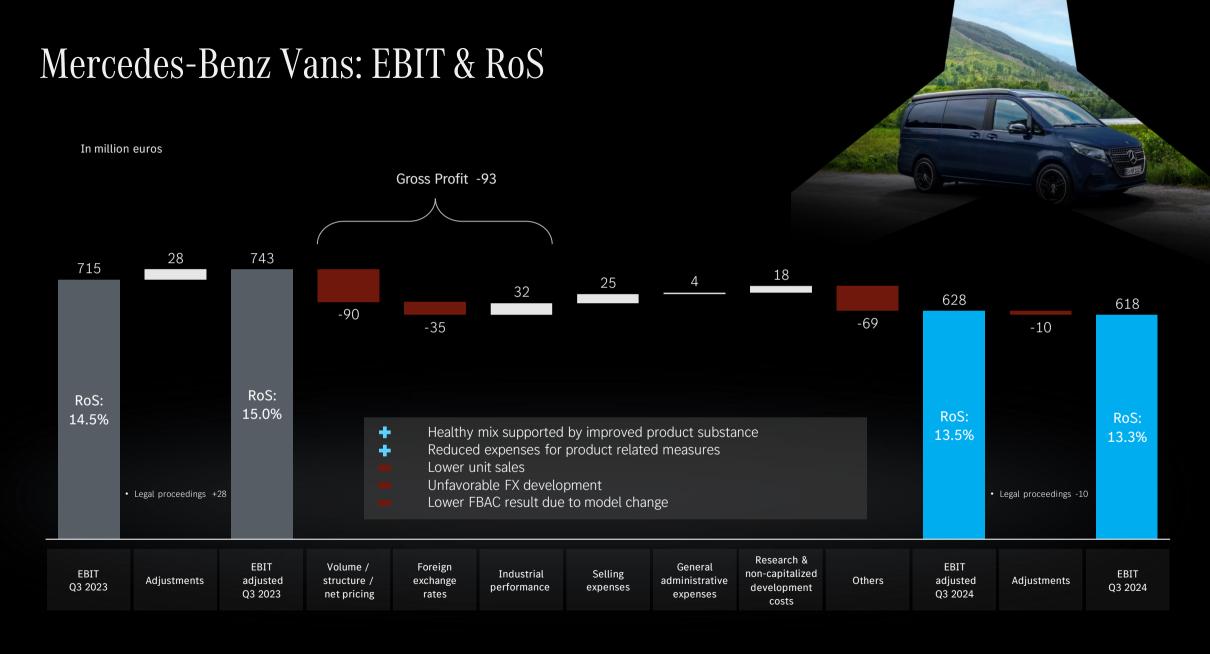




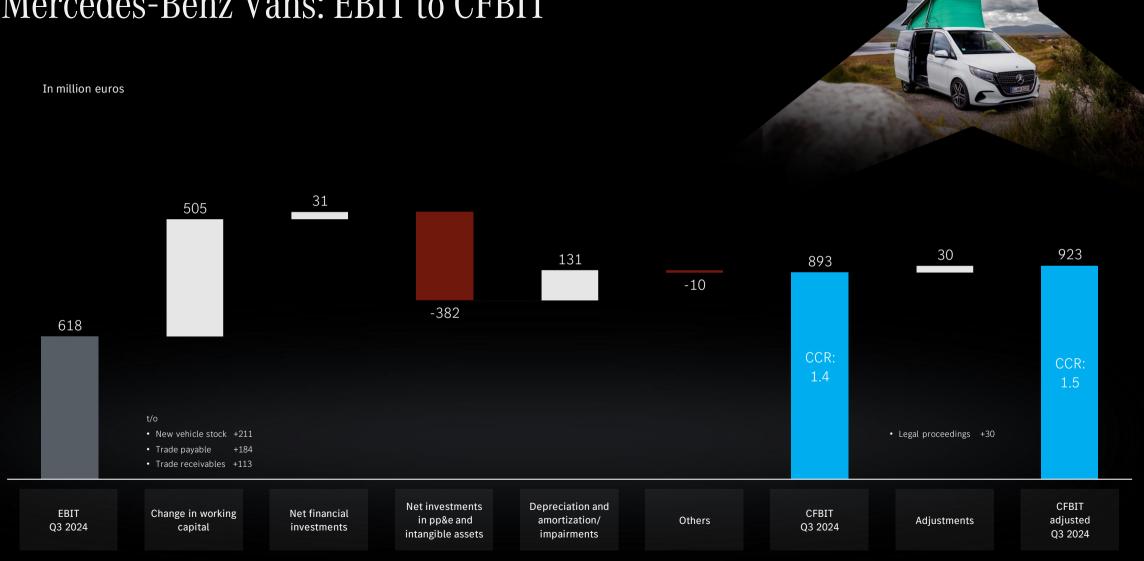
S.DL 1810

#### Mercedes-Benz Vans: Financials

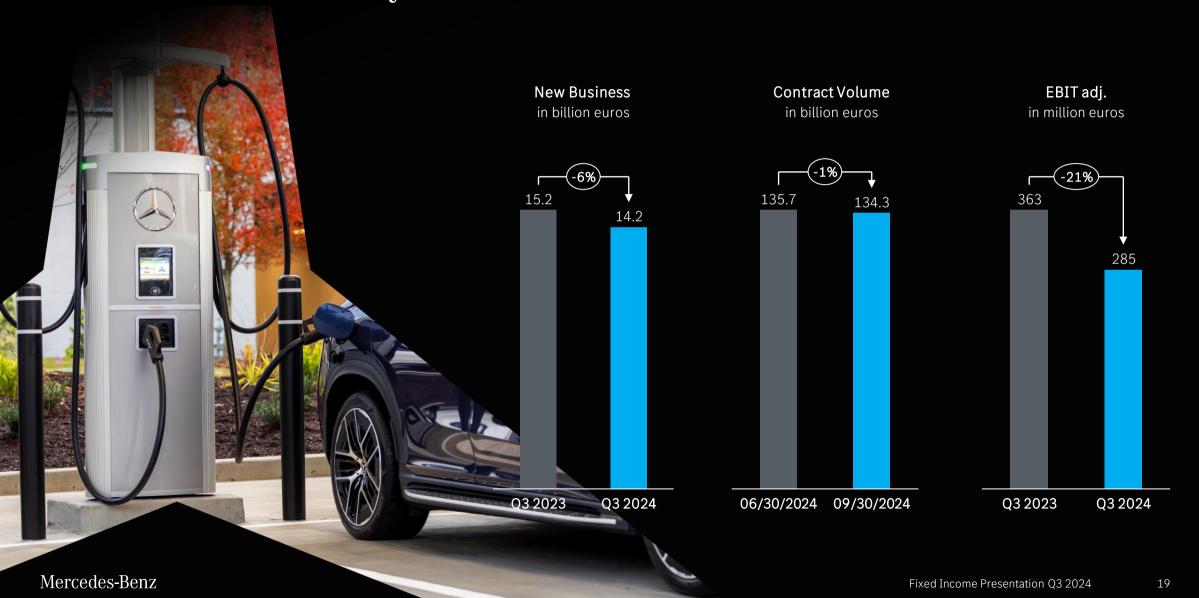


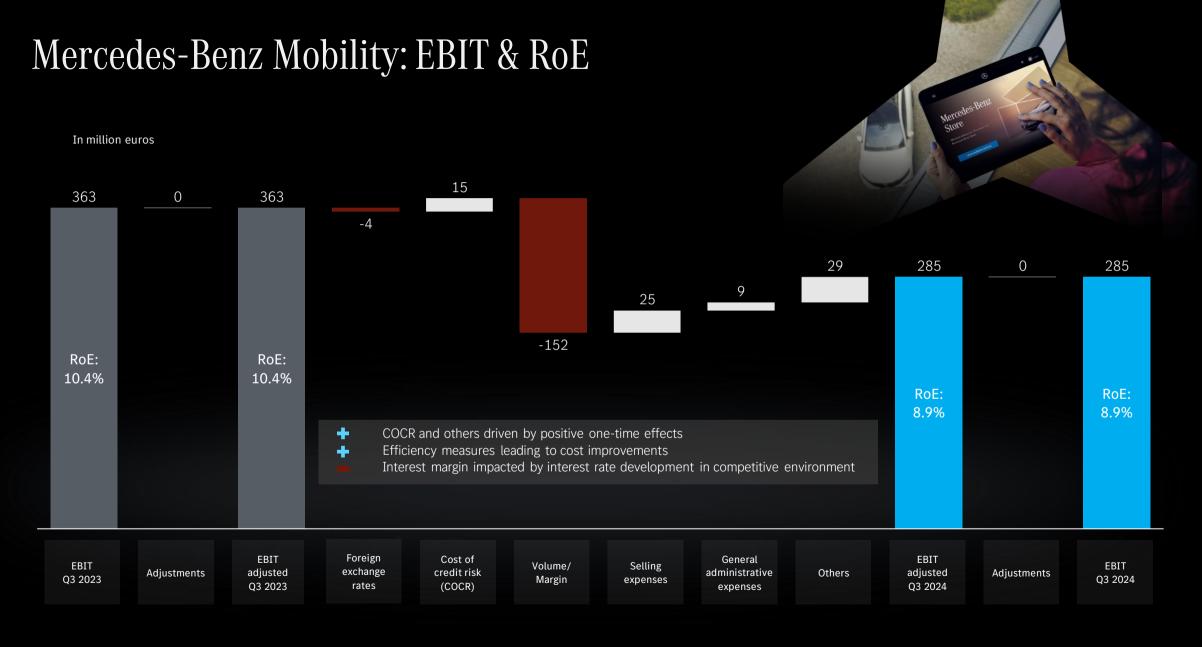


#### Mercedes-Benz Vans: EBIT to CFBIT

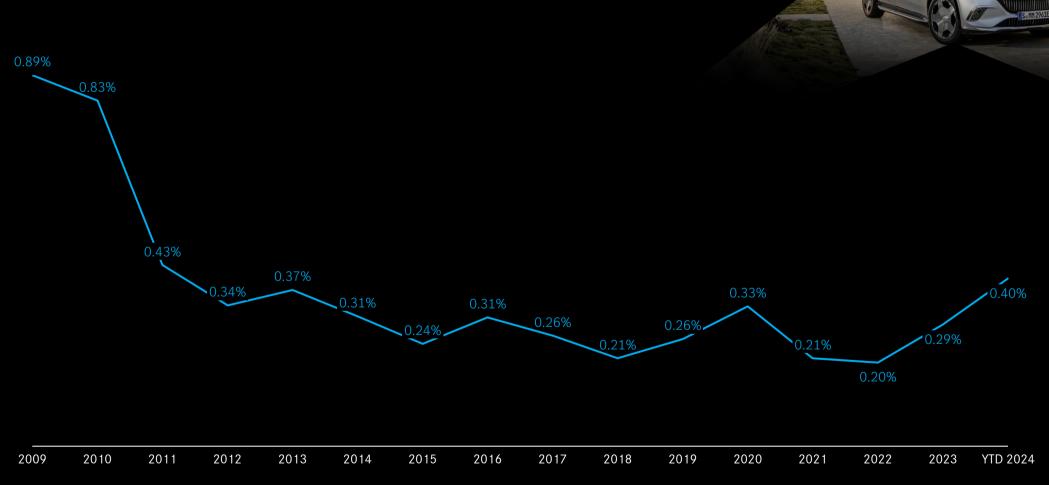


### Mercedes-Benz Mobility: Financials









<sup>\*</sup> As percentage of portfolio, subject to credit risk.

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#### Mercedes-Benz Divisional Guidance 2024



#### ASSUMPTION

The assumptions regarding the economic situation and the development of automotive markets continue to be characterized by a degree of uncertainty. In addition to unexpected macroeconomic developments, uncertainties for the global economy and the business development of the Mercedes-Benz Group may arise in particular from geopolitical events and trade policy.

Unit Sales	Mercedes-Benz Cars	Slightly below	
Utilit Sales	Mercedes-Benz Vans	Slightly below	
xEV share	Mercedes-Benz Cars (xEV)	18 to 19 %	
	Mercedes-Benz Vans (xEV)	4 to 5 %	
Return on Sales (adjusted*)	Mercedes-Benz Cars	7.5 to 8.5 %	
	Mercedes-Benz Vans	14 to 15 %	
	Mercedes-Benz Mobility (RoE)	8.5 to 9.5 %	
Cash Conversion Rate** (adjusted)	Mercedes-Benz Cars	0.8 to 1.0	
	Mercedes-Benz Vans	0.8 to 1.0	
Investment in pp&e	Mercedes-Benz Cars	Significantly above	
	Mercedes-Benz Vans	Significantly above	
R&D expenditure	Mercedes-Benz Cars	At prior-year level	
	Mercedes-Benz Vans	Significantly above	

<sup>\*</sup> The adjustments include material adjustments if they lead to significant effects in a reporting period. These material adjustments relate in particular to legal proceedings and related measures, restructuring measures and M&A transactions.

<sup>\*\*</sup> Adjusted Cash Flow before Interest and Taxes (CFBIT) divided by adjusted EBIT.

### Mercedes-Benz Group Guidance 2024



#### ASSUMPTION

The assumptions regarding the economic situation and the development of automotive markets continue to be characterized by a degree of uncertainty. In addition to unexpected macroeconomic developments, uncertainties for the global economy and the business development of the Mercedes-Benz Group may arise in particular from geopolitical events and trade policy.

Revenue	Slightly below
EBIT	Significantly below
Free Cash Flow (Industrial Business)	Significantly below

### Mercedes-Benz Group/Divisional Guidance Ranges\*

Specification/ KPI	Significantly below	Slightly below	At prior-year level	Slightly above	Significantly above
Revenue/ Unit Sales	X < -7.5%	-7.5% ≤ X < -2%	-2% ≤ X ≤ +2%	+2% < X ≤ +7.5%	X > +7.5%
EBIT (Group)	X < -15%	-15% ≤ X <-5%	-5% ≤ X ≤ +5%	+5% < X ≤ +15%	X > +15%
FCFIB	X < -25%	-25% ≤ X < -10%	-10% ≤ X ≤ +10%	+10% < X ≤ +25%	X > +25%
Investments/ R&D	X < -10%	-10% ≤ X < -2.5%	-2.5% ≤ X ≤ +2.5%	+2.5% < X ≤ 10%	X > +10%

<sup>\*</sup> X = Actual Guidance Figure



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#### Our funding strategy is built on strict principles

## Targeting Financial Independence

No dependence from single markets, instruments, banks or investors

Diversification of funding sources and instruments: Bank Loans, Bonds, ABS, Commercial Paper

No Covenants and asset pledges, no Credit Support Agreements

## Maximizing Financial Flexibility

Keeping prudent amount of Cash and Committed Credit Facility

New markets funded via global and local banks first

Early capital market funding to save credit capacity in growth regions

## Stringent Global Funding Policy

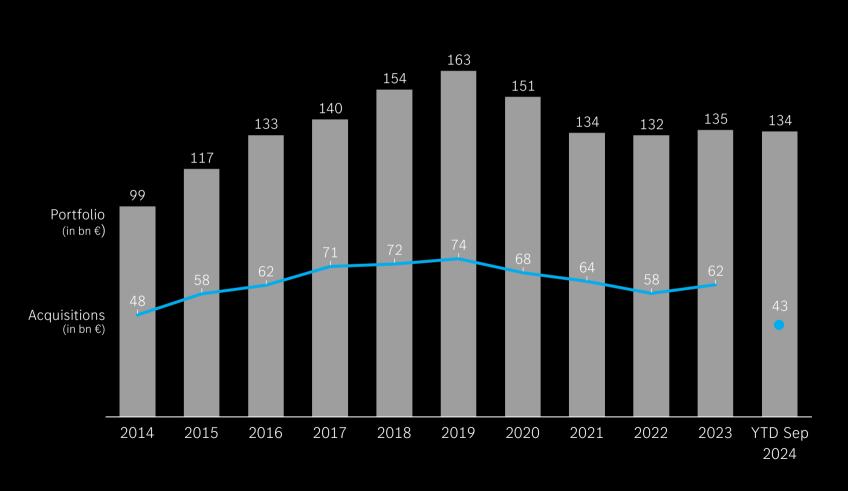
Liquidity matched funding

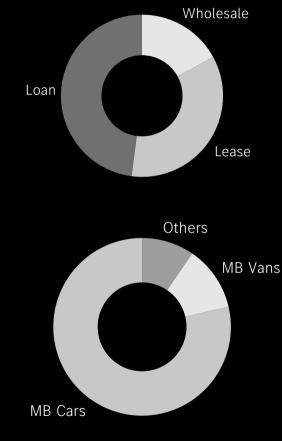
Interest rate matched funding

Currency matched funding

Country matched funding

#### Portfolio at Mercedes-Benz Mobility remained stable compared to 2023





# Mercedes-Benz Mobility business with stringent credit management and solid refinancing

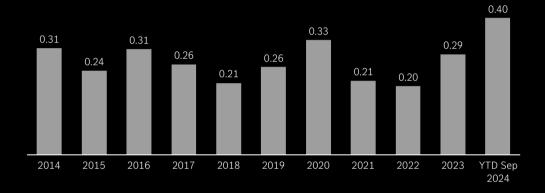
Net credit losses are impacted by the ongoing tense risk situation in the consumer segment in the US market.

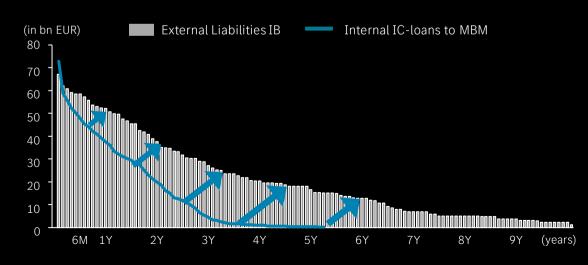
They are expected to remain on an elevated level in the year 2024.

The matched-funded approach ensures that liquidity risks are managed properly.

External liabilities of Mercedes-Benz Group have a longer duration due to capital market refinancing than internal allocation to MBM via IC-loans.

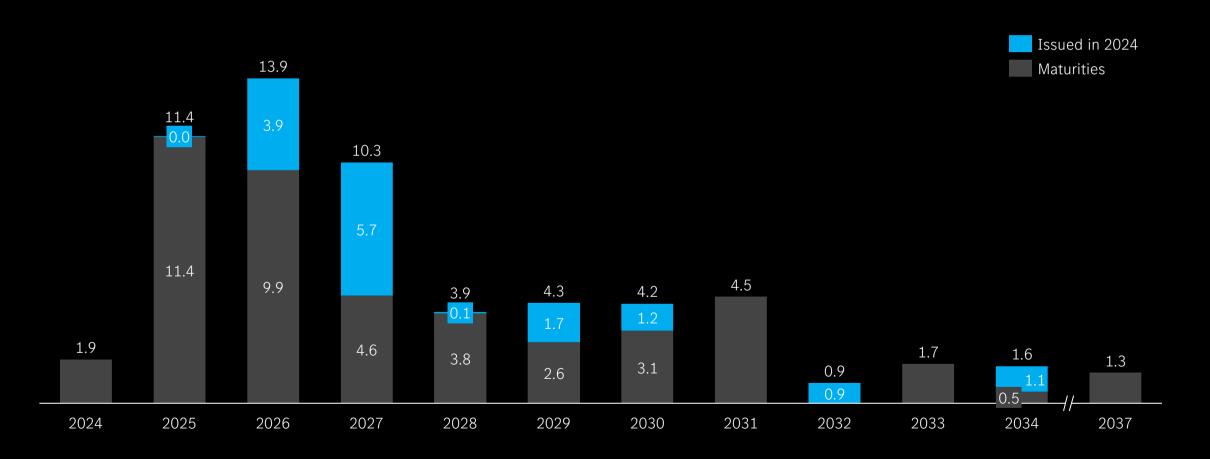
Net credit losses as a percentage of portfolio, subject to credit risk



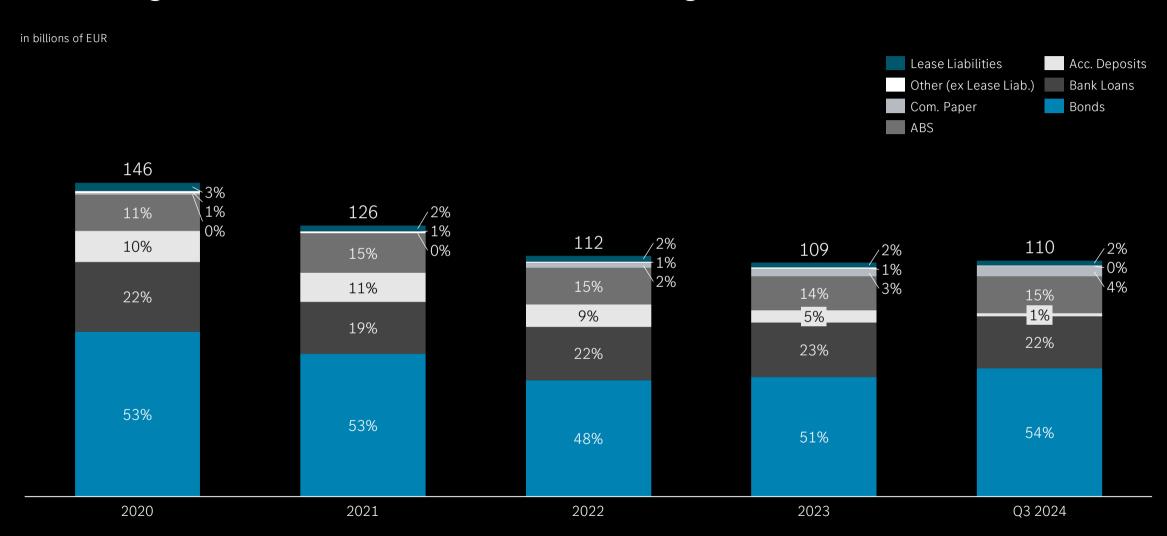


#### Well balanced bond maturity profile

in billions of EUR as of September 30th, 2024



#### Financing liabilities show a diversified funding mix

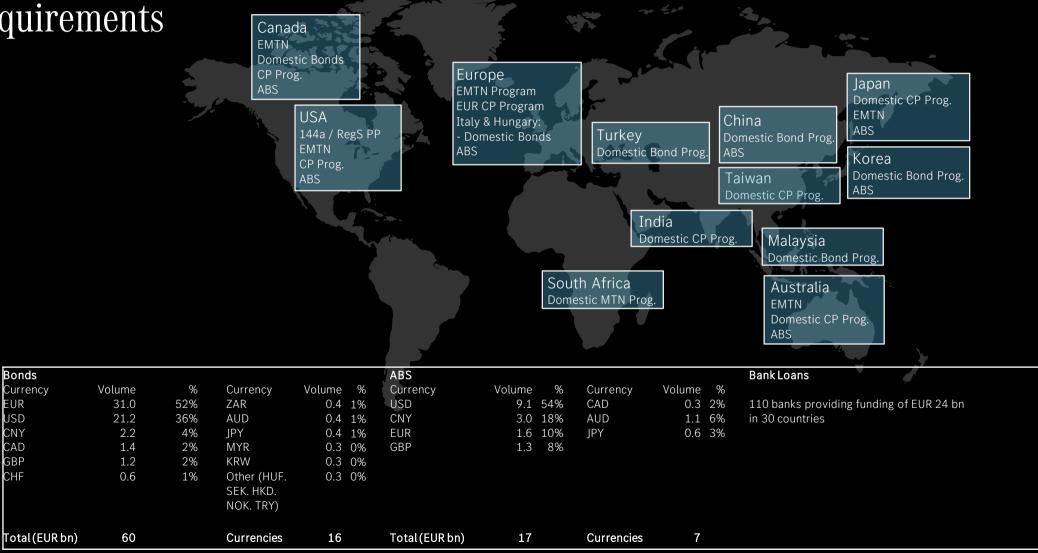


# To ensure sustainable portfolio growth, we mitigate risk and volatility through a balanced mix of funding instruments



#### Diversified global funding base: continuously matched with MBM

requirements



Mercedes-Benz

EUR

USD

CNY

CAD

GBP

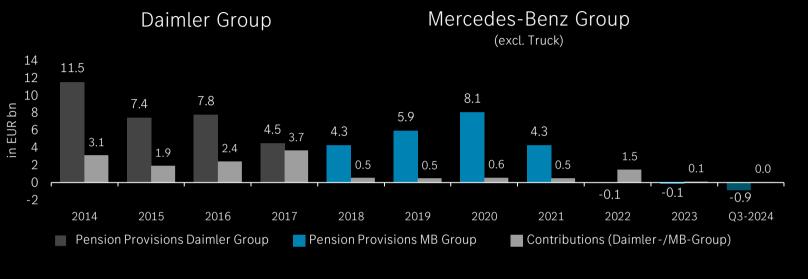
CHF

#### Mercedes-Benz Group's financial KPIs set to support a strong rating

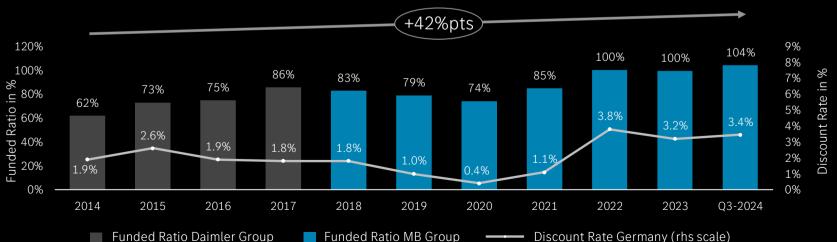
Current Credit Ratings

Agency	Long-term	Outlook	Short-term
S&P:	А	stable	A-1
Moody's:	A2	stable	P-1
DBRS:	А	stable	R-1 (low)
Scope:	A+	stable	S-1+

#### Funded Ratio of pension obligations at approximately 104%



Solid capital structure: on a net basis, no more pension provisions since 12/2022



Funded Ratio improved in 2024 due to positive asset returns and slightly increasing discount rate

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### Electrification has four dimensions



The pace of the transformation is set by customers and market conditions

We will be able to cater to different customer needs until well into the 2030s

50%

expected xEV\* share of new vehicles at Mercedes-Benz Cars in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of this decade

-20%

Investments targeted vs. 2019 in 2<sup>nd</sup> half of decade



as high as

# Our sustainable business strategy "Ambition 2039" goes far beyond our products

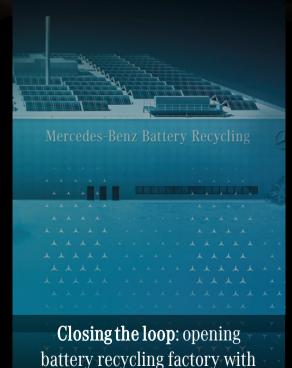




Sourcing: ~60% of critical raw material assessment process finalised



Retail: aim for net-carbon neutrality\* by 2030 across sales & aftersales locations



targeted recycling rate of >96%

<sup>\*</sup> Net carbon-neutrality means that carbon emissions that are not avoided or reduced at Mercedes-Benz are compensated for by certified offsetting projects

### Ambition 2039 - Our commitment to net carbon-neutrality<sup>1</sup>

Supply chain



Production & logistics



Well-to-tank



Tank-to-wheel



End-of-life



**2020:** 49.7 t CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per vehicle, Mercedes-Benz Cars<sup>3</sup>

**2023:** 46.3 t CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per vehicle, Mercedes-Benz Cars<sup>3</sup>

2039: Net carbon-neutral fleet of new Mercedes-Benz vehicles along all stages of the value chain

<sup>1</sup> Net carbon-neutral means not causing any CO2 emissions and compensating any CO2 emissions that do occur through certified projects to offset emissions

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> SBTi- Science-based target initiative; Mercedes-Benz AG targets for scope 1 and 2 as well as scope 3 (use phase) emissions approved in 2019

 $<sup>^3</sup>$  Incl. scope 1, scope 2 and selected scope 3  $\mathrm{CO}_2$ -emission categories concerning vehicle lifecycle

### MMA FAMILY integrates technology from VISION EQXX the most efficient Mercedes we have ever built

Mercedes-Benz Electric Drive Unit (MB.EDU) with up to

93% efficiency





15 min

charging delivers up to 400 km range



Range of more than

750 km\*



800 V system enables up to

300~kW DC charging

\*WLTP: In real driving conditions, deviations from the certified standard values may occur. The real values are influenced by a variety of individual factors, e.g., individual driving style, environmental and route conditions

### We want to ease the life of our customers with fast, convenient, and reliable charging solutions





North America: >30,000\* HPC plugs by end of decade





### America from 2024 onwards. Integration of NACS starting 2025

<sup>\*</sup> Figures are target values

### Mitigating transformation risks - optimising our footprint

#### CAPACITY

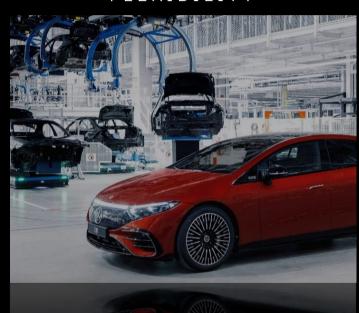


#### TRANSFORMATION



Rightsizing industrial footprint, e.g. Jawor: transformation from powertrain into van site, benefit for entire Group

#### FLEXIBILITY



Maximum flexibility with xEVs\* and combustion engine vehicles on the same production line

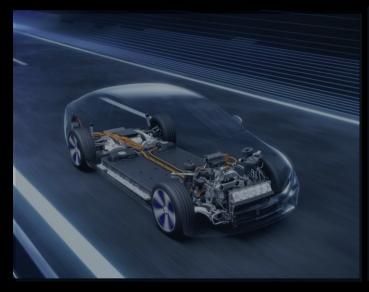
<sup>\*</sup> Plug-in hybrids and all-electric vehicles

### Mitigating transformation risks - optimising our cost base

SCALE

#### BATTERIES

PROCUREMENT





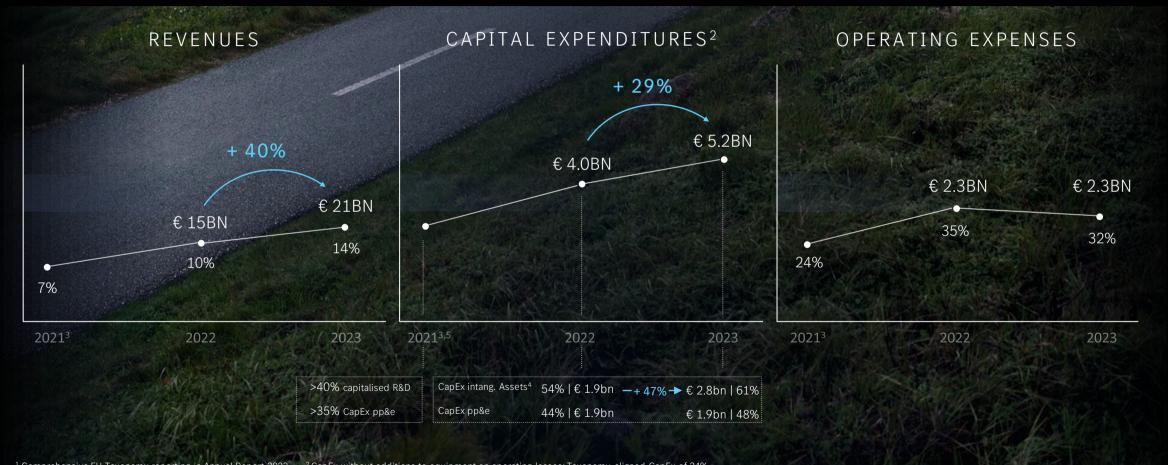


Future all-electric architectures designed in a way to use common components and synergy parts

> 30 % reduction in €/kWh battery cost possible in the coming years, while improving efficiency & charging time

Targeting the reduction of material costs in the coming years

### EU Taxonomy-aligned shares<sup>1</sup> - Taxonomy reporting demonstrates progress towards carbon neutrality



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Comprehensive EU Taxonomy reporting in Annual Report 2023 2 CapEx without additions to equipment on operating leases; Taxonomy-aligned CapEx of 24%

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Voluntary reporting on the proportion of economic activities relating to low-carbon vehicles (below the limit value of 50g CO<sub>2</sub>/km) <sup>4</sup> Mainly capitalised development cost <sup>5</sup> Including capital expenditure on non-current assets related to Daimler's commercial vehicle business until its first classification as available for sale or disbursement in accordance with IFRS 5 by July 30, 2022

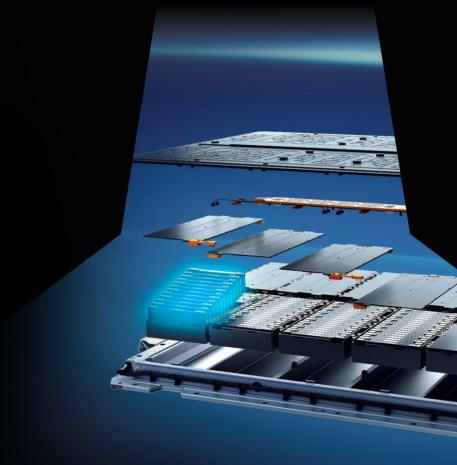
Together with our partners, we will expand our activities in battery cells and systems

Local-for-local strategy with partners and new cell factories around the world

**Envision AESC** 

CATL

ACC



# Mercedes-Benz tests Factorial solid-state battery cells: Breakthrough in battery technology innovation to advance EV safety and performance

#### Developed in partnership: all-solid-state battery Solstice™

High energy density

Significant increase in EV range

More sustainable, energy-efficient, and cost-effective battery production

Factorial already delivered B-samples of its solid-state battery cells utilizing its FEST® platform to Mercedes-Benz, paving the way for the new Solstice™ solid-state battery technology and the next generation of EVs

Expected to be implemented by the end of the decade





### We are addressing the battery cost challenge



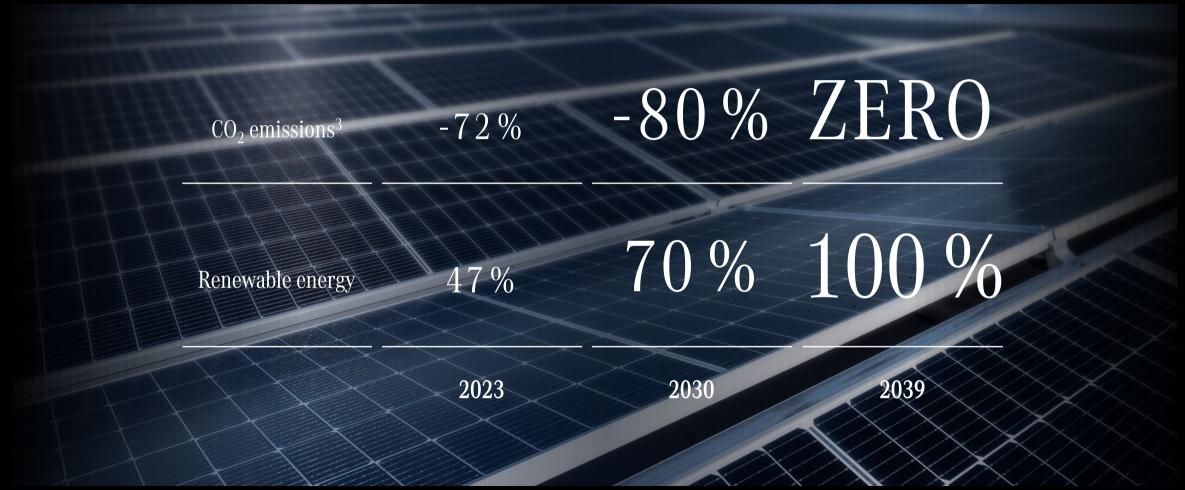


>30%

possible €/kWh battery cost reduction in coming years - while improving efficiency & charging time

- ► Optimised cell and module design
- ► Improved vehicle integration
- ► Further development of NMC and next gen LFP
- ► Cell updates during lifecycle
- ► Continuous improvement agreements with suppliers

Carbon reduction & renewable energy expansion at Mercedes-Benz Cars; net carbon-neutral production since  $2022^{1,2}$ 



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> All production plants operated by the Mercedes-Benz Group have been net carbon-neutral in terms of Scope 1 and Scope 2

Mercedes-Benz

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$  Net carbon-neutral means that no  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions are created or any resulting  $\mathrm{CO}_2$  emissions are offset by certified compensation projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Coming from 2018, CO<sub>2</sub> emissions scope 1 and scope 2

# Mercedes-Benz Group intends to cover more than 50% of its total electricity demand in Germany from new solar and wind power plants

PHOTOVOLTAIC



WINDPARK PAPENBURG



WINDPARK WINDANKER

Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) securing 140 MW from 2027 onwards

### We are establishing a net carbon-neutral\* supply chain

STEEL ALUMINIUM

CARBON FOOTPRINT REDUCTION BY 40% 1/3 of body-in-white steel in the

CO<sub>2</sub>-REDUCED STEEL FOR MORE THAN 1/3 OF DEMAND

U.S.-sourced from electric arc furnaces

Annual target for European press shops within this decade

#### 1/3 of primary aluminium

for next BEV models in EU using electricity from renewable sources for electrolysis – goal is to extend to all aluminium sourced for our foundry in Mettingen (Germany)

CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per kg/Al of approx.\*

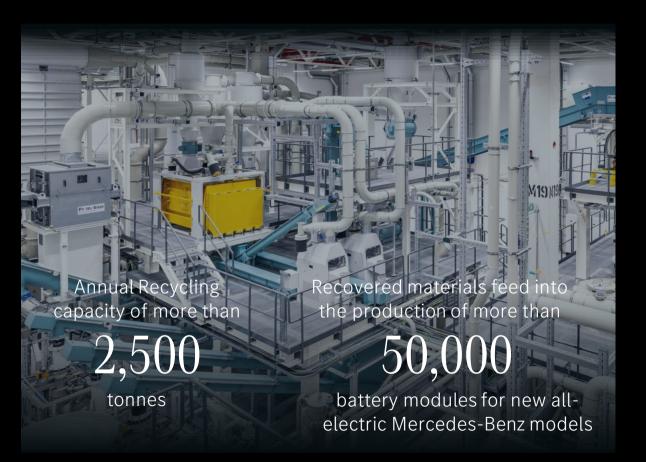
► 40-50 % starting in 2024

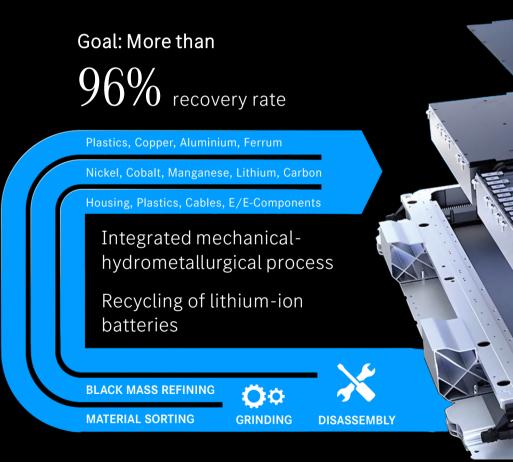
Developing further innovations for very-low-CO<sup>2</sup> aluminium parts with our partners

Targeted CO<sub>2</sub> reduction per kg/Al of approx.\*

>90 % by 2030

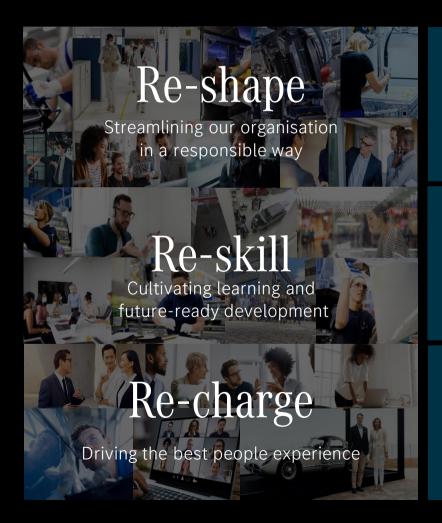
# Closing the loop with our net carbon-neutral\* battery recycling factory in Kuppenheim





<sup>\*</sup> Net carbon-neutrality means that carbon emissions that are not avoided or reduced at Mercedes-Benz are compensated for by certified offsetting projects

### Our sustainable people plan focuses on a just transition for our employees



Target pictures of locations and entities

Becoming a lean, resilient, agile and innovative company

Hiring for our future



>2 bn

investment in Turn2Learn qualification initiative worldwide 2022-2030

2.3 mn

learning hours in 2023, +19% compared to 2022

~ 142.000

participations in trainings in digitalisation in 2023 worldwide

Modern, flexible and diverse working environment

30% share of women in senior management positions by 2030

77% ARE SATISFIED
WORKING
AT MERCEDES-BENZ
+3% compared to 2021

### We finance our transformation in a sustainable manner

#### GREEN FINANCE FRAMEWORK



#### GREEN PANDA BOND



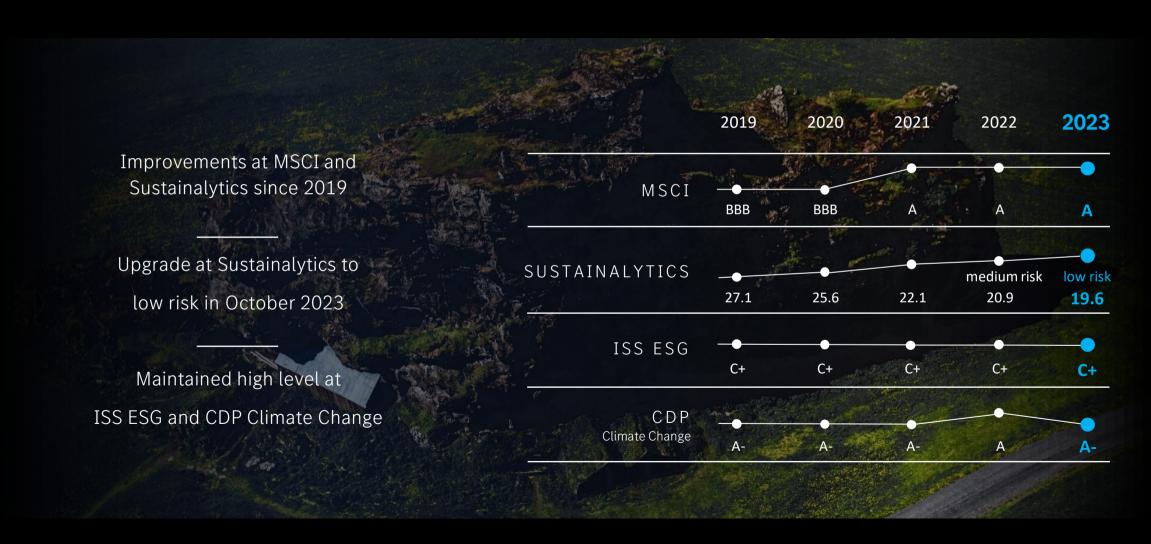
In line with Ambition 2039

"DARK GREEN" by CICERO

Green Mercedes-Benz Mobility assets and Green ABS

First automaker to issue a Green Panda Bond
Green Finance regional footprint expanded
Net proceeds for BEVs

### Mercedes-Benz Group ESG ratings performance



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### Mercedes-Benz - The original and most valuable luxury car brand

Heritage:
Mercedes-Benz is built on constant reinvention





1.5 bn 70.5 mn

cumulative TV viewers <sup>2</sup>

social media followers <sup>2</sup>

\$59 bn

Mercedes-Benz brand value 2024 <sup>1</sup>



We elevate our physical brand experience with unique "Mercedes moments"





















"The Mercedes-Benz Way"

**Customer Experience Training** completed by end of 2024 in 33 markets. Continuation as a programme with ongoing activities in 2025.



Customer experience with new look and feel already visible in more than 30% of showrooms worldwide.

Brand center network

Global expansion to ensure highly individual customer experience for AMG, Maybach & G

### The new Mercedes-Maybach SL Monogram Series, for the ultimate open-air experience



The Mercedes-Maybach SL 680 Monogram Series\* is the sportiest model in the Maybach brand's history

Two curated design concepts "Red Ambience" and "White Ambience" at market launch

Chrome fin and upright star on the bonnet as well as aerodynamic scoop behind the seats redefine proportions

Maybach pattern forms a stylish design element linking exterior and interior

The highest level of driving and acoustic comfort

Market rollout starts in Europe in spring 2025, with other markets to follow

## Limited and highly exclusive: Mercedes-AMG GT 63 PRO 4MATIC+ "Motorsport Collectors Edition"



Aimed at car enthusiasts and collectors who are looking for a particularly sporty driving experience and are Formula 1<sup>™</sup> fans

Special model limited to 200 units

Exclusive paintwork with star pattern and PETRONAS-coloured contrasting elements

Fully equipped including edition-specific car cover

450 kW (612 hp) of power from the AMG 4.0-litre V8 biturbo engine, aerodynamic fine-tuning with reduced lift and more powerful cooling contribute to enhanced driving dynamics

<sup>\*</sup> Mercedes-AMG GT 63 PRO 4MATIC+ "Motorsport Collectors Edition" (combined energy consumption: 14.0 I/100 km | combined CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 319 g/km | CO<sub>2</sub> class: G)
The specified values were determined according to the prescribed measurement procedure WLTP (WorldwideHarmonised Light Vehicles Test Procedure). The ranges given refer to the German market. The energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a car depend not only on the efficient use of the fuel or energy source by the car, but also on the driving style and other approximately consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of a car depend not only on the efficient use of the fuel or energy source by the car, but also on the driving style and other

### Reshaped model portfolio will drive profitable sales growth

Mercedes-Benz Car Sales	2.3 m cars	2.0 m cars		Change of segment share in 2026 vs. 2019
Top-End		328k units		Around +60%
Core		Average ASP >100k €		0 %
Entry				-25%
	2019	2023	2026	

### We are creating new opportunities for profitable growth at the top-end of our product and brand portfolio





S-Class: strengthening position as undisputed market leader





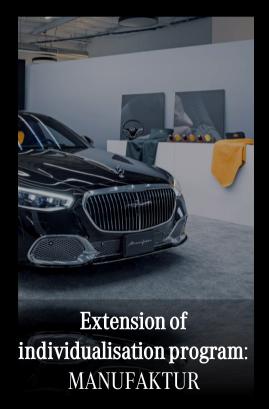
**Maybach**: redefining sophisticated luxury, e.g. rollout MM EQS SUV



**AMG**: pushing forward performance luxury with new AMG GT family

# For our most demanding customers, we will offer even more individualisation and exclusive editions







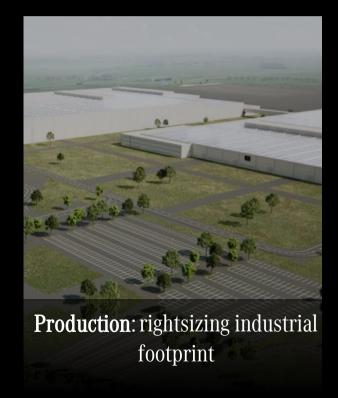




# We are continuously optimizing our footprint and our cost base









### Bottom line

We cannot control macroor world events. But we are redesigning & repositioning Mercedes-Benz to ensure a structurally more profitable company.



The essence of our brand and our way forward



66





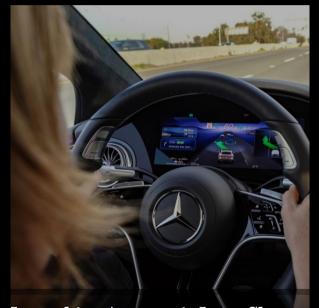
Mercedes-Benz Fixed Income Presentation Q3 2024

### **AGENDA**

- I. Mercedes-Benz Group Review Q3 2024
- II. Divisional Review Q3 2024
- III. Outlook FY 2024
- IV. Funding
- V. Sustainability
- VI. Luxury
- VII. Automated Driving & Operating System

### Mercedes-Benz continues to pioneer advancements in automated driving

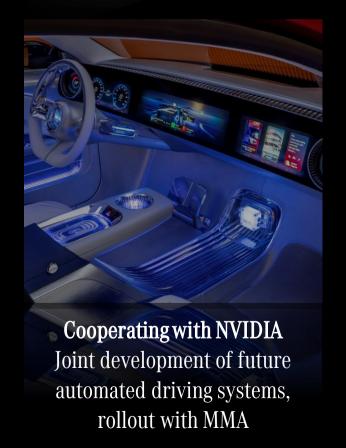




Launching Automatic Lane Change Function introduced in North America and China, Europe to follow this year



Advancing DRIVE PILOT (L3) Aim to extend speed up to 95 km/h in Germany by end of 2024, plans to go beyond



# Future of ADAS: Competitive & profitable system available for privately owned vehicles, pioneering L4

# Assisted Driving up to Level 2++ Partial Automation

### Ramp-to-Ramp & Point-to-Point Assisted Navigation

Soon: for complex urban environments and advanced automated parking

#### Automated Driving

### Level 3 Conditional Automation



#### **DRIVE PILOT**

First system with internationally valid type approval for conditionally automated driving\*. Even more use cases with updated version supporting up to 95 km/h in Germany.

### Level 4 High Automation



#### Level 4-Testing in Beijing

Mercedes-Benz: First international car maker to obtain approval for Level 4 automated driving testing for both urban roads and highways in Beijing for POVs

# Conditionally automated driving SAE-Level 3: DRIVE PILOT gives back time to customers

Mercedes-Benz is the first car company in the world to meet the UN-R157 regulation for conditionally automated driving

Orders for DRIVE PILOT for the S-Class and EQS started on May 17, 2022, in Germany

The production-ready version of DRIVE PILOT had its on-road debut in California and Nevada in late 2023 with a limited fleet of DRIVE PILOT equipped EQS Sedans

Mercedes-Benz started customer deliveries of DRIVE PILOT equipped MY2024 EQS Sedan and S-Class models in 2024 through participating authorized Mercedes-Benz dealers in California and Nevada



# Continuous updates for DRIVE PILOT: Advanced speed and take-over time enables unseen in-cabin use cases only L3 vehicles can offer

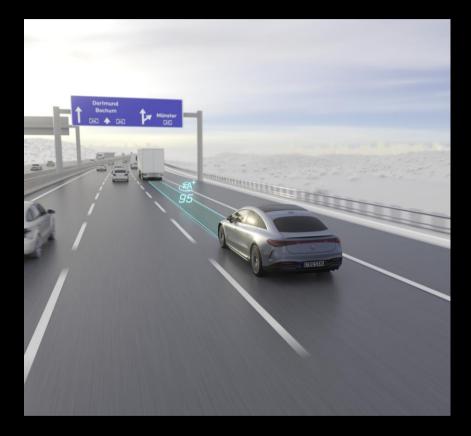


>> Give back time and offer highest driving comfort to our customers is our aim

### The evolution of DRIVE PILOT

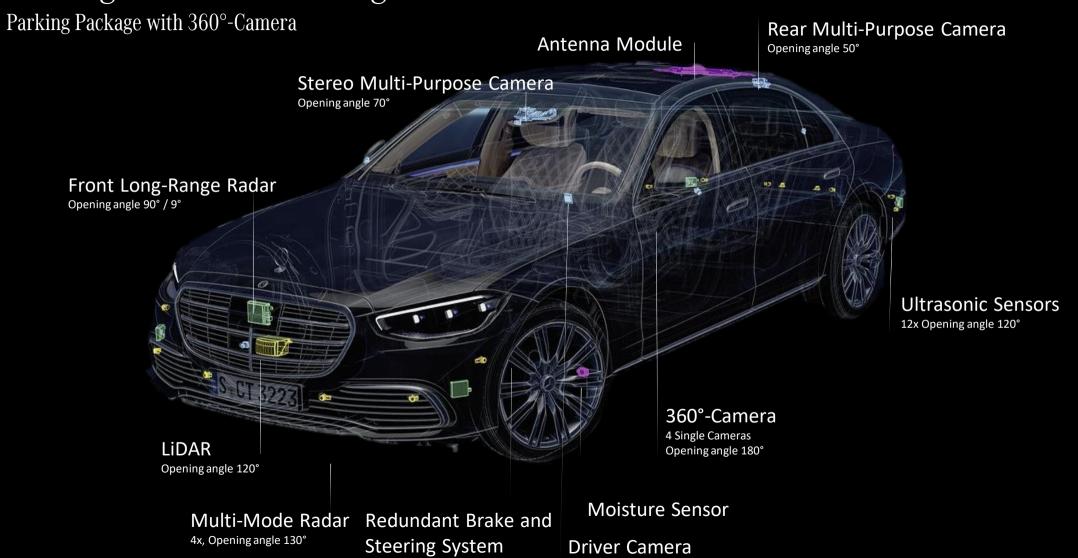


- >>> In congested traffic
- >>> Available on all lanes
- **>>>** Up to 60 km/h



- >>> In flowing traffic
- >>> Available on right lane only
- >>> Up to 95 km/h

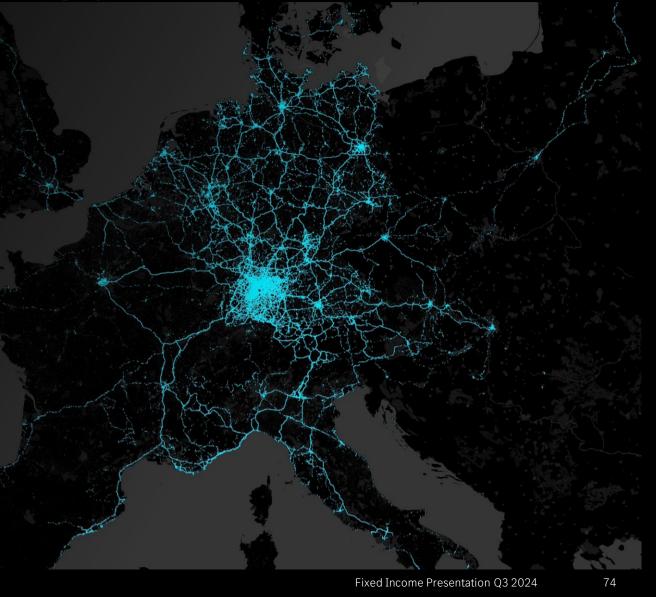
### Driving Assistance Package with DRIVE PILOT



### On-road validation of automated driving systems at Mercedes-Benz

We do extensive field validation to get real-life information about Level 2 and Level 3 system performance

- >>> Every single measurement is one dot on the map
- >>> Our data can simulate the road network of Europe
- >>> DRIVE PILOT extensively tested and available on all 13,191 km of German Autobahn



# Advancing next-generation Level 2 automated driving Leveraging machine learning



Best-in-class LiDAR

New dimension of processing power

AI-powered and data-driven

System designed for urban use cases

Point-to-point assisted driving based on navigation

Substantially increased availability and ODD

Starting with MMA for entry segment







# Accelerating next-gen Level 2+ and Level 3 automated driving with 2x computing power - Giving customers back even more time



### We are creating an exceptional digital experience





### Own operating system MB.OS

Launch in 2025 with MMA

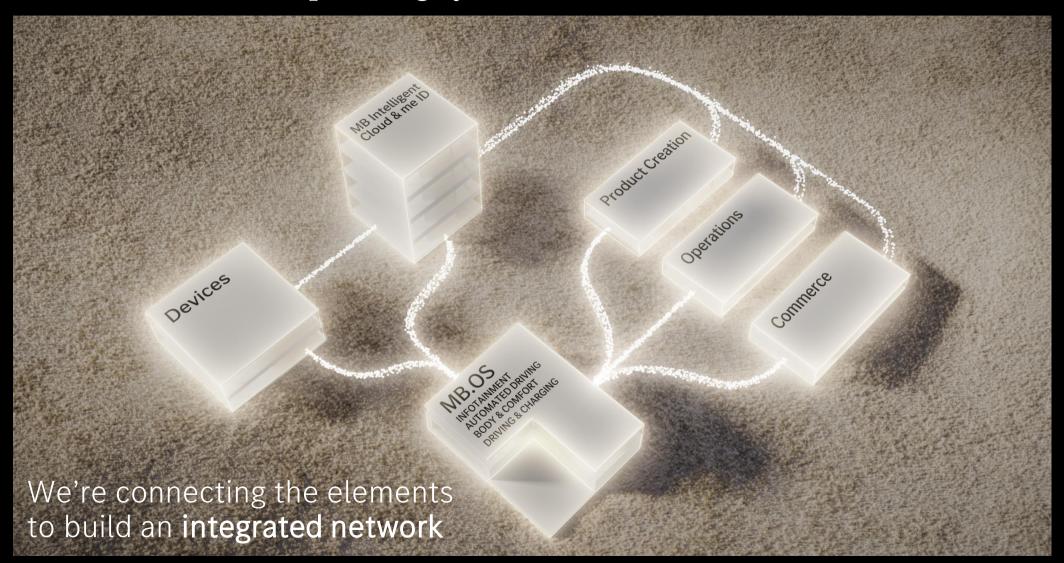
### Chip-to-cloud architecture

High-end computers give full access to hard- & software

#### Next level infotainment

Human-like interaction with generative AI, expansion of digital offering, advanced graphics

### MB.OS: It's about the operating system of our entire business



### MB.OS infotainment - upcoming exciting entertainment and navigation features

















### We are the architects

The world's most desirable cars Our promise:

Our opportunity: Outstanding products & improved enterprise productivity

Our conviction: Software a core competence

Our realism: Technology partnerships essential

Our vision: Future proofing our valuable real estate

Our focus: Delivering MB.OS for the launch of MMA



#### Disclaimer

This document contains forward-looking statements that reflect our current views about future events. The words "anticipate", "assume", "believe", "estimate", "expect", "intend", "may", "can", "could", "plan", "project", "should" and similar expressions are used to identify forward-looking statements. These statements are subject to many risks and uncertainties, including an adverse development of global economic conditions, in particular a negative change in market conditions in our most important markets; a deterioration of our refinancing possibilities on the credit and financial markets; events of force majeure including natural disasters, pandemics, acts of terrorism, political unrest, armed conflicts, industrial accidents and their effects on our sales, purchasing, production or financial services activities; changes in currency exchange rates, customs and foreign trade provisions; changes in laws, regulations and government policies (or changes in their interpretation), particularly those relating to vehicle emissions, fuel economy and safety or to ESG reporting (environmental, social or governance topics); price increases for fuel, raw materials or energy; disruption of production due to shortages of materials or energy, labour strikes or supplier insolvencies; a shift in consumer preferences towards smaller, lower-margin vehicles; a limited demand for all-electric vehicles; a possible lack of acceptance of our products or services which limits our ability to achieve prices and adequately utilize our production capacities; a decline in resale prices of used vehicles; the effective implementation of cost-reduction and efficiency-optimization measures; the business outlook for companies in which we hold a significant equity interest; the successful implementation of strategic cooperations and joint ventures; the resolution of pending governmental investigations or of investigations requested by governments and the outcome of pending or threatened future legal proceedings; and other risks and uncertainties, some of which are described under the heading "Risk and Opportunity Report" in the current Annual Report or in the current Interim Report. If any of these risks and uncertainties materializes or if the assumptions underlying any of our forward-looking statements prove to be incorrect, the actual results may be materially different from those we express or imply by such statements. We do not intend or assume any obligation to update these forward-looking statements since they are based solely on the circumstances at the date of publication.