

# pioneering

PARTNERSHIPS

**Q1 FY 2024/25 Earnings  
Release Update**  
21 August 2024



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# GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

# Q1 FY 2024/25 | GROUP FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Revenue

**Rs. 19.6 Bn**

+15.1% y/y



Operating Profit

**Rs. -1.6 Bn**

-28.6% y/y



Profit After Tax

**Rs. -2.5 Bn**

-25.8% y/y



Gross Margin

**12.1%**

+600 bps y/y



EBIT Margin

**-8.0%**

-80 bps y/y



Net-Debt-to  
Equity Ratio

**3.2**

+1.1 y/y



Note: The LKR/USD exchange rate in Q1 FY 24/25 averaged 4.7% lower than in Q1 FY 23/24; and 6.2% lower than in Q4 FY 23/24

# Q1 FY 2024/25 | GROUP HIGHLIGHTS

**Revenue growth of 15.1 y/y% in Q1 was driven by the contribution of BLD;** which added LKR 4.7 Bn to the Group's topline (24% of the total)

- PLMD revenue declined by 12.8% y/y, partly due to the 4.7% appreciation of the USD/LKR exchange rate during this period
- BLD revenue fell by 17.5% q/q, reflecting a seasonal downturn in Q1 (which is historically its weakest quarter as it falls between major fashion seasons in Europe)

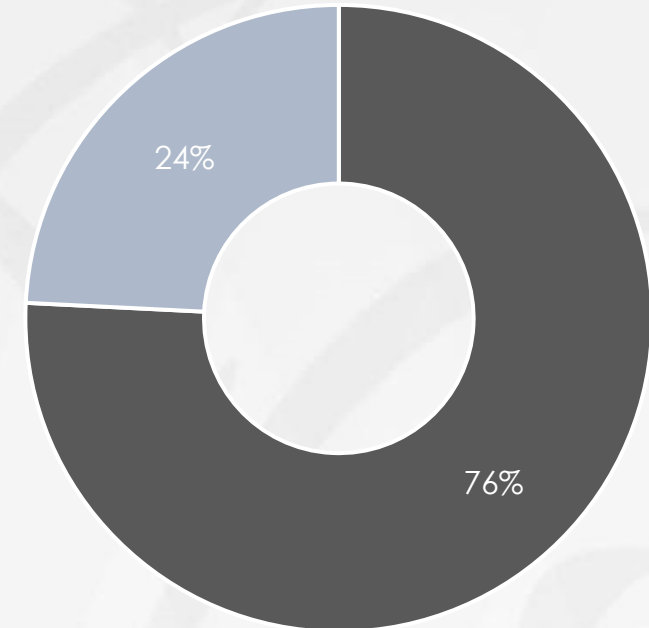
**Profitability was impacted by the seasonal weakness of the BLD,** with signs of improvement in the PLMD's profitability performance

- BLD recorded an operating loss of LKR 592 Mn, which was in line with expectations and due to the seasonal drop in orders in Q1
- Underlying signs were positive with a 600bp y/y rise in the Group's gross margin, and a significant reduction in the PLMD's operating loss

**Balance sheet remained robust** during Q1

- Group closed Q1 with a Net-Debt-to-Equity ratio of 3.2 and cash balance of LKR 7.6 Bn

Group Revenue by Division  
Q1 FY25 (% of Total)



- Private Label Manufacturing Division
- Brand Licensing Division





# BRAND LICENSING DIVISION (BLD)



# BLD | Q1 FY 2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

## BRAND LICENSING DIVISION – PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

(LKR Mn)	Q1 2024/25
REVENUE	4,735
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>(451)</b>
EBITDA MARGIN (%)	(9.5%)

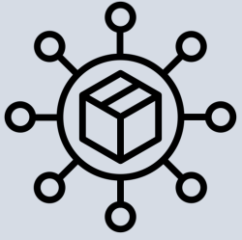
### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

- **Revenue of LKR 4.7 Bn (compared to LKR 5.7 Bn in Q4) reflected an expected seasonal drop in BLD demand.** Indeed, revenue was slightly above internal forecasts for the period
- **Q1 has historically always been the BLD's weakest reporting period as it falls between key fashion seasons in Europe.** Prior to the acquisition, a similar operating loss was recorded during the same period of FY 2023/24
- **Focus Brands restructuring strategy is moving ahead as planned**, set to support an improved financial performance over the coming quarters:
  - Consolidation of UK warehouses into single location completed
  - Key new management hires now in place
  - Realigned and reenergized brand portfolio



# BLD | KEY DEVELOPMENTS

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## CLOSURE OF ONE UK DISTRIBUTION CENTRE COMPLETED

- **St Albans warehouse property returned on 24<sup>th</sup> July as planned**, with no additional costs incurred
- Distribution operations now consolidated into single modern UK warehouse, supported by partner warehouse in the EU



## REEBOK OUTERWEAR LICENSE FOR UK & EUROPE

- Reebok outerwear license for UK and Europe has been formally announced by joint press release with Authentic Brands Group
- **First products are set to hit stores in Spring 2025**, with a positive response from retailers so far



## INTRODUCTION OF AVX TO LICESEND BRAND PORTFOLIO

- **Urban lifestyle brand evolving from the existing Avirex brand**; aligns strongly with wider BLD brand portfolio
- Products launching in early-2025 with significant marketing activations planned







**PRIVATE LABEL MANUFACTURING**  
**hela DIVISION (PLMD)**



# PLMD | Q1 FY 2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS

## PRIVATE LABEL MANUFACTURING DIVISION – PERFORMANCE OVERVIEW

(LKR Mn)	Q1 2024/25	Q1 2023/24	Y/Y Variance
REVENUE	14,822	16,992	-12.8%
EBTIDA	(571)	(1,129)	+49.4%
EBITDA MARGIN (%)	(3.9%)	(6.6%)	+270 bp

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE QUARTER

- **PLMD revenue of LKR 14.8 Bn during Q1 reflected a 12.8% y/y decline, partly due to the LKR appreciation.** Q1 also tends to be a weaker quarter for PLMD due to the higher prevalence of holidays across all operating countries
- **Nonetheless, the underlying trend remains towards improving demand** – USD revenue fell by only 2.0% q/q and was still 13.0% above its low in Q3 23/24
- **Profit margins also improved markedly, despite the drop in revenue**, as PLMDs capacity base is now well aligned with demand levels:
  - PLMD's gross margin improved by 390bp to 10.0% - the highest level since FY2022/23, reflecting strong capacity utilization (~95%)
  - EBITDA margin improved by 270bp to -3.9% as administrative and distribution expenses were tightly controlled

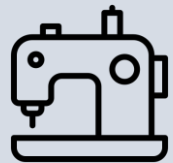


# PLMD | KEY DEVELOPMENTS



## FURTHER CUSTOMER ONBOARDING WINS

- **La Senza, the established global lingerie brand**, successfully onboarded as an additional high-value customers
- First production of sleepwear shipped in July 2024

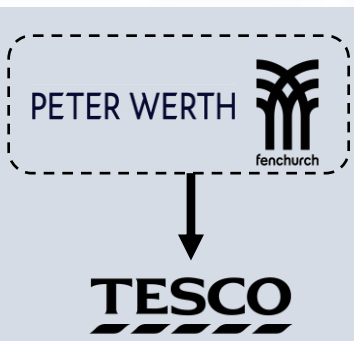


## MANUFACTURING CAPACITY OPTIMISATION

- **Transition of all manufacturing facilities in Sri Lanka to 6-day work week** (from 5 days) commenced from July 2024
- Optimization of overheads, while flexibly boosting capacity to meet growing demand

## FIRST PETER WERTH ORDER FOR TESCO COMPLETED

- **Manufacturing of first Peter Werth order for Tesco completed** and set for shipping in August
- Represents the realization of a key synergy between BLD and PLMD, delivering additional demand







# GROUP OUTLOOK



## OPERATING ENVIRONMENT



**Consumer demand conditions showing continued resilience;** though downside risks remain



**Major central banks beginning easing cycles,** supporting consumer demand and reducing the cost of financing

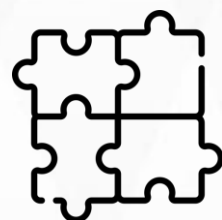


**Red Sea shipping disruption continuing unabated;** weighing on margin improvement potential

### BRAND LICENSING DIVISION



Improvement in performance expected as BLD moves into prime selling period

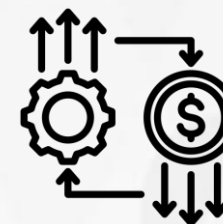


Current trading suggests stable performance vs. previous year (pre-acquisition)

### PRIVATE LABEL MANUFACTURING DIVISION



Current order book indicates significant pickup in demand



Supportive of marked improvement in profitability, based on realigned cost base

# GROUP OUTLOOK | DEMAND VISIBILITY



**Current PLMD orderbook suggest approx. 15% q/q increase in loading in Q2 FY24/25** – timing of revenue recognition may differ



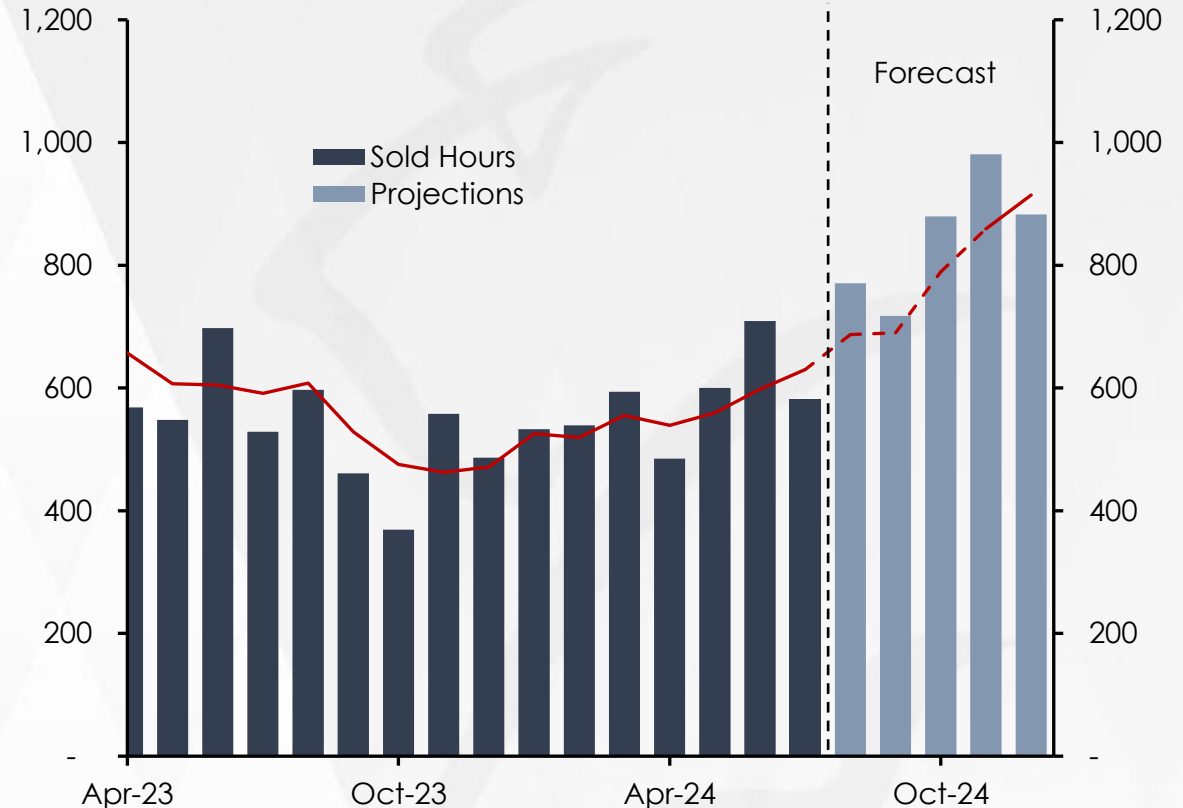
**Over 90% of the Q2 order book is confirmed** and early indications (based on customer projections) suggest further demand upside in Q3



**BLD budgeted order book for the full year is currently 70%+ confirmed**; and is overall tracking in line with expectations

## PLMD Loading

Q1 FY 24 – Q3 FY 25 (Sold Standard Hours, Thousands)



*Note: Projected loading is based on a combination of confirmed customer orders and loading forecasts provided by major customers. As such, projected loading is subject to change based on updated information provided by customers and manufacturing performance.*



# GROUP OUTLOOK | MARGIN IMPROVEMENT



## MARGIN IMPROVEMENT DRIVERS



### BLD SET TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TO BOTTOM LINE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR

- **Q2 onwards represent the BLD's prime selling period;** expected to contribute positively to bottom line
- Focus Brands' current trading is in line with the previous year (pre-acquisition), which delivered a profitable full year result (excluding one-off transaction costs related to the acquisition)



### PLMD ALSO POISED FOR SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN PROFITABILITY

- **PLMD gross margin set to improve further** – supported by improvement in capacity utilization and shift to higher-margin customers (reflecting new brands added over the past 18 months)
- **Admin and distribution costs are also being tightly controlled** to ensure the expected improvement in top line and gross margins feeds through to operating profit

## CAPITAL AUGMENTATION STRATEGY



### PHASED CAPITAL AUGMENTATION STRATEGY UNDERWAY TO STRENGTHEN BALANCE SHEET

- **Initial phase to raise LKR 1.6 Bn in additional equity via a Rights Issue is set to be completed over the coming weeks** – proceeds will be used to settle existing borrowings, bolstering the Group's balance sheet
- Top 3 shareholders, holding over 75% of the total share capital, have already confirmed their participation



# SOCIAL CAPITAL UPDATE

# SOCIAL CAPITAL | COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT



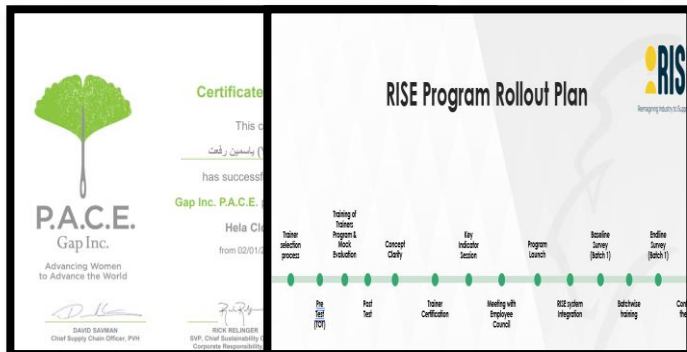
## HELA DIRILIYA

- Diriliya is **950+ entrepreneurs** and potential entrepreneurs strong
- **One-on-One Business Consultation Sessions** for selected Diriliya members in Naula
- A Diriliya member received a **bulk order of over 800,000 LKR from Urban Island**, included products: Aprons, T-shirts, Tote bags, and Tea towels



## HELA DIRIDARUWO

- Created 35+ internal and external **employment opportunities for Diridaruwo scholars**
- **One-on-One Career Guidance Consultation Sessions** with Diridaruwo scholars, organized by Berendina
- Hela was honored with the **Tesco Award for Communities** at Tesco Indian Sub-Continent Supplier (ISC) conference in Bangalore



## P.A.C.E. PROGRAM & RISE PROGRAM

- Commenced distribution of **PACE program completion certificates for PACE Graduates.**
- Internal trainer nominations & shortlisting process conducted for the **RISE – Train the Trainer Program.**



# SOCIAL CAPITAL | ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP



## ISO 14064-1 : 2018 Certification for GHG Monitoring – Completed for fourth time

- GHG Quantification & Reporting – In progress for all 03 scopes
- Expanded the emission calculation of the scope 03 categories to purchased goods, capital goods, and fuel related upstream activities



SCIENCE  
BASED  
TARGETS

DRIVING AMBITIOUS CORPORATE CLIMATE ACTION

## Science Based Targets for GHG reductions have been submitted to the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) for validation

- Aligns with global target to maintain increase in global temperatures below 1.5 degrees
- Hela has committed to reducing its Scope 01 emissions by 42% and Scope 3 emissions by 25%, by 2030



Hela's sustainability, social capital and product Innovation teams presented initiatives under the category of CSR & Responsible Production at the **1st International Symposium on Green Industry Initiatives for Sustainable Industrial Development**, organised by the Industrial Development Board

# SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT

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## Contact Investor Relations

Email: [investors@helaclothing.com](mailto:investors@helaclothing.com)

Website: <http://www.helaclothing.com>

Hela Apparel Holdings PLC  
35, Balapokuna Road,  
Colombo 6, Sri Lanka



# THANK YOU