

The Six-Month Period Ended September 30, 2023

Earnings Briefing

October 31, 2023 Securities code: 2148 Tokyo Stock Exchange Prime Market





This document has been translated from the Japanese original for reference purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy between this translation and the Japanese original, the original shall prevail.

- Forward-looking statements, such as earnings outlooks, are based on information available when the material was created and include uncertainties. Actual earnings may substantially differ from the forecasts due to changes in various factors and business conditions.
- > Items that could impact the Company's earnings are listed in the "Business Risk" section of the Securities Report (*Yukashokenhokokusho*) for the Fiscal Year Ended March 31, 2023. It should be noted that factors that could impact earnings are not limited to those listed in the Business Risk section. Risks and uncertainties include the possibility of future events that may have a serious and unpredictable impact on the Company.
- > The information included in this material has been carefully prepared, but readers should be aware that we do not guarantee the accuracy or certainty of that information.
- > This material is not intended to solicit investments. We shall advise you to make your final investment decision at your own risk.
- > The unauthorized use of this material and data is strictly prohibited.
- > The Company voluntarily applied International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) starting with the 1Q FY16.
- For the fiscal year ended March 31, 2020, Knowledge on Demand Inc. was classified as a discontinued operation because of the transfer of shares. Income and losses arising from discontinued operations are given separately from continuing operations in the Condensed Interim Statement of Income. Revenue and operating income are the monetary amount of continuing operations. We have applied this classification to the Condensed Interim Statement of Income for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2019.



Understanding the Current Situation and Future Policies

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview

BtoB Media Business

BtoC Media Business

FY23 Earnings Forecast

Company Business Overview

Growth Strategies and New Initiatives

Shareholder Return and Sustainability

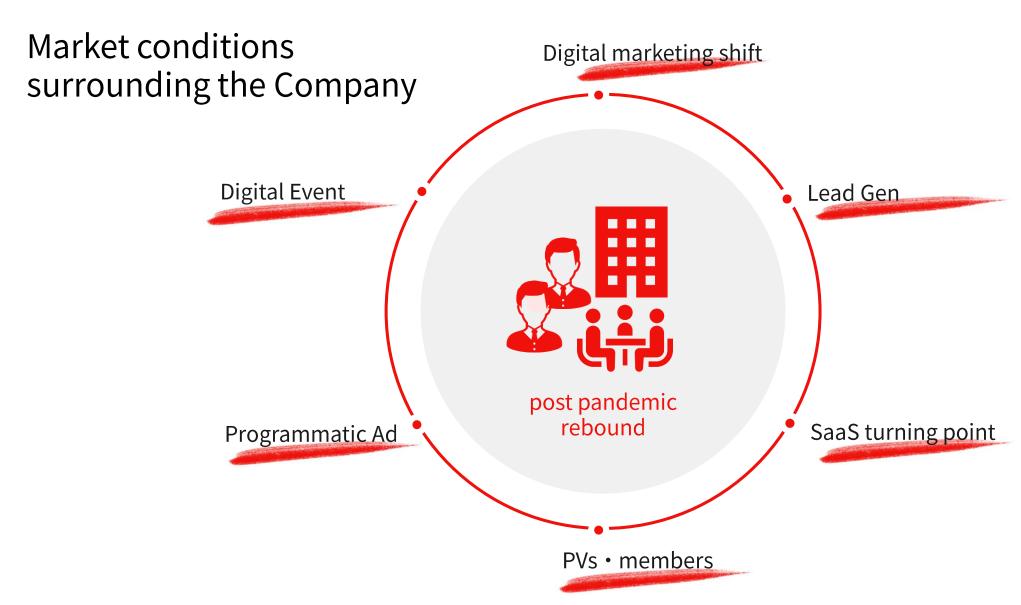




Decreased revenue and profit. Q2 slightly below expectations but improved from Q1.

Unit: million yen	<u>.</u> Q1	Q2	Q2 cumulative	Annual forecast
Revenue	1,802 (-9%)	2,039 (-8%)	3,841 (-9%)	8,320 (-5%)
Operating income	414 (-34%)	637 (-16%)	1,052 (-24%)	2,400 (-18%)
Net income	280 (-34%)	436 (-16%)	717 (-24%)	1,620 (-18%)







End of the accelerated growth period triggered by COVID-19 Growth slowdown and reactionary decline

COVID-19 pandemic triggers Changes in society and work styles Changes in media Changes in marketing The shift to The shift to The shift to digital accelerated digital accelerated digital accelerated Sharp increase Rapid increase in Demand for Communication via Lead Generation expansion video staving at home in DX SaaS use Digital Event expansion Expanded use Technology company Special demand of digital media Market established occurred earnings expansion (PVs, members) Programmatic Ad expansion

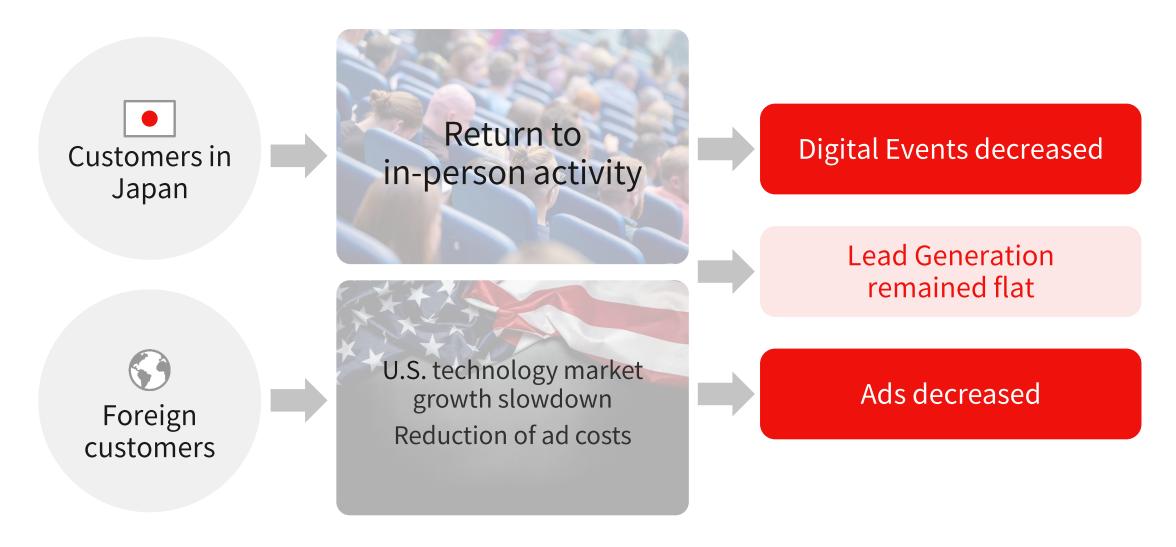
While the digital shift is certain to continue, the period of acceleration has temporarily ended, and there was a reactionary decline.

(increase in unit price)

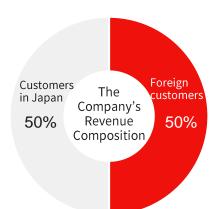




Impact of market conditions surrounding the Company continues

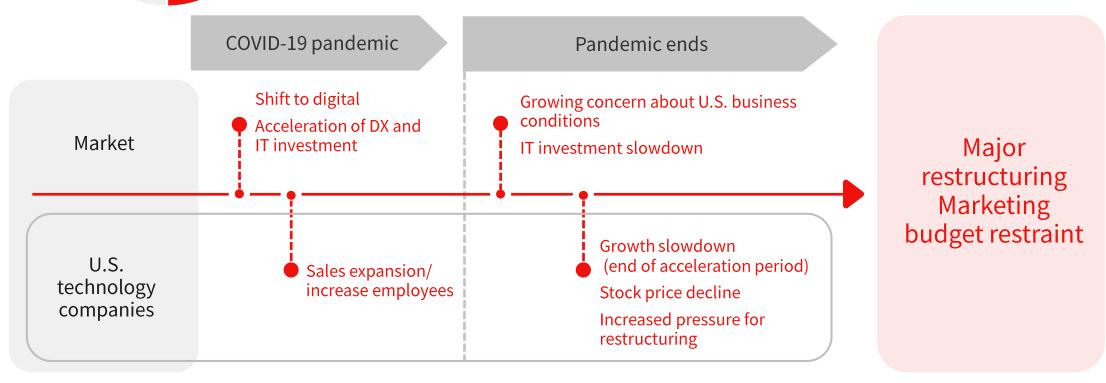




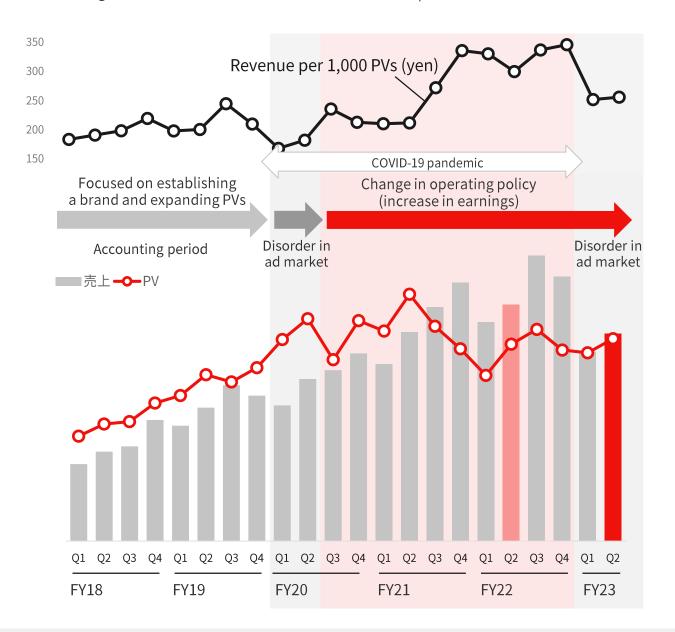


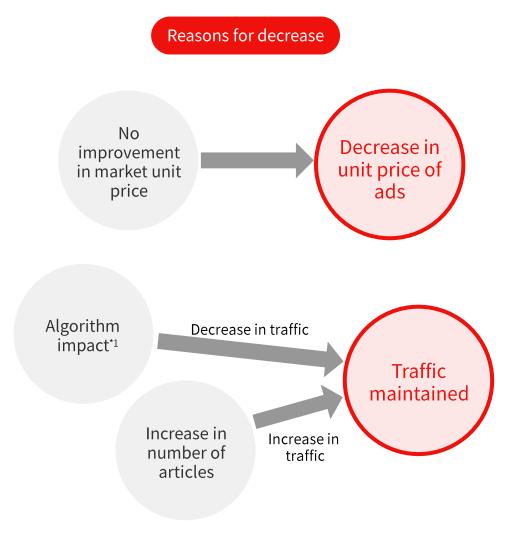
Growth of technology companies slows down as pandemic ends

Large-scale restructuring as a result of the above, coupled with concerns about U.S. business conditions



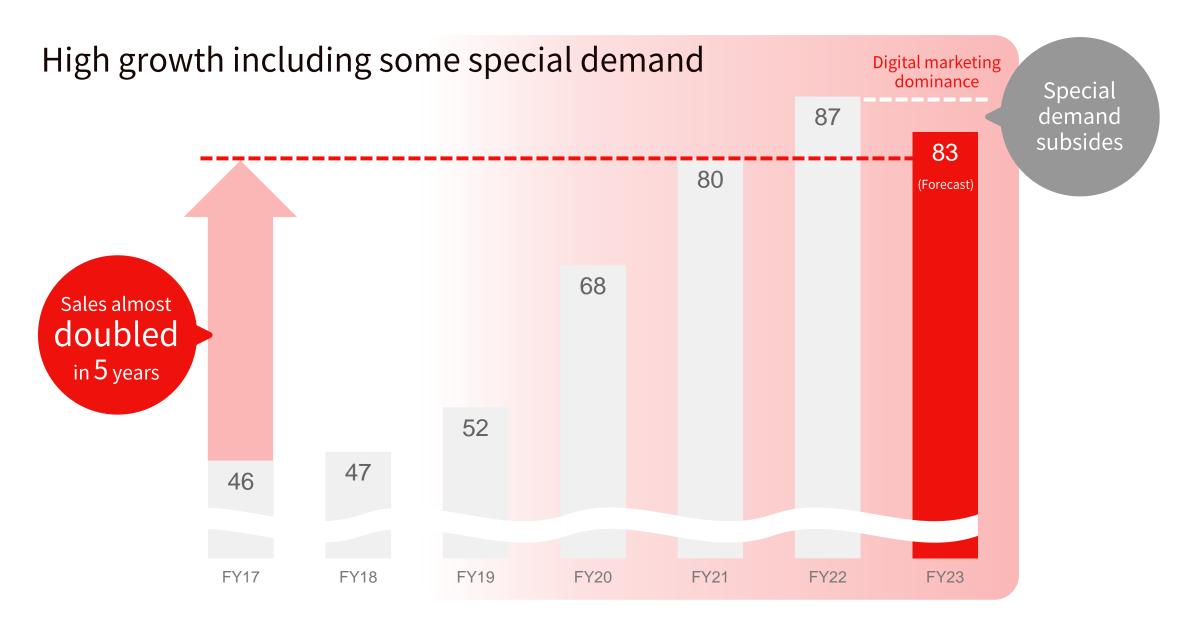






^{*1} Temporary traffic decay occurred on some search engine algorithms like Google's







Strengthen earnings development for the next fiscal year and beyond, with an eye on growth markets

Current Environment

Return to in-person activity from digital events

U.S. technology market growth slowdown (Restructuring)

Programmatic Ad market unit price decline

Environmental Outlook

Short-term recovery is not expected

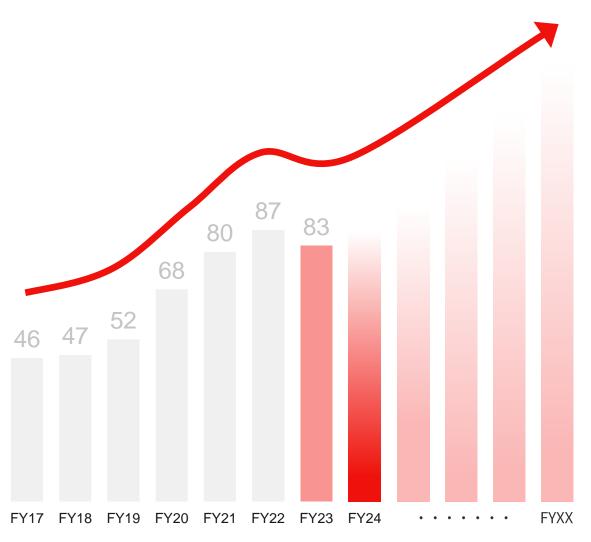
Signs of improvement in some areas



Acceleration of media capabilities
Use of AI



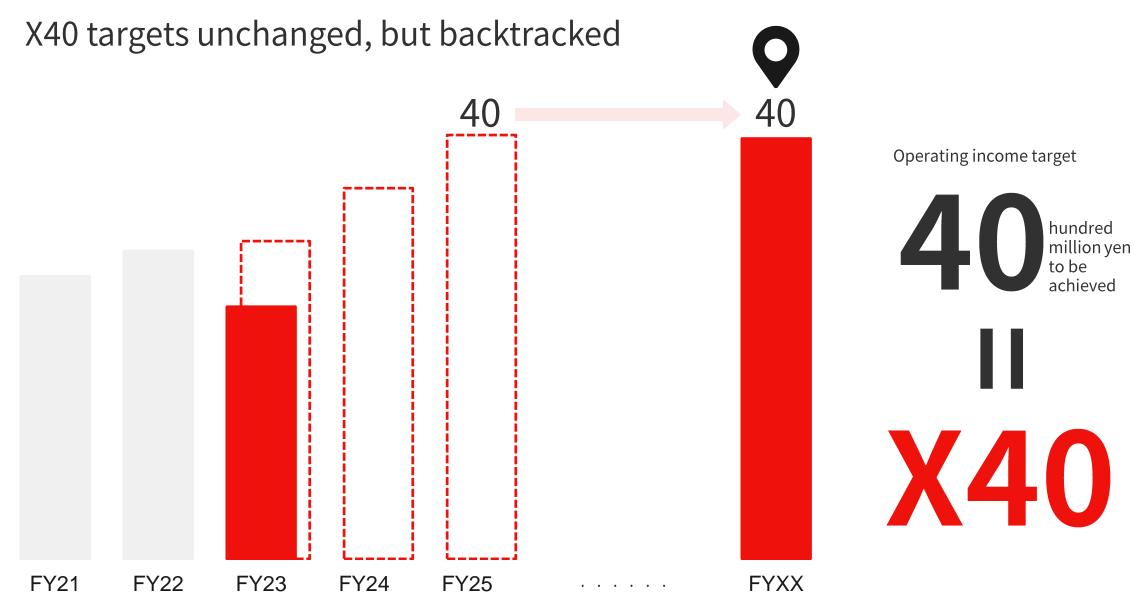
Aiming for S-shaped recovery with FY24 as a turning point



Medium-Term Outlook and Policies

- Impact of recovery from COVID-19 is larger than expected
- Progress of digital shift is certain in the mid- to long-term
- No restructuring or curbing significant costs
- New initiatives to boost growth
- Growth recovery trend in FY24-25







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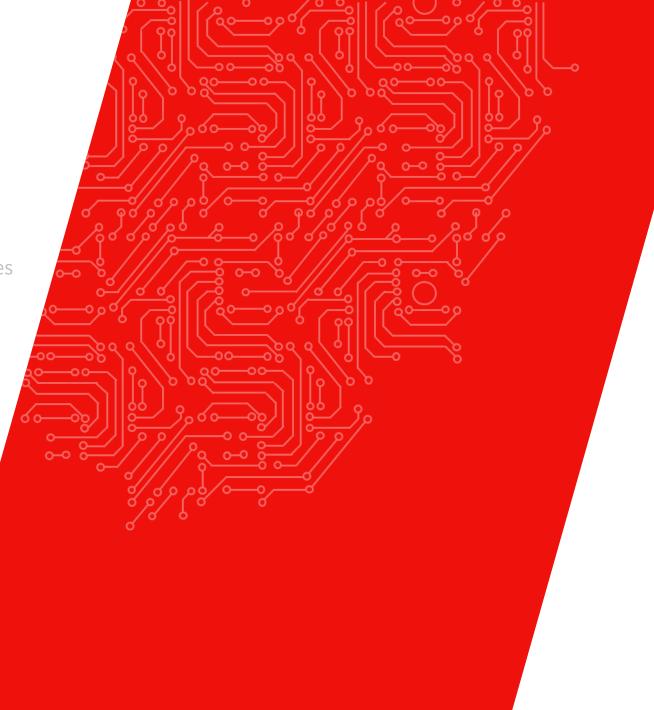
BtoC Media Business

FY23 Earnings Forecast

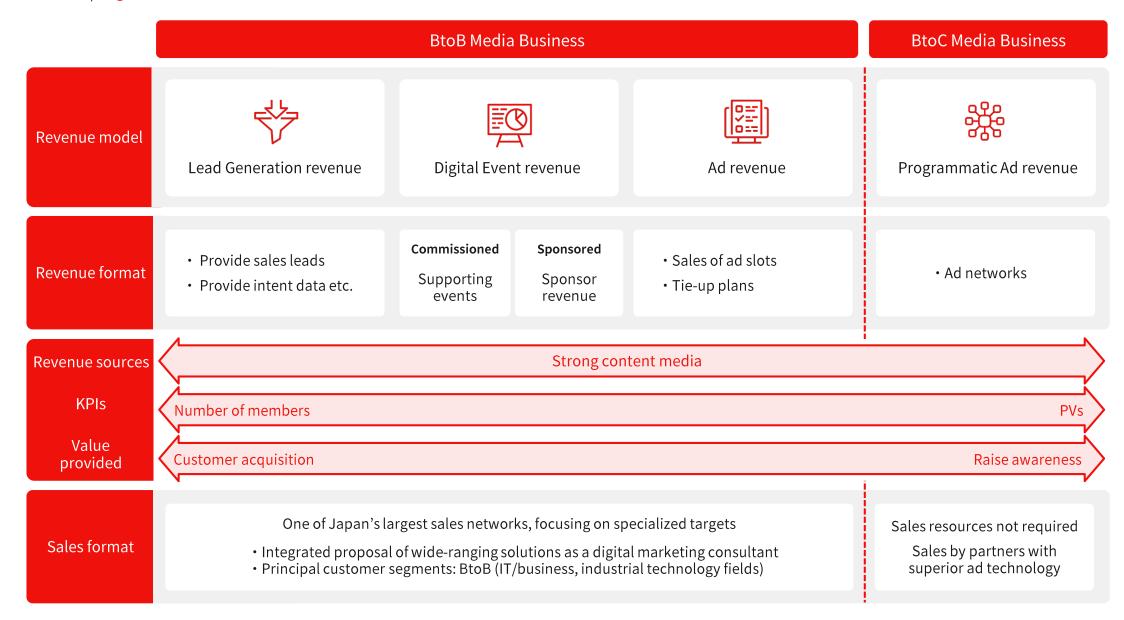
Company Business Overview

Growth Strategies and New Initiatives

Shareholder Return and Sustainability







FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview | Executive Summary



Decreased revenue and profit. Q2 slightly below expectations but improved from Q1. Impact of market deterioration expected to remain throughout FY23.

Earnings

External Environment & Overview

Decreased revenue and profit

Revenue : ¥3,841 million (-9%)

• Lead Generation revenue -2%

Digital Event revenue -20%

• Ad revenue -6%

• Programmatic Ad revenue -12%

Operating income : ¥1,052 million (-24%)

Impact of market conditions surrounding the Company continued

U.S. technology market growth slowdown

Decreased revenues from foreign customers

There was a return to in-person activity due to the expected end of the pandemic

• Demand for digital events slowed down

Programmatic Ad market declined more than expected

Traffic decay occurred on some search engine algorithms

Earnings Forecast

Q2 Actual

Will remain within planned range

Revenue : ¥8,320 million (-5%)

Operating income : ¥2,400 million (-18%)

We purchased own shares

Market conditions are expected to remain bearish

U.S. technology market growth slowdown

· Expected to improve in the second half onward

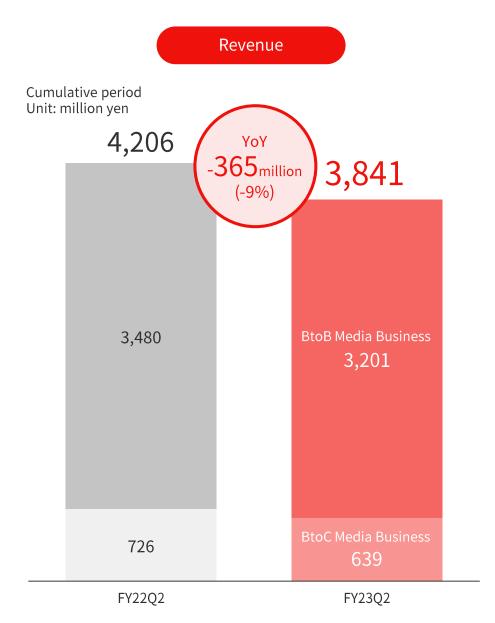
There was a return to in-person activity due to the expected end of the pandemic

Digital Events special demand subsides

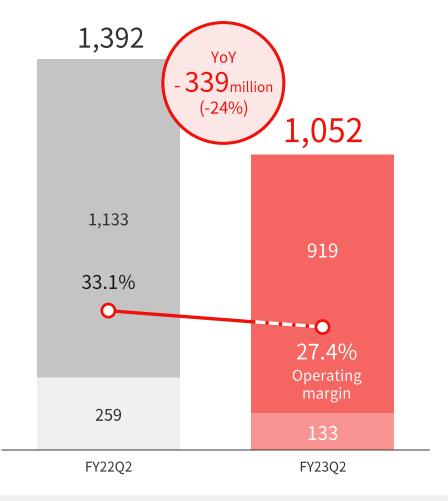
Programmatic Ad market

• Moderate improvement is expected





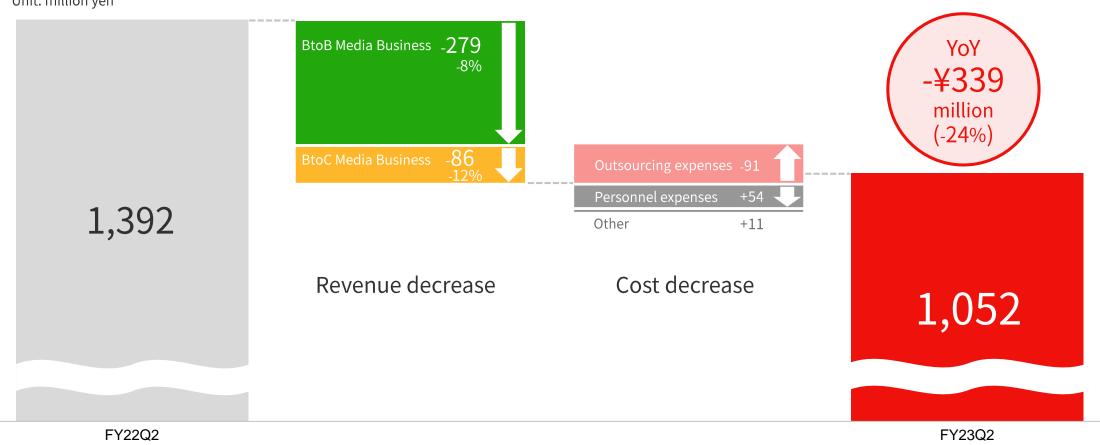
Operating income





Decreased revenue and profit. Decreased total cost, mainly outsourcing expenses.





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	FY22Q2		FY23Q2			
Cumulative period Unit: million yen	Amount	As % of revenue	Amount	As % of revenue	Increase	% change
Revenue	4,206	100.0%	3,841	100.0%	(365)	(8.7)%
Total cost	2,814	66.9%	2,788	72.6%	(25)	(0.9)%
(of which are personnel expenses)	1,491	35.5%	1,546	40.3%	+54	+3.6%
EBITDA	1,525	36.3%	1,168	30.4%	(356)	(23.4)%
Operating income	1,392	33.1%	1,052	27.4%	(339)	(24.4)%
Income before income tax	1,390	33.0%	1,056	27.5%	(333)	(24.0)%
Net income	946	22.5%	717	18.7%	(228)	(24.2)%
Net income attributable to owners of parent	946	22.5%	717	18.7%	(228)	(24.2)%

^{*} EBITDA: Operating income + depreciation + amortization on intangible assets + impairment loss + stock-based compensation expenses - other one-time revenue + other one-time expenses

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview | Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows



Cumulative period Unit: million yen	FY22Q2	FY23Q2	Change
Cash flows from operating activities	727	775	+47
Cash flows from investing activities	(12)	(105)	(93)
Cash flows from financing activities	(316)	(724)	(408)
Change in cash and cash equivalents	398	(54)	(453)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the period	6,815	7,978	+1,162
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the period	7,214	7,923	+709

Main items of operating CF	
Net income (loss) before income tax	+1,056
Depreciation and amortization	+116
Decrease in trade and other receivables	+69
Income taxes paid	(472)
Main items of investing CF	
Purchase of property, equipment, and intangible assets	(142)
Leasehold and guarantee deposits	+49
Main items of financing CF	
Dividends paid	(276)
Purchase of treasury shares	(387)
Payments of lease liabilities	(63)

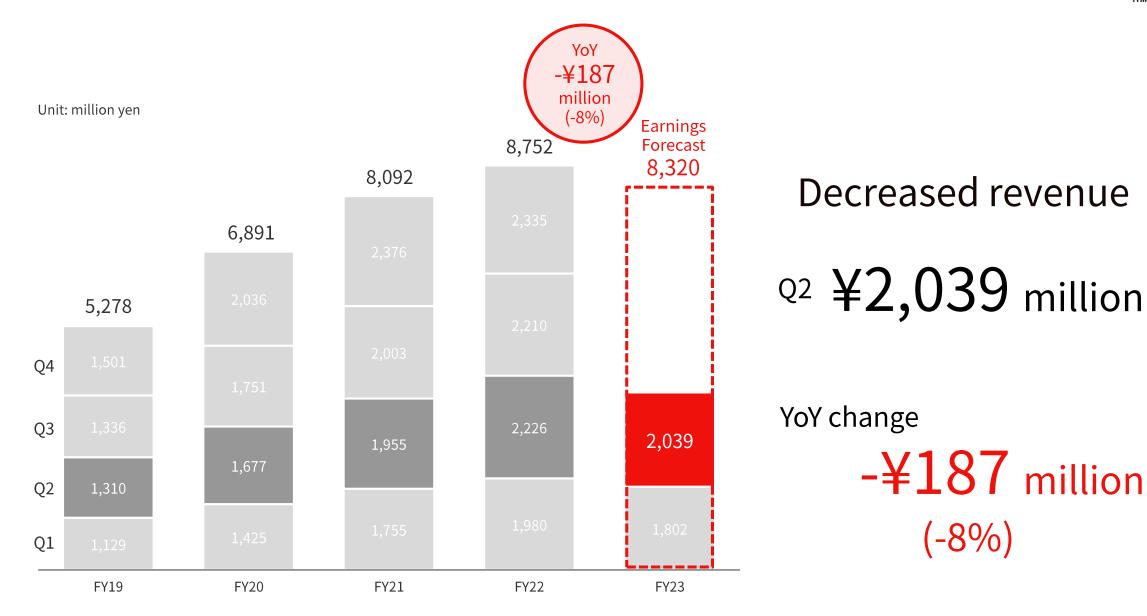
FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview | Consolidated Statement of Financial Position



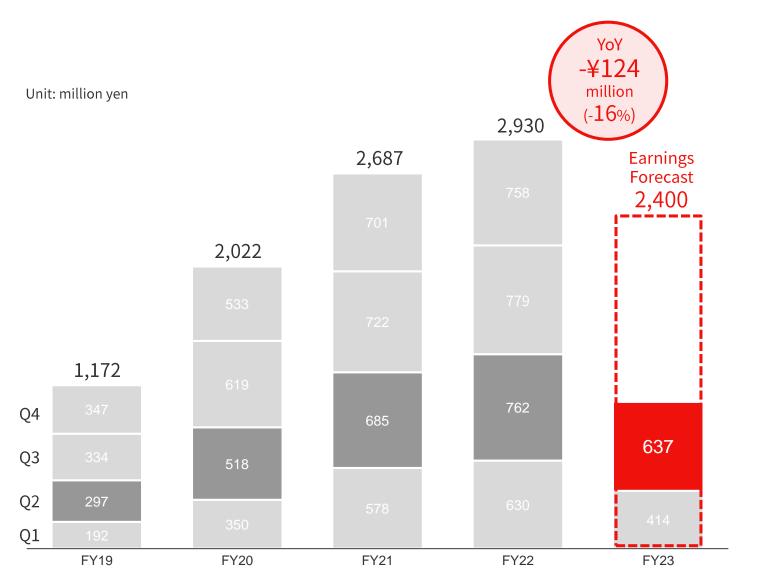
Unit: ı	million yen	At the end of March 2023	At the end of September 2023	Change
Assets	Current assets	9,996	9,809	(187)
	Non-current assets	1,161	1,319	+158
	Total assets	11,158	11,129	(28)
	Current liabilities	1,668	1,518	(149)
Liabilities	Non-current liabilities	60	125	+64
ies	Total liabilities	1,729	1,644	(84)
	Share capital/capital surplus	3,969	3,973	+3
	Retained earnings	6,603	7,044	+440
	Treasury stock	(1,144)	(1,532)	(387)
Equity	Accumulated other comprehensive income	_	0	+0
	Total equity attributable to owners of parent	9,429	9,485	+56
	Total equity	9,429	9,485	+56
	uity attributable to owners of rent per share	¥476.37	¥487.21	+¥10.84
	Ratio of equity attributable to owners of parent to total assets		85.2%	+0.7pt

Total assets	
Cash and cash equivalents	(54)
Trade and other receivables	(69)
Other current assets	(55)
Right-of-use assets	+195
Other financial assets	(49)
Total liabilities	
Trade and other payables	(89)
Lease liabilities	+184
Income tax payable	(132)
Other current liabilities	(52)
Total equity	
Retained earnings	+440
Of which is net income	+717
Of which are dividends from retained earnings	(277)
Treasury shares	(387)









Decreased profit
Improved compared to Q1

¥637 million

YoY change -\frac{\pmu}{124} million (-16%)

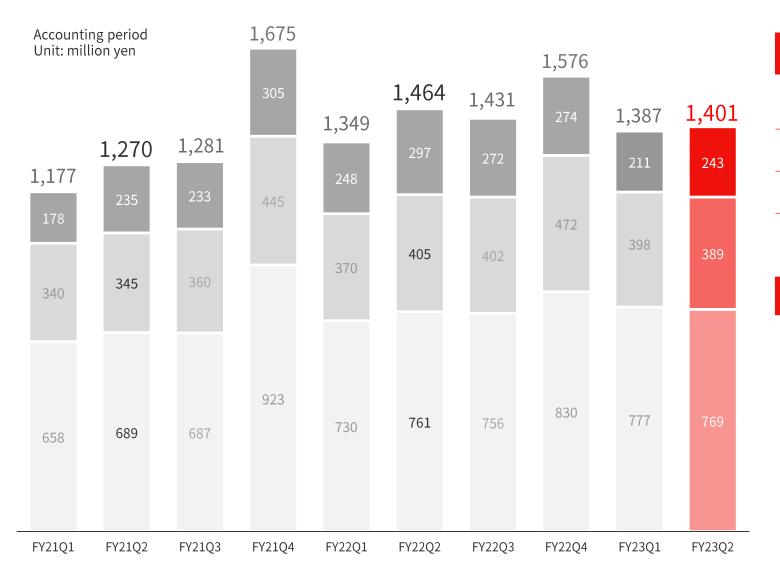


Decreased profit, Improved compared to Q1



FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview | Cost Breakdown by Quarter





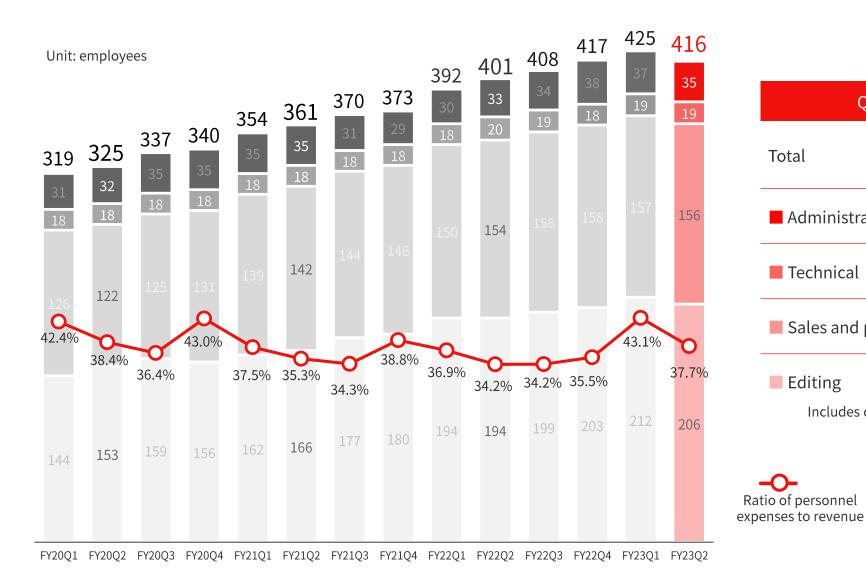
Q2	YoY change	As percent of total
Total	-4.3%	100%
Outsourcing expenses	-18.1%	17.4%
Other	-4.1%	27.8%
Personnel expenses	+1.0%	54.9%

Main factors behind year on year change

- Personnel expenses: +7
- Curtailed of new recruitment
- Six new graduates joined the Company in the current fiscal year
- Outsourcing expenses: -53
- Curtailed, especially for digital events
- Other: -16
- Downsize offices

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview | Employee Breakdown by Quarter





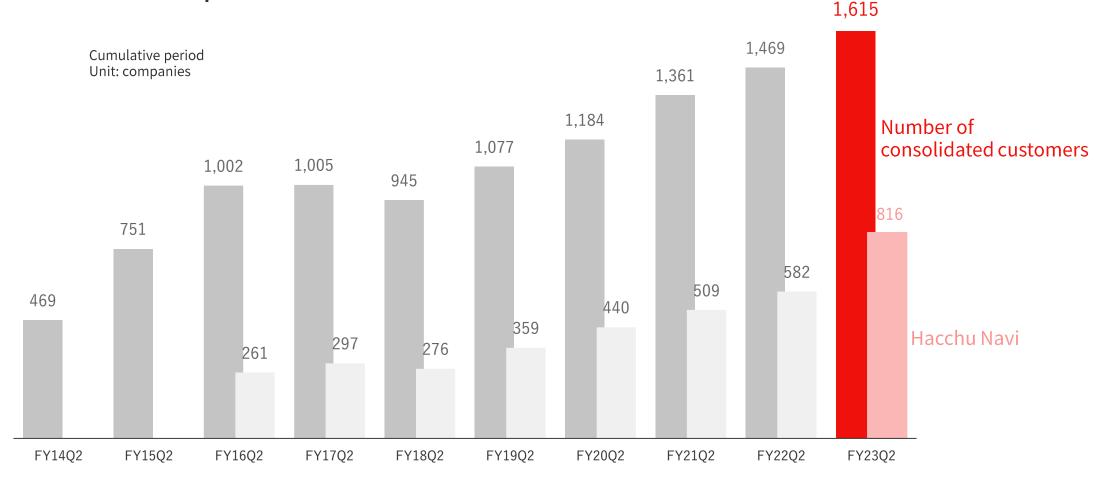
Q2	YoY change	As percent of total
Total	+15	100%
Administrative and othe	r +2	8.4%
■ Technical	-1	4.6%
■ Sales and planning	+2	37.5%
■ Editing	+12	
Includes contract, tempor	ary, and part-tim	e employees
	es] personnel exp f sales] labor cost	

Revenue

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Number of customers increased despite decrease in revenue. Hacchu Navi expanded.



^{*} Number of companies to which sales were recorded during the period

^{*} Hacchu Navi has been consolidated since October 2015



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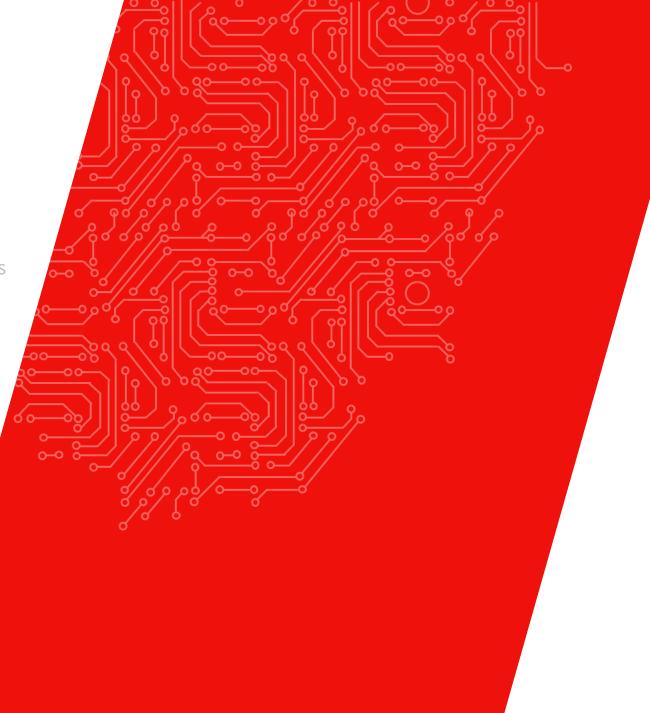
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FY23 Earnings Forecast

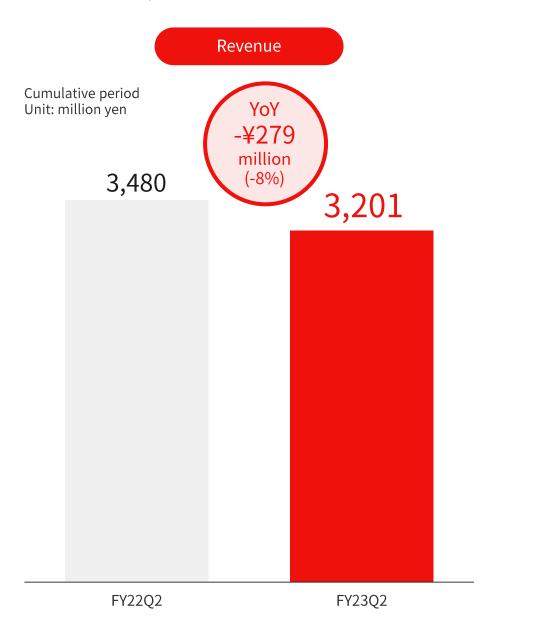
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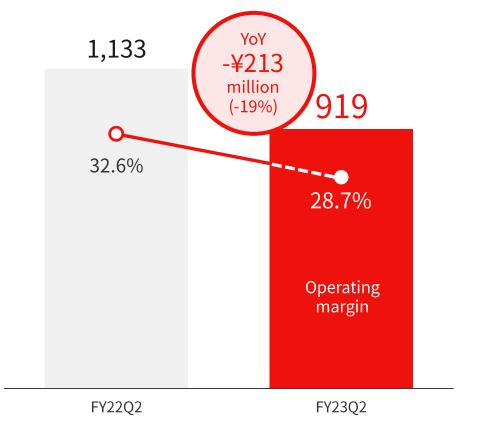
Shareholder Return and Sustainability





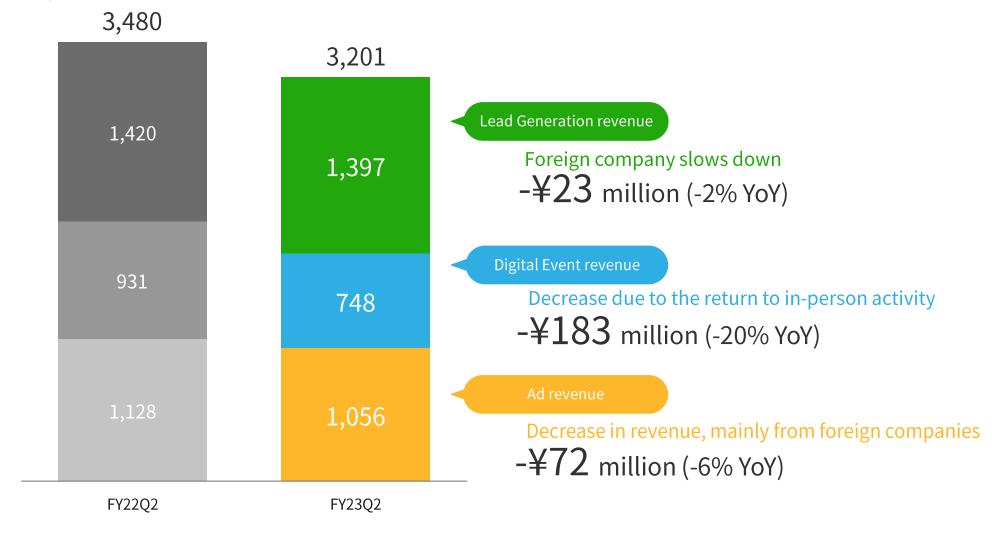






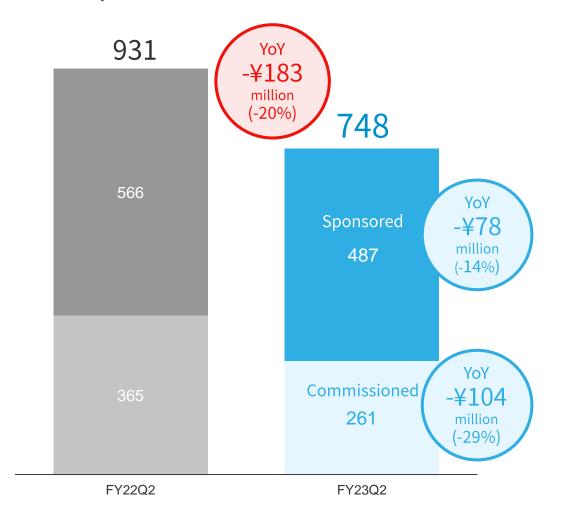








Cumulative period Unit: million yen



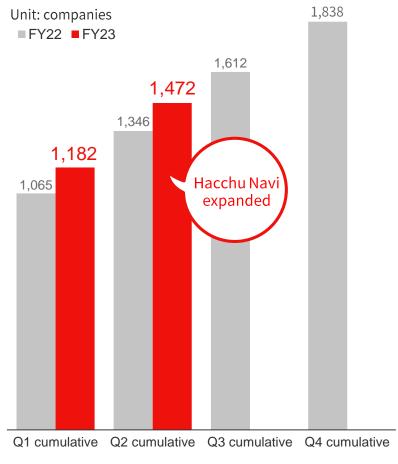
Established market from the pandemic, but special demand subsides







Number of customers



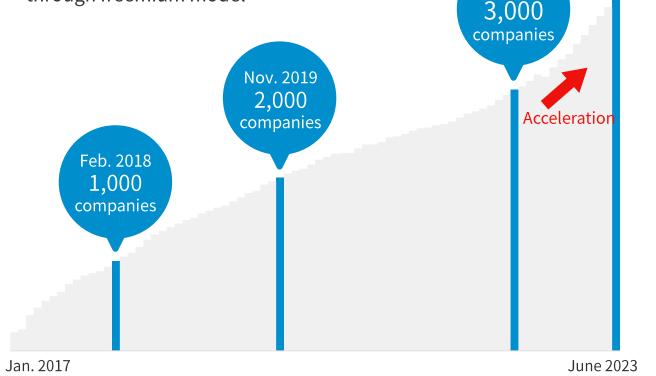
Number of companies to which sales were recorded during the period

^{*1.} Members eligible for Lead Generation service because of ITmedia ID, common member platform





- ☑ BtoB Media Business subsidiary
- ☑ Specialized for system development companies
- ☑ Subscription-type Lead Generation services
- ☑ Expands the number of member companies through freemium model



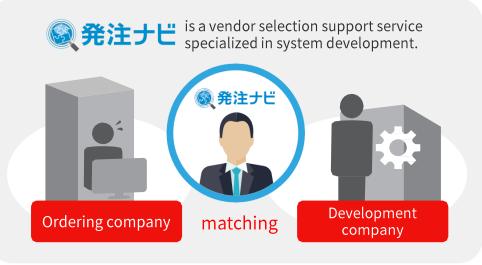


June 2023

4,000

companies

May 2022





Understanding the Current Situation and Future Policies

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview

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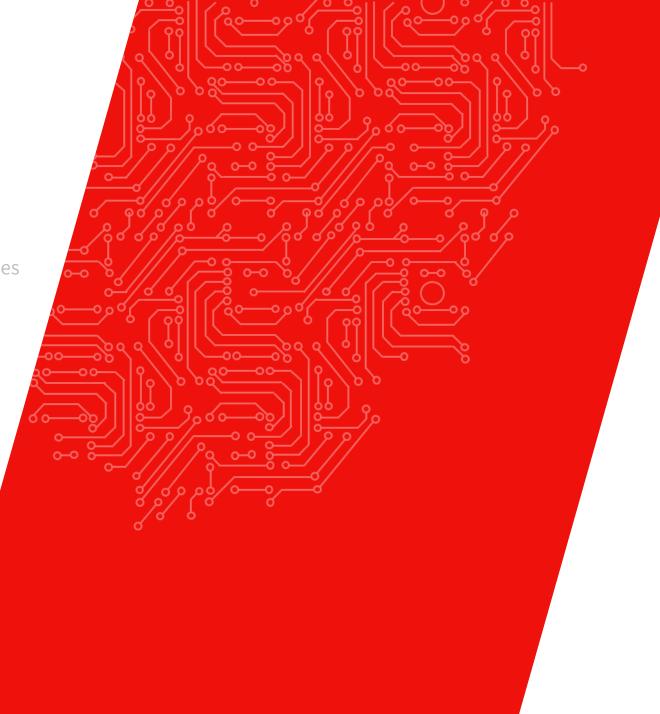
BtoC Media Business

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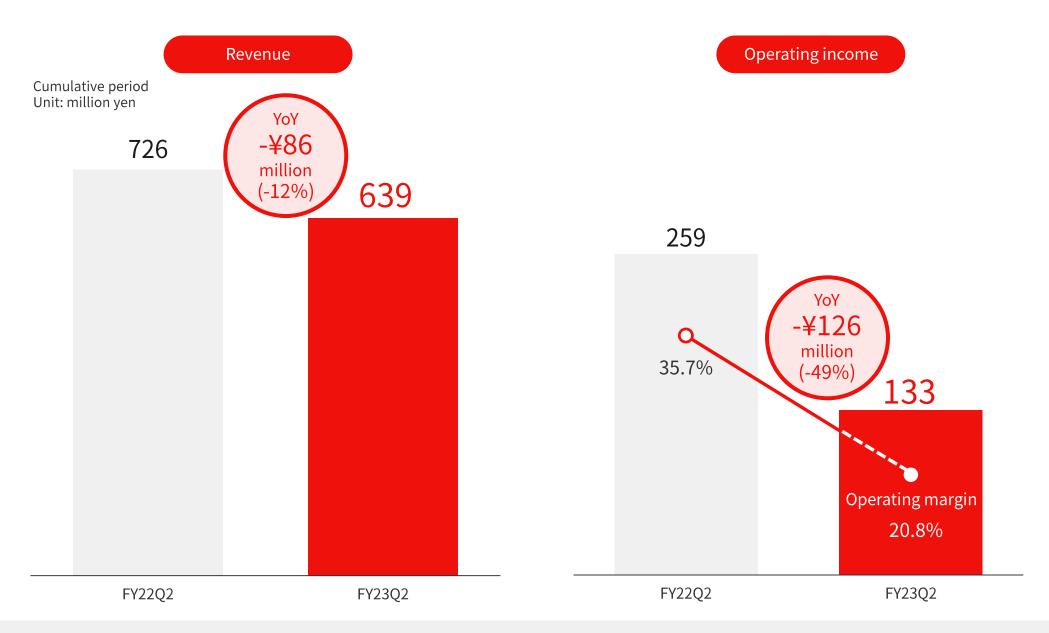
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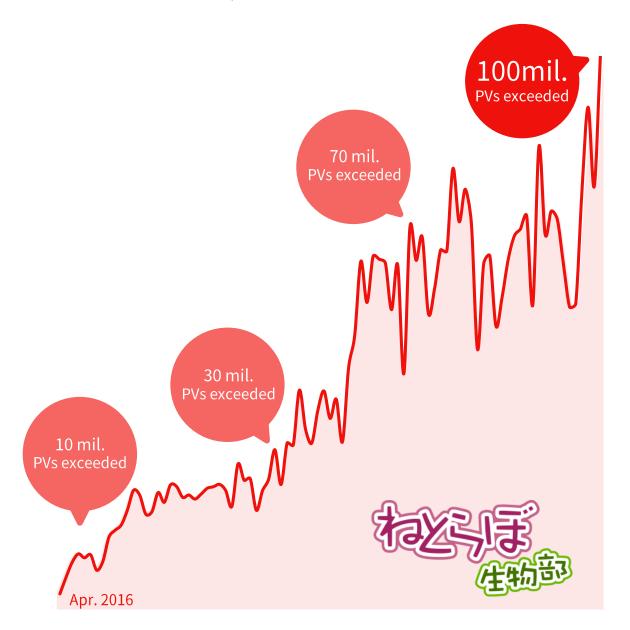












Netolabo channels dedicated to animals 100 million page views per month in August 2023

Expansion of content fields



Improved content production methods





息子が大好きな猫、新学期が始まる日 にランドセルへ入り…… 「行かせニャいよ!」と必死で登校を妨害する姿 にほっこり

③ 09月11日 20時00分 区 Yuki, ねとらぼ



猫様に土下座(?)する男の子、その 優しい理由は…… 愛猫思いの行動の 「新しいアプローチ」とほっこり

③ 09月11日 19時30分☑ Yukī, ねとらぼ







Understanding the Current Situation and Future Policies

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview

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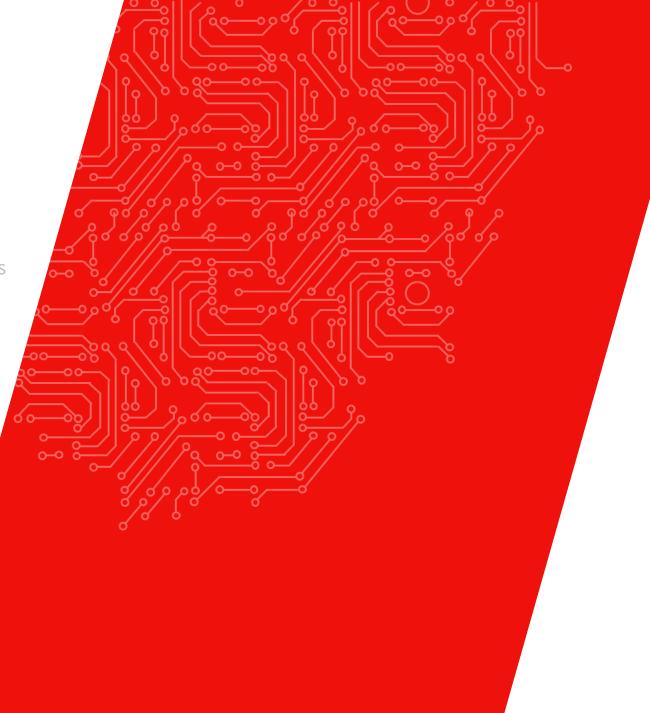
BtoC Media Business

FY23 Earnings Forecast

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• The impact will remain throughout the current fiscal year, decrease in revenue and profit is expected.



Progressing as expected

Unit: million yen	Revenue	Operating income	Net income attributable to owners of parent
full year	8,320	2,400	1,620
YoY change	(4.9%)	(18.1%)	(18.0%)
FY22, full year (actual)	8,752	2,930	1,974

Forward looking comments noted above, such as earnings outlooks, are based on information available when the material was created and certain assumptions deemed rational and the Company does not guarantee they will occur. Actual earnings may substantially differ due to various factors.



Understanding the Current Situation and Future Policies

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview

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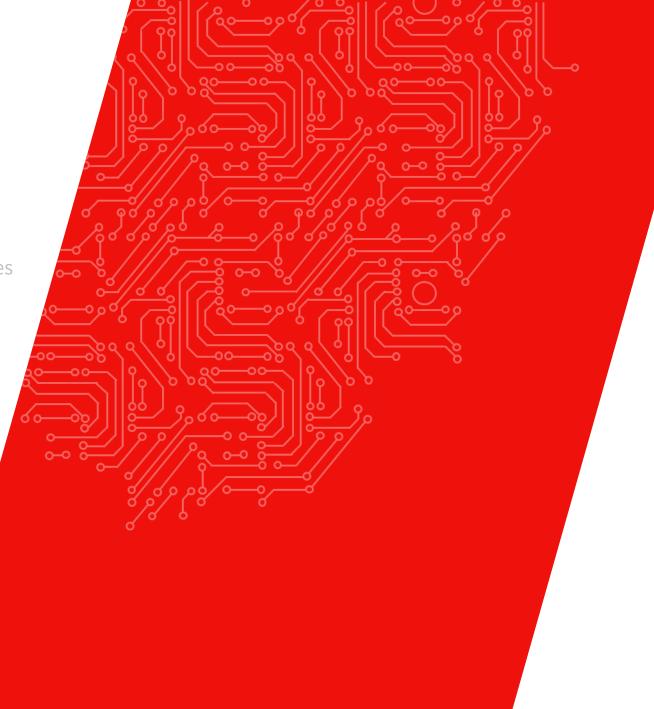
BtoC Media Business

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Our Mission

Contribute to Information Revolution by Innovating Professional Media

- We believe profession makes media reliability
- Technology leads conventional media to innovation
- Providing media community as a social knowledge platform

Company Business Overview | Our Materiality and Contributions to Society









One of Japan's largest technology-focused digital media content provider

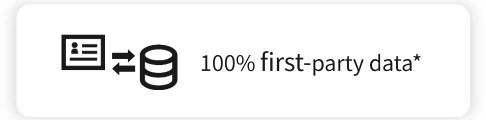


Monthly
400 million PVs

Total number of members

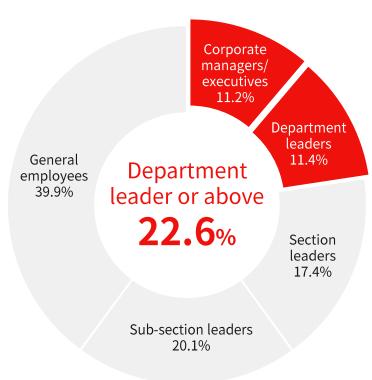
1.2 million people

Number for new monthly articles 6,000 articles



^{*} User information collected by the company's own site. First-party data is more liable and provides greater added value than standard third-party data.





From registration information on Lead Generation members

Company Business Overview | One of Japan's Largest Digital Media Content Provider





7,000 companies

Customer/user scale

(Sellers)
Number of customers

2,000 companies

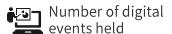


1.2 million people

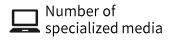


50 million UB

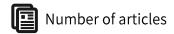
Media/data scale



200 times/year



 30_{media}



6,000 articles/month



400 million PVs

Staff



100 people



1,000 writers



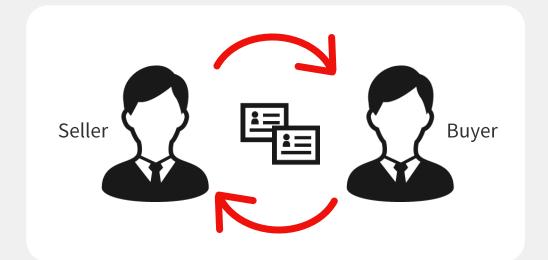
100 writers





One of the largest media in the BtoB technology market

One of the largest holders of data in Japan that brings technology buyers and sellers together





Contribute to digital transformation of Sales and Marketing

Data on purchasing behavior for BtoB technology products

Developing innovative services unique to digital



Lead Generation



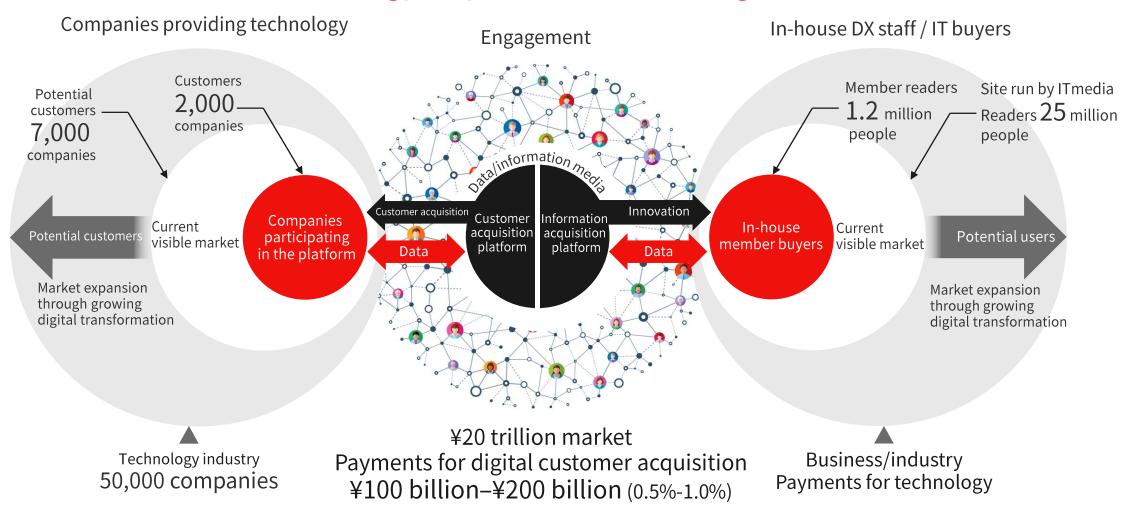
Digital Event



Ad

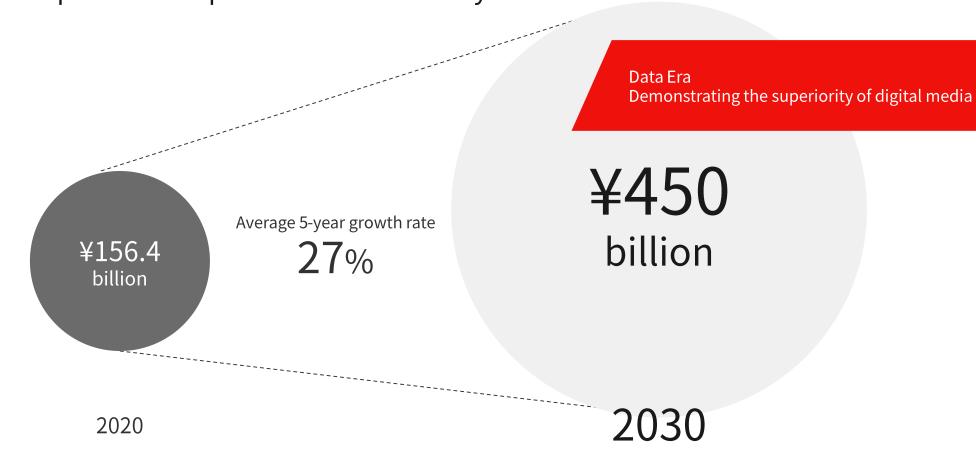


One of the largest holders of data in Japan that brings technology buyers and sellers together





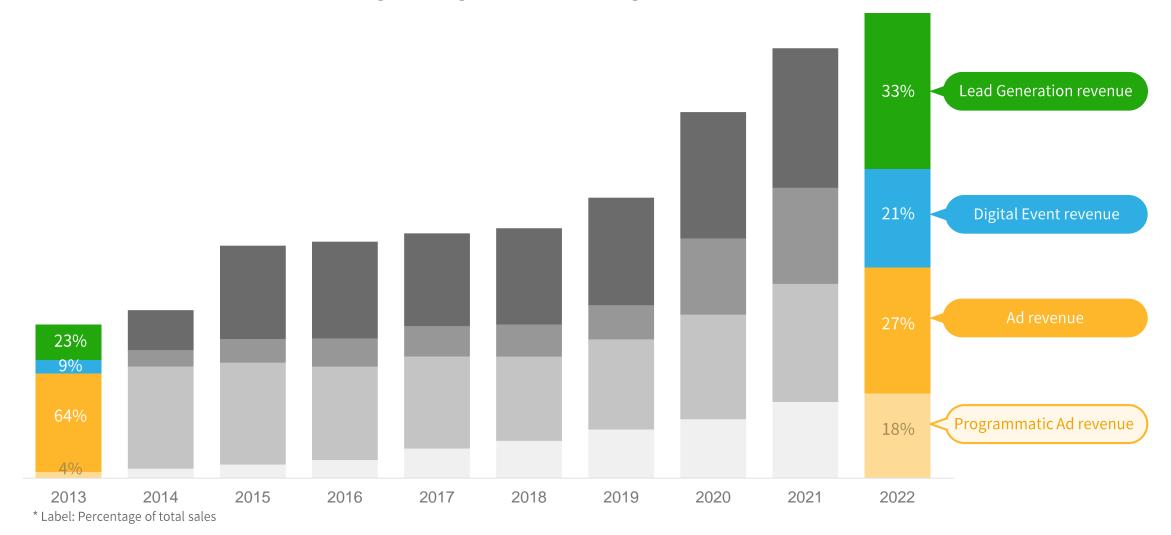
Our company engages in the digital transformation of Sales and Marketing Market expected to expand $2.9\times$ over 10 years



"Future outlook for the digital transformation market; market edition/vendor strategy edition" summary (published March 15, 2022, number 22025) Fuji Chimera Research Institute Inc. https://www.fcr.co.jp/pr/22025.htm



Transformation from being advertising centric to being centered on services close to customer acquisition using lead generation, digital events, etc.





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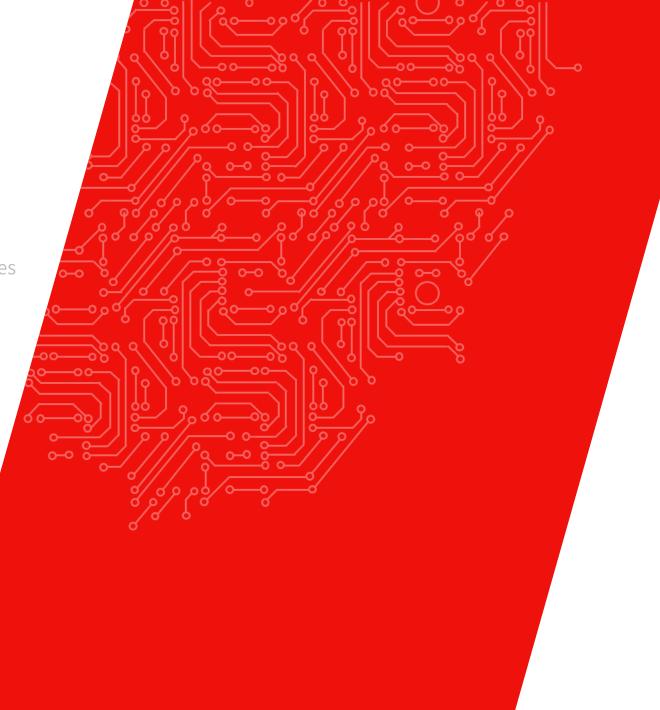
BtoC Media Business

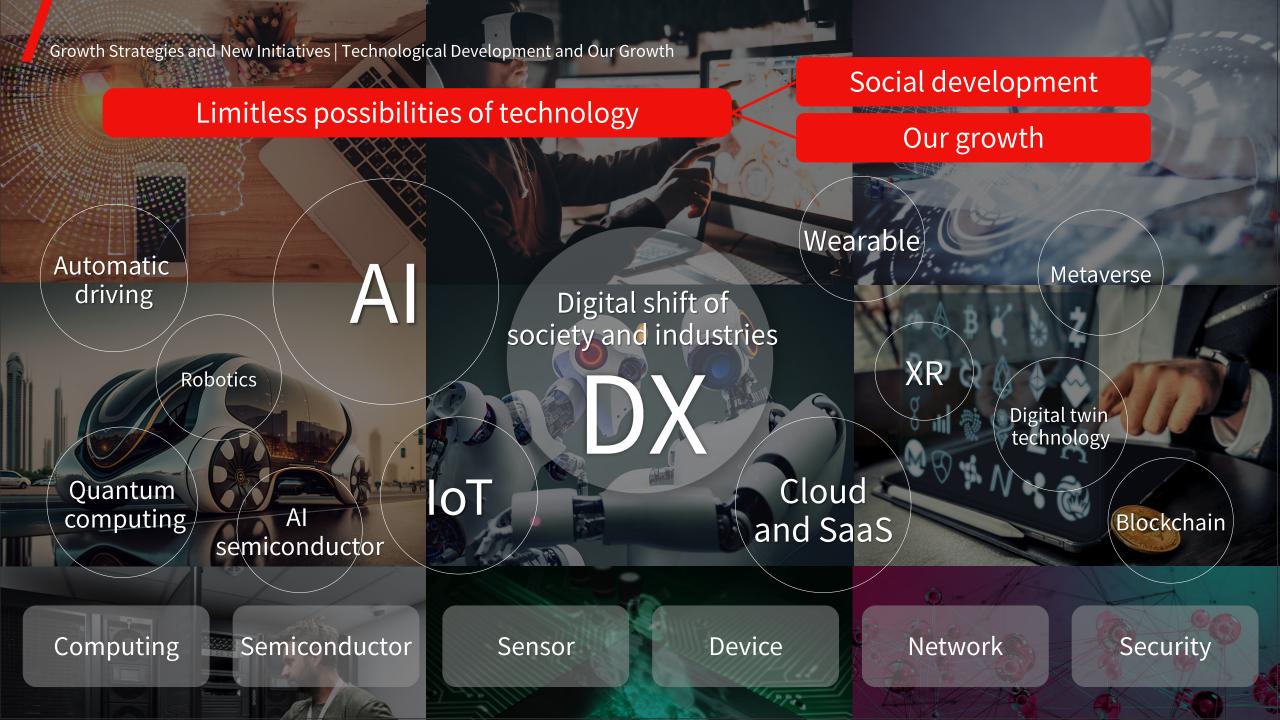
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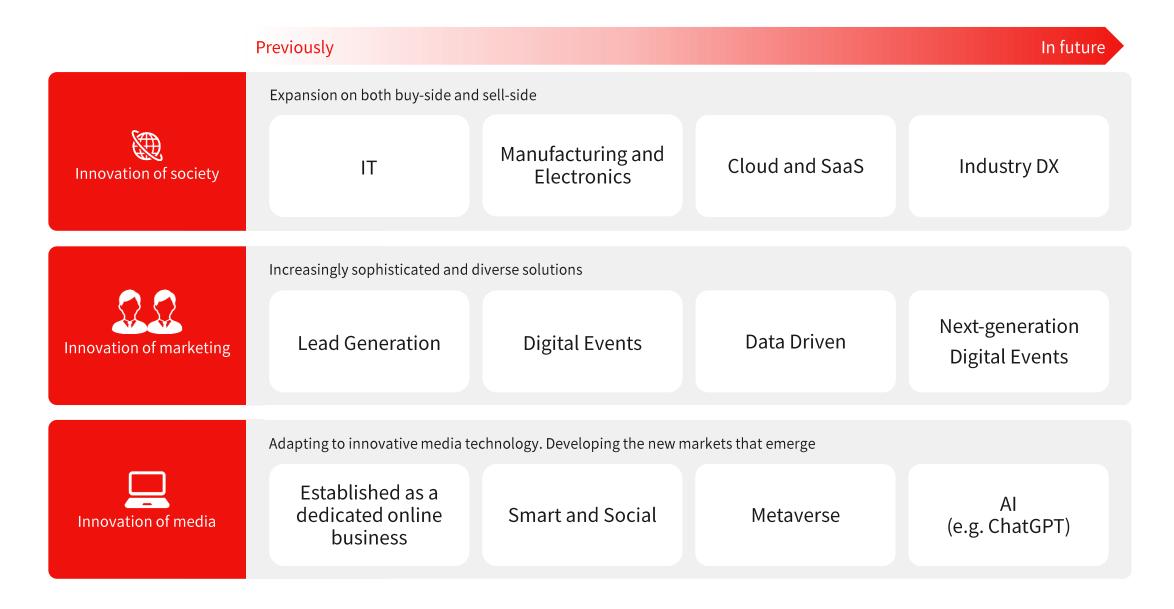
Shareholder Return and Sustainability





Growth Strategies and New Initiatives | Engage with Growth Vectors





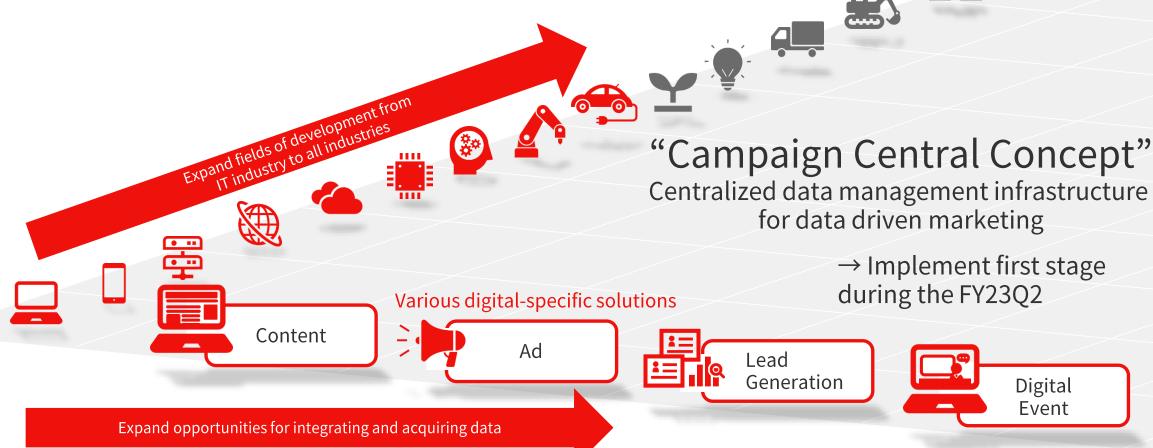


The largest BtoB holders of data that brings buyers and sellers together from all industries



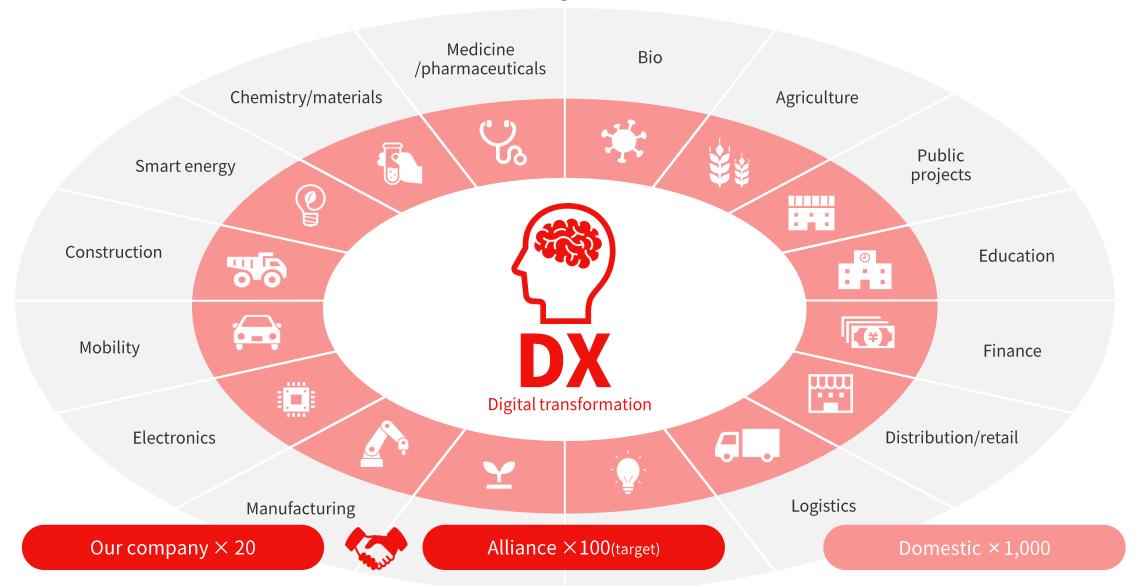








Expansion of mutual revenue opportunities through alliances with specialist media of various industries





Finance, accounts, automotive, logistics, retail, etc. Partner collaboration in Digital Events





Jointly operated Account Zone with Zeimu Kenkyukai Inc. at SaaS EXPO, an exhibitiontype digital event hosted by the Company



Leveraging partnerships with leading global media companies in industry DX





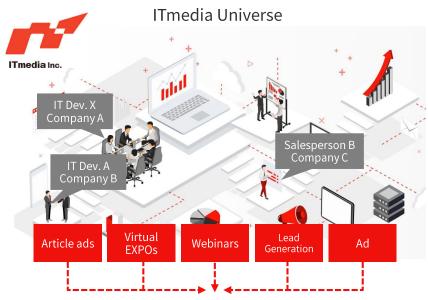






Campaign Central

Revenue Base = Accumulated Buyer and Seller Data



- Centralized data management infrastructure for data driven marketing

- 1 Audience data and leads from all customer campaigns are stored and tied to ITmedia IDs
- 2 Visualization and dashboarding of each customer's unique pipeline (prospect DB) are based on accumulated results and lead information
- 3 Creation of results (i.e., acquisition of business opportunities) is supported through pipeline operations by sales consultants with knowledge and expertise

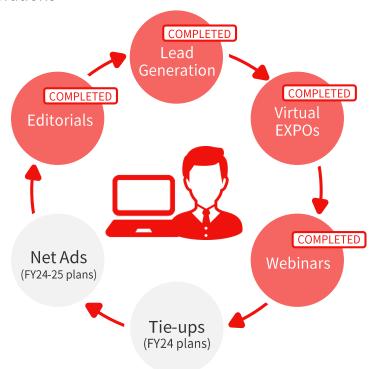
Changing customer awareness of the campaign from a one-time **COST** to an accumulative **investment**.



Completed development of infrastructure collaboration between Digital Events and Lead Generation

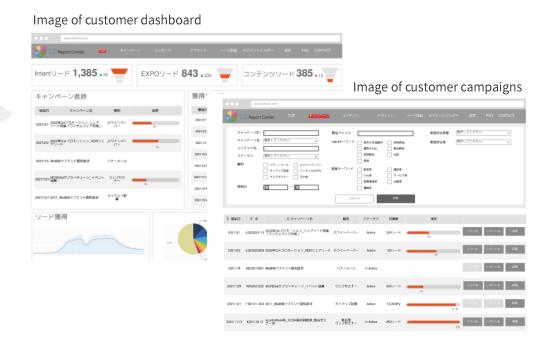
Back-end data integration

- FY23Q2 Digital Event and Lead Generation collaboration completed
- Continued to promote tie-ups, mail ads, and other advertising collaborations



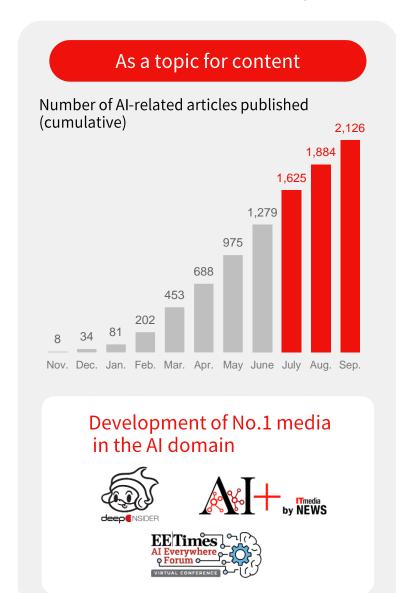
Front-end features/UI development

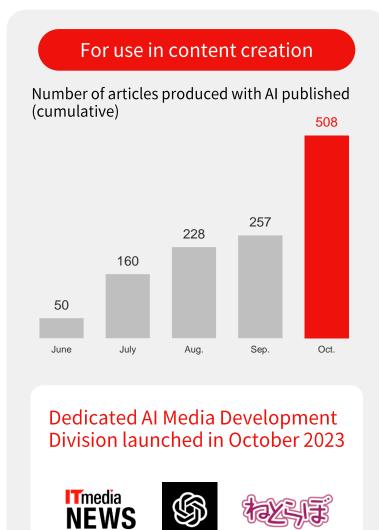
- Developing functions to visualize and utilize integrated data
- Plans to develop sales support functions and customer dashboards on two fronts



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For use in business operations

Use of AI in various operations Utilization of SaaS tools that use AI is underway

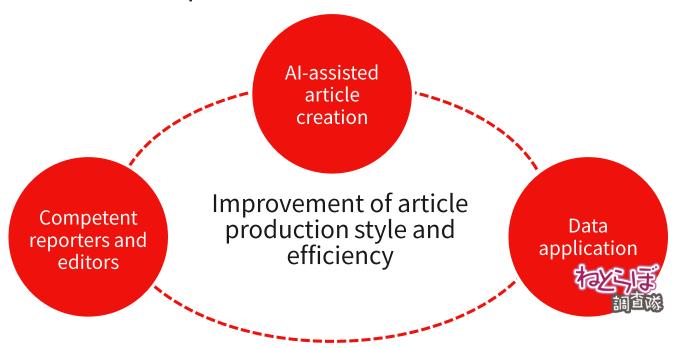
- Copywriting
- Ad serving & UI optimization
- Sales management
- Legal
- Office productivity etc.

Promoting further use



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Digital transformation of content production





Dedicated AI Media Development Division launched in October 2023

In October, over 250 AI-assisted articles were produced (3% of the total)

Aiming for 1/4 cost and 4x time efficiency = max of 16x production efficiency

Reference: July 5, 2023 press release https://corp.itmedia.co.jp/pr/releases/2023/07/05/itmedia_ai/



Understanding the Current Situation and Future Policies

FY23 Q2 Earnings Overview

BtoB Media Business

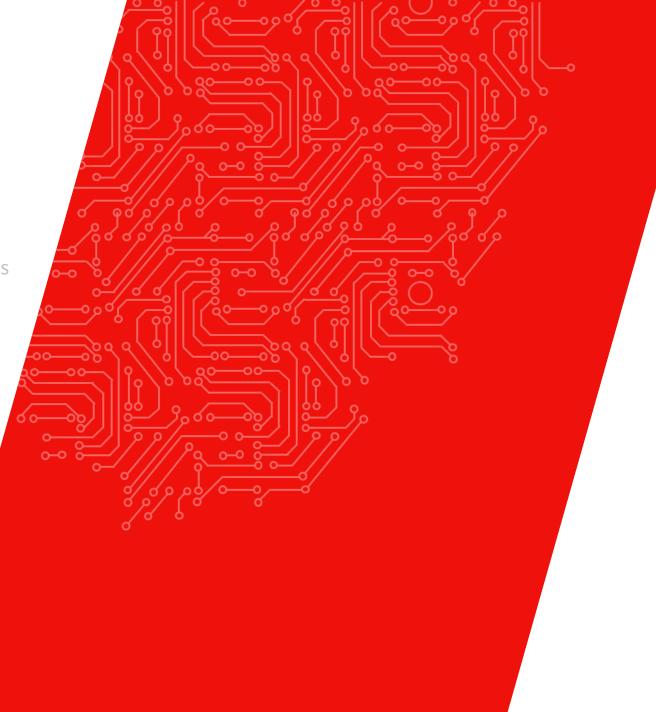
BtoC Media Business

FY23 Earnings Forecast

Company Business Overview

Growth Strategies and New Initiatives

Shareholder Return and Sustainability



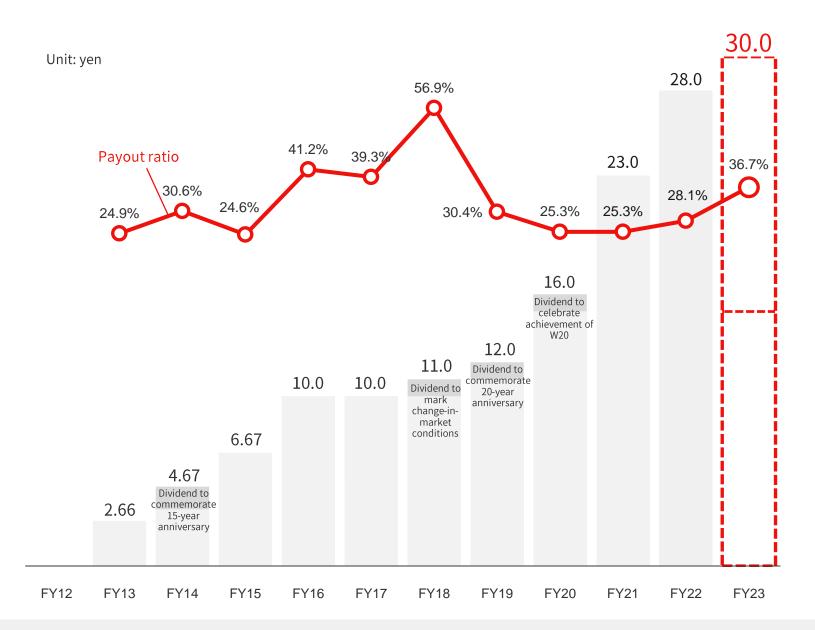


We purchased own shares

Class of shares to be purchased	Common shares of the Company	
Purchasing period	From August 1, 2023 to October 20, 2023	
Total shares that can be purchased	500,000 shares (actual)	
(Ratio to the to	otal number of issued shares excluding treasury stock: 2.5%)	
Total value of share purchase	¥571,799,500 (actual)	
Method of purchase	Market purchase by discretionary trading	

Please see the news release "Notice Regarding the Status and Completion of Acquisition of Own Shares," which was released October 20, 2023.





¥2 dividend increase

For full fiscal year

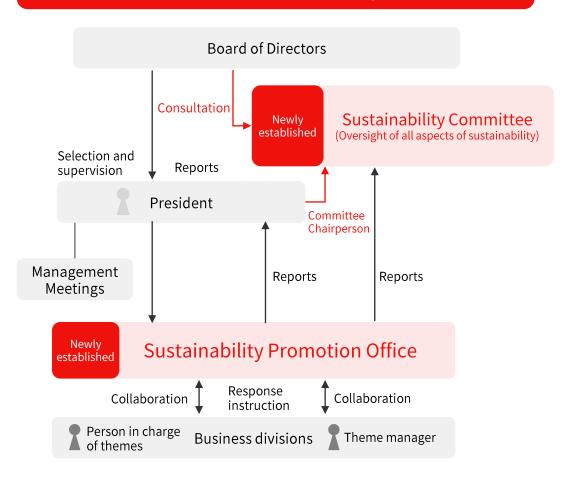
¥30

Payout ratio 36.7%



Here is a description of our quarterly progress

Effective October 1, 2023 strengthened systems Establishment of a dedicated organization



Strengthened management base and governance topics

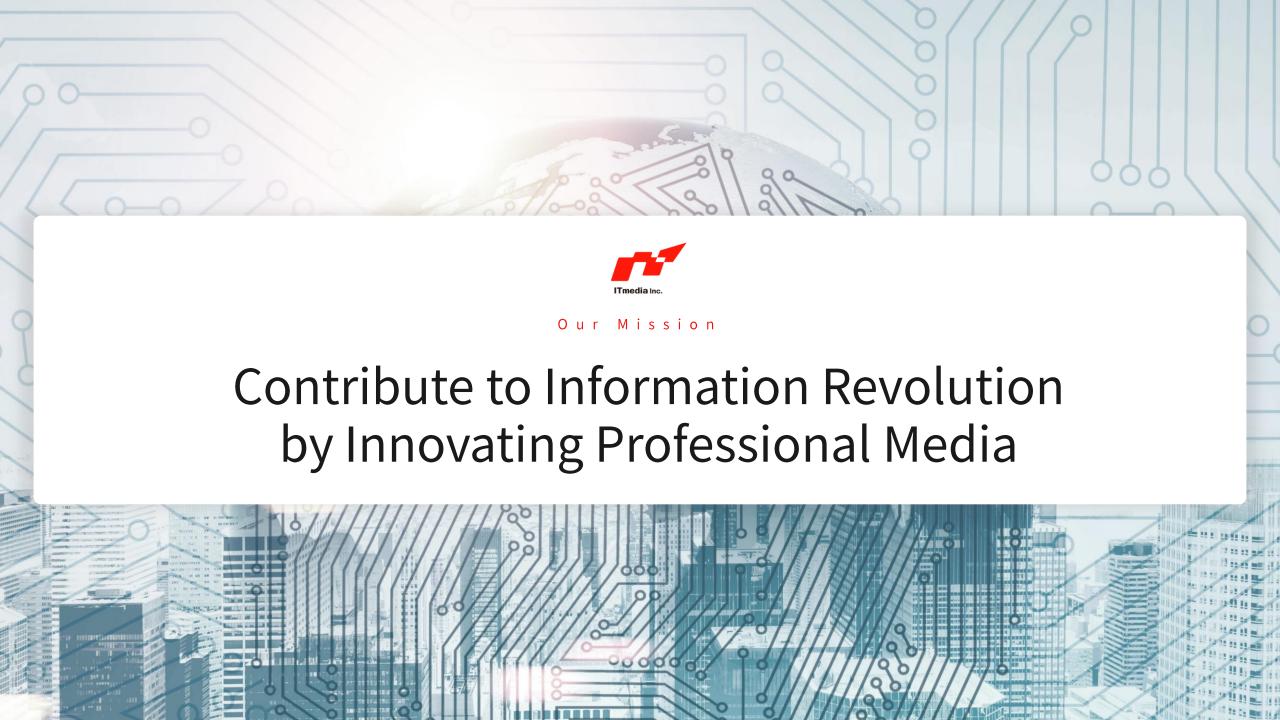
ERP renewal in October 2023

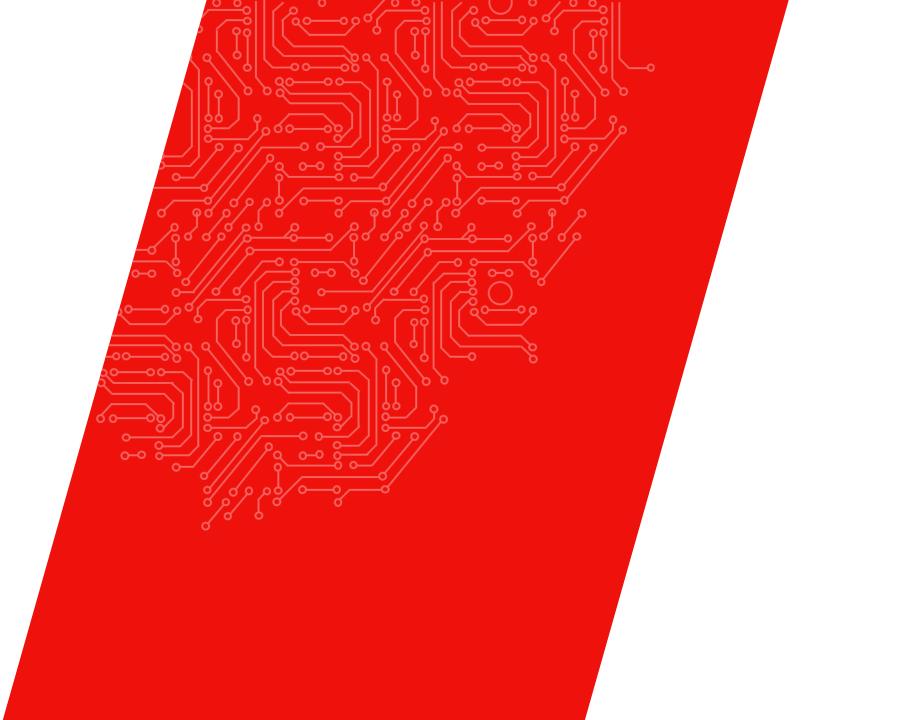
- Strengthened management base to support earnings growth
- SaaS application
- BPR, optimized input
- Strengthened data application
- Improved accuracy of business performance management



Develop a strong and transparent governance structure

Developing a strong governance structure with increased transparency that leads to mid to long term corporate growth, thereby winning the trust of all stakeholders.







Inquiries

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