

# Financial Results for the Nine-Month Period Ended December 31, 2023

February 2, 2024

Oricon Inc.

(Securities Code: 4800)



**Corporate Philosophy** 

# **Turning facts into intelligence**

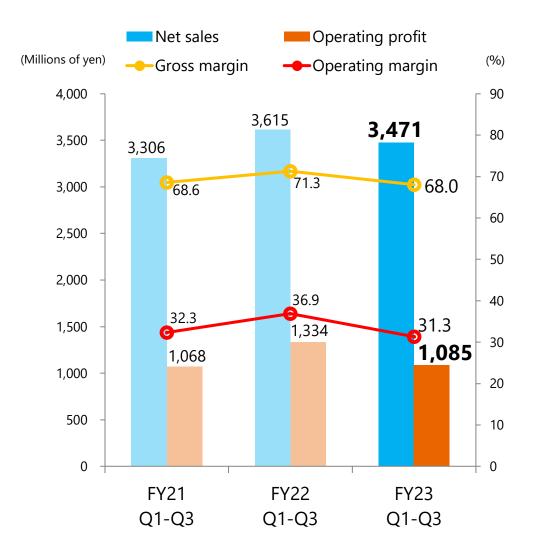
# Management Policy

In a society where information makes things complicated because, for example, of the scourge of fake news, Oricon will earn the trust of society by turning facts into intelligence from an objective and fair standpoint and disseminating it widely.

By doing so, we aspire to be a company of high social value that contributes to the realization of affluent lifestyles and the development of various industries.

# 1-1 Overview of Financial Results for FY23 Q1–Q3





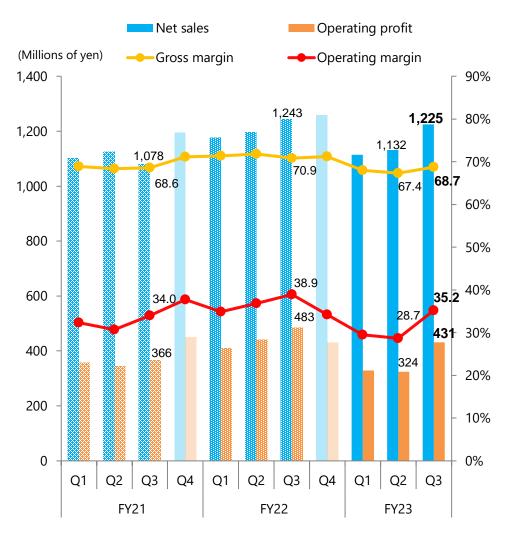
# Consolidated financial results (YoY change)

Net sales	¥3,471 mn	(4.0) %
Gross margin	68.0 %	(3.3) pts
Operating profit	¥1,085 mn	(18.7) %
Operating margin	31.3 %	(5.6) pts

# 1-1 Overview of Financial Results for FY23 Q3



# (Quarterly Trend)



# Consolidated financial results Q3 (Oct.-Dec.)

		(YoY change)	(QoQ change)
Net sales	¥1,225 mn	(1.5) %	+8.2 %
Gross margin	68.7 %	(2.2) pts	+1.3 pts
Operating profit	¥431 mn	(10.8) %	+32.9 %
Operating margin	35.2 %	(3.7) pts	+6.5 pts

# 1-2 Consolidated Statement of Income



(Millions of yen)	FY22	FY23	YoY	/					
	Q1-Q3	Q1-Q3	Amount	%					
Net sales	3,615	3,471	(143)	(4.0)%	See next slide for the breakdown by segment				
Cost of sales	1,035	1,109	+73	+7.1%					
(Cost of sales margin)	(28.7%)	(32.0%)	+13	±7.170					
Gross profit	2,579	2,362	(216)	(8.4)%	<ul> <li>Due to increase in personnel costs, etc.</li> </ul>				
(Gross margin)	(71.3%)	(68.0%)							
SG&A expenses	1,244	1,277	+32	+2.6%					
(SG&A margin)	(34.4%)	(36.8%)							
Operating profit	1,334	1,085	(249)	49) (18.7)%					
(Operating margin)	(36.9%)	(31.3%)	. ,						
Ordinary profit	1,267	1,114	(153)	(153) (12.1)%	Due to the posting of foreign				
(Ordinary margin)	(35.1%)	(32.1%)	, ,		exchange gains, etc.				
Net income before income taxes	1,267	1,114	(153)	(12.1)%					
(Pretax profit margin)	(35.1%)	(32.1%)	(133)	(12.1)/0					
Net income attributable to owners of the parent	826	730	(95)	(11.6)%					
(Net margin)	(22.9%)	(21.0%)	(33)	(11.0)/0					

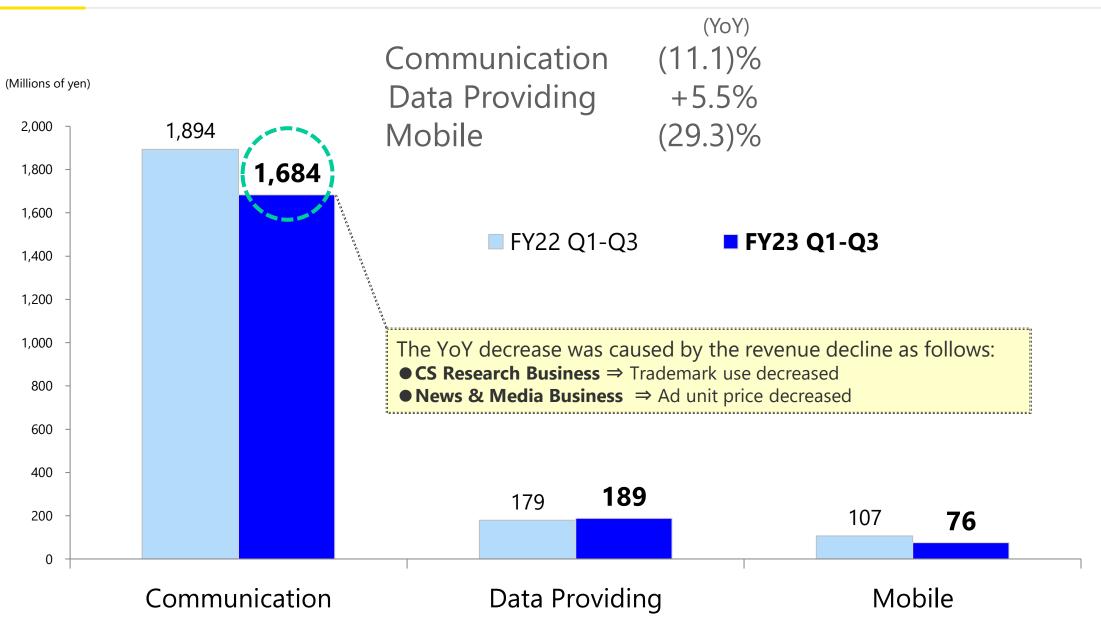


# Sales of the Communication Business decreased by 4.1% YoY

	(Millions of yen)	FY2022	FY2023	YoY	
	(Willions of yen)	Q1-Q3	Q1-Q3	Amount	%
Co	mmunication	2,822	2,705	(116)	(4.1)%
	Customer Satisfaction Research	1,548	1,463	(84)	(5.5)%
	News & Media	1,273	1,241	(31)	(2.5)%
Da	ta Providing	502	505	+3	+0.7%
Mo	obile	290	260	(30)	(10.4)%
	Total	3,615	3,471	(143)	(4.0)%

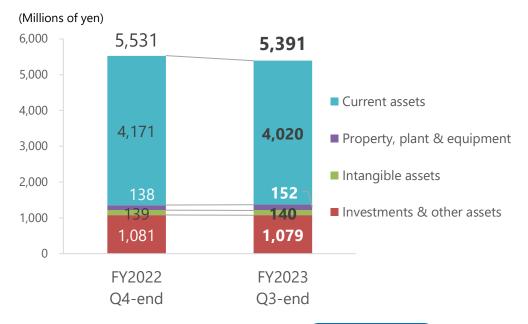
# 1-4 Breakdown of Operating Profit by Segment



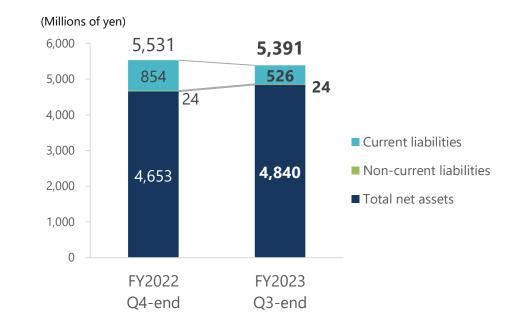


# 1-5 Consolidated Balance Sheet





(Millions of yen)	FY2022 Q4-end	FY2023 Q3-end	Change
Current assets	4,171	4,020	(151)
Property, plant and equipment	138	152	+13
Intangible assets	139	140	+0
Investments and other assets	1,081	1,079	(1)
Total assets	5,531	5,391	(139)

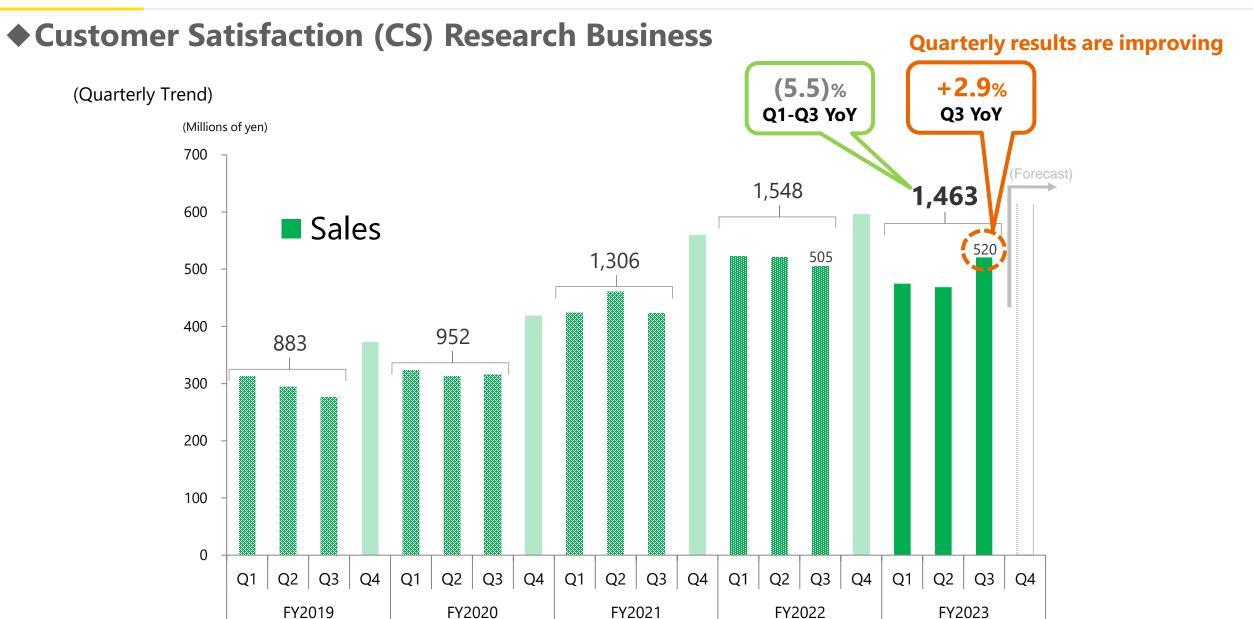


(Millions of yen)	FY2022 Q4-end	FY2023 Q3-end	Change
Current liabilities	854	526	(327)
Non-current liabilities	24	24	-
Total liabilities	878	550	(327)
Total net assets	4,653	4,840	+187
Total liabilities and net assets	5,531	5,391	(139)

**The equity ratio** stood at 89.8% (up 5.7 pts from FY2022 Q4-end)

# 2. Overview of Communication Business (1)

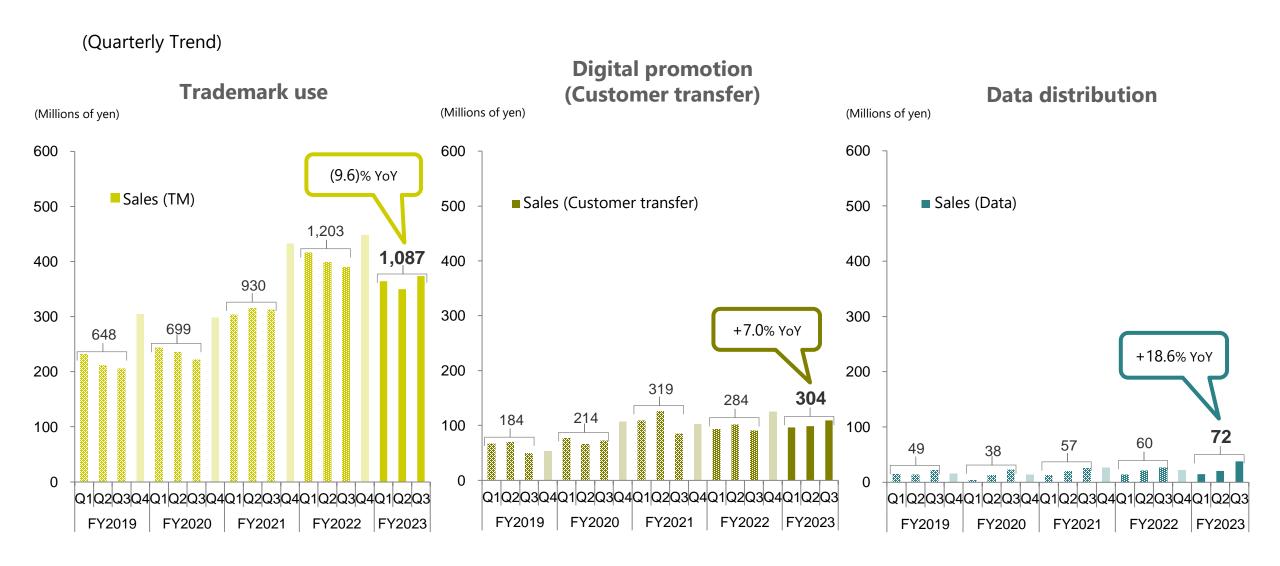




# 2. Overview of Communication Business (2)



# **◆ Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business**

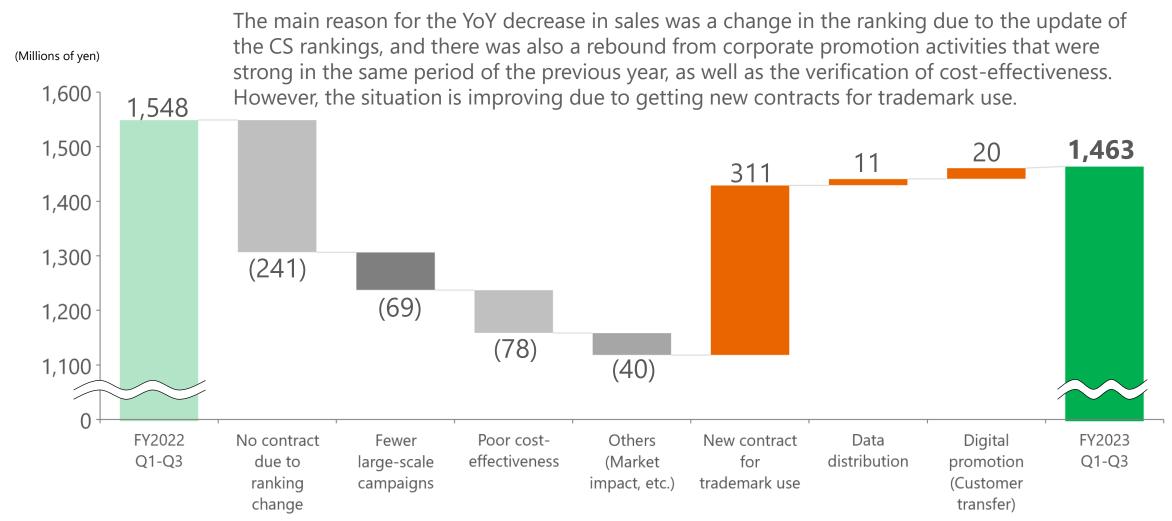


# 2. Overview of Communication Business (3)



# **◆ Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business**

#### (Analysis of YoY Change in Sales)



# 2. Overview of Communication Business (4)



# **◆ Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business**

### Ranking lists by category

#### **■** Insurance Industry

Car/Bike/Bicycle/Fire/Pets/Life/Medical/Cancer/Insurance consultation shop/Educational insurance

#### **■** Financial Industry

Internet securities/iDeCo Securities Company/Internet bank/Net banking/
Foreign currency deposits/Housing loan/FX trading/Bank card loan/
Non-bank card loan/Smartphone payment service/Cryptocurrency Exchange(Spot trading)/
Cryptocurrency Exchange(Margin trading)/Robo advisor/Smartphone securities/Credit card

#### ■ Cram School

College entrance exam (Group guidance for senior high school students/Personal coaching for senior high school students/Topnotch universities for senior high school students)/Senior high school entrance exam (Group/Personal)/Junior high school entrance exam (Group/Personal)/
Publicly-run integrated junior and senior high school (Group) /Elementary school students (Group/Personal)/Correspondence study(for elementary school/junior high school/senior high school)/Intellectual education for infants

#### **■** School

English conversation school/Children's English (Infant/Elementary)/Online English Conversation/Correspondence study/Programming classroom for kids

#### **■** Life related

Hometown Tax Donation Program Website/Water server/Purified water server/House cleaning/ Moving firm/Self storage(Rental space/Container)/Delivery type storage/Food delivery service/ Subscription video distribution/Car purchase traders/Digital comics(Comprehensive/Original works only)/ Specializing in used car seller/Manufacturer type used car seller/Vehicle inspection/Children photo studio/ Bike seller/Manufacturer type bike seller/GPS tracker for kids

#### **■ Telecommunications Industry**

Low-cost SIM(Subscriber Identity Module)/Low-cost smartphone/Internet connection/ Mobile carrier/Low-cost mobile carrier

#### ■ Housing Industry

Estate agency Selling(Condominium/Detached/Land)/Estate agency Buying(Condominium/Detached)/ Condominium management company/Rental information shop/Rental information website/ Renovation (Full/Detached/Condominium)/New condominium/House builder Custom-built Ready-built (Builder/House builder/Real estate developer)/Large-scale condominium repair

#### **■** Beauty Industry

Beauty salon(Facial/Bridal/Lose weight, Body care)

#### **■ Sports & Health**

Fitness club/Kid's swimming school/24-hour gyms

#### **■** Wedding Industry

House wedding/Marriage agency/Wedding hall consultation counter/Wedding hall information website/Dating • Marriage matching apps/Low-cost wedding

#### **■** Human resources

Job hunting agency/Job hunting website/Employment information service/Changing job website/Changing job agency/

Reverse job application service/Nurse changing job/High-class • Middle-class changing job/Temp agency/Manufacturing temp/Temp information website/Changing job scout service

#### ■ Travel

Hotel comparison website/Airline ticket comparison website

#### **■** Business Solutions

Internet printing online order/Corporate training

#### Additional ranking lists announced in October through December

• Rental information shop • College entrance exam (Personal coaching for senior high school students) Tokai region • Elementary school students (Personal) Kinki region

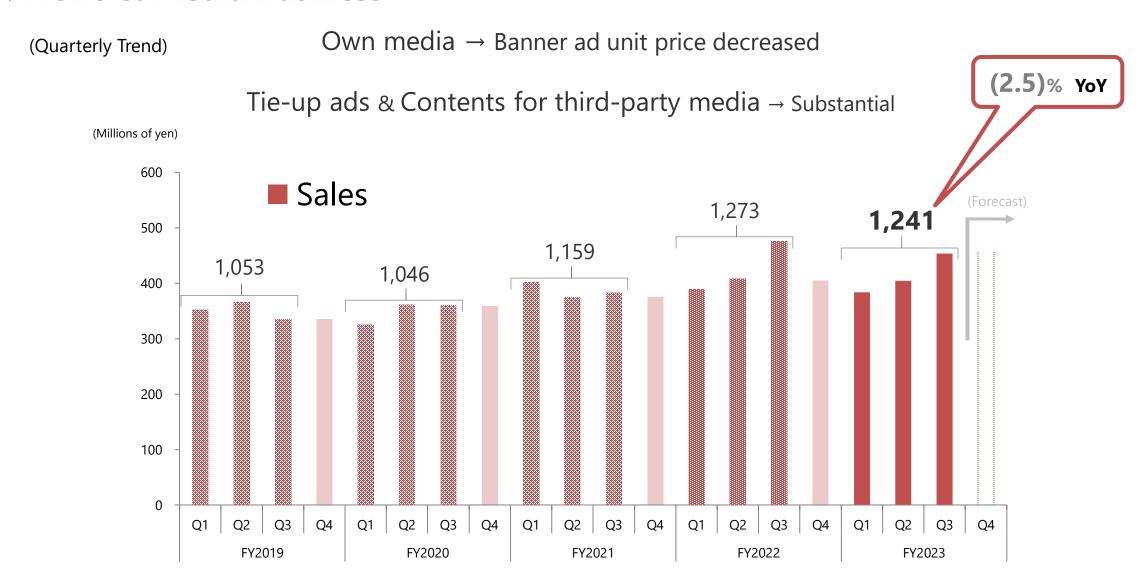
# Total 168 ranking lists

(As of Dec. 2023) YoY 23 rankings decreased. The appeal of the ranking has been strengthened through stocktaking.

# 2. Overview of Communication Business (5)



## **♦ News & Media Business**

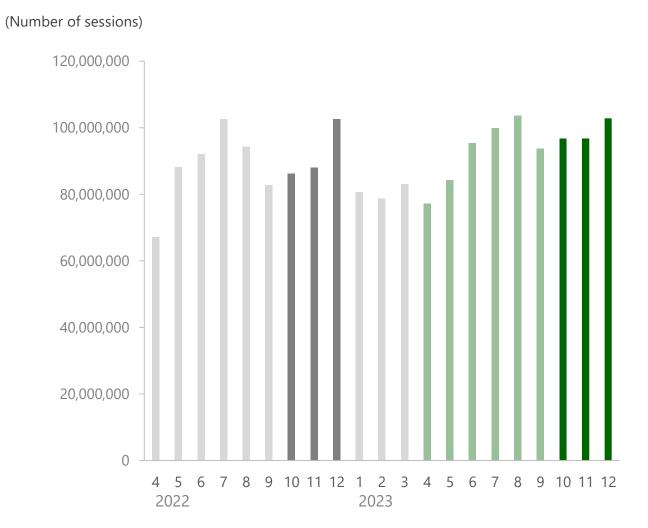


# 2. Overview of Communication Business (6)



## **♦ News & Media Business**

#### Own Media "ORICON NEWS" Trends in the number of sessions



#### Number of sessions

FY23 Q1-Q3 FY23 Q3 (Oct.-Dec.) increased by approx.

6% YoY

7% YoY

Almost flat QoQ

Per session value

FY23 Q1-Q3 FY23 Q3 (Oct.–Dec.) decreased by approx. 20% YoY 21% YoY

(Unit prices for banner ads decreased due to market factors, etc.)

increased by approx. 14% QoQ

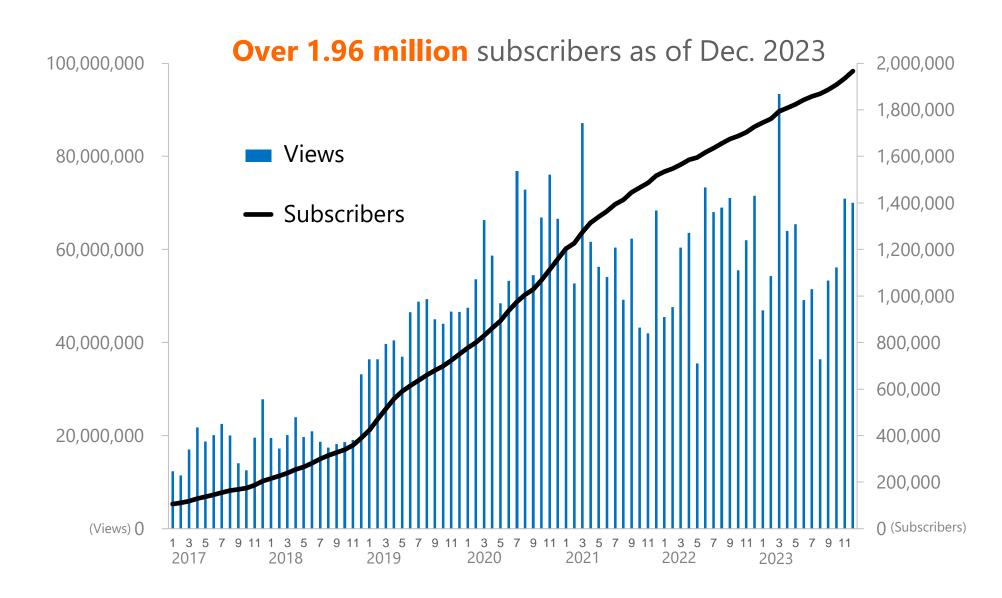
Improved by introducing new optimization for website advertising space, etc.

# 2. Overview of Communication Business (7)



## **♦** News & Media Business

### "ORICON NEWS" YouTube Channel



# 3. Full-Year Forecast for FY2023



# The forecast of consolidated financial results announced on May 10, 2023

(Millions of yen)	FY2022	FY2023	Yo	Υ	FY23 Q1-Q3	<b>Progress against</b>
(Willions of yell)	Results	Forecast	Amount	%	Results	full-year forecast
Net sales	4,875	5,100	+224	+4.6%	3,471	68.1%
Operating profit	1,765	1,830	+64	+3.6%	1,085	59.3%
Ordinary profit	1,699	1,800	+100	+5.9%	1,114	61.9%
Net income attributable to owners of the parent	1,106	1,180	+73	+6.6%	730	61.9%

As our quarterly results are on a recovery trend, forecast remains unchanged



# Share Buyback Completed (Disclosed on Jan. 23, 2024)

Total number of shares bought back	<b>300,000</b> (Reached to limit)
Total buyback price of shares	<b>232,519,100</b> yen
Buyback period	From Nov. 7, 2023 to Jan. 22, 2024

# **Appendix**





- Previously, the Mobile Business and Publishing Business had been the main contributors to net sales, but proactive business restructuring has made the Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business and News & Media Business into major revenue supporters
- As a result of promoting business restructuring, we have dramatically increased our operating margin and recently transformed ourselves into a highly profitable company with an operating margin exceeding 35%.

#### **Net Sales Trends by Segment**

## (Millions of yen) Others 6,000 Publishing 5.000 Mobile 4.000 ■ Data Providing 3,000 News & Media 2,000 ■ Customer Satisfaction (CS) 1,000 Research

#### **Operating Profit and Operating Margin Trends**



# **Business Description and Main Revenue Sources of Each Segment** (As of March 2023)



Segment	Business description	Main revenue sources			
Communication Business					
Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research	Conducts internet surveys for users of various services and ranks and announces the results annually from an independent position that is fair and unbiased	The largest revenue source is "Trademark use," in which companies pay a fee for a license to use the ranking results marked with Oricon's trademark logo for their own advertising and promotion			
	As of March 2023, has surveyed a total of 3.32 million people across 192 categories	"Digital promotion," in which customers are transferred to client company websites from search engines and Oricon's own media			
		"Data distribution," which provides broad-ranging analyses of survey results			
		"Consulting," which provides details and additional surveys to individual companies			
News & Media	<ul> <li>Creates over 3,000 news/feature articles and video contents per month, focusing on entertainment</li> </ul>	Ad revenue from the number of page views and sessions on Oricon's own media and distribution partner platforms			
	Acts as a news agency to distribute news to Yahoo!	Revenue from sponsored advertising and PR consulting for companies			
	News and other major online media sites and apps	Fees received for providing content to distribution partner media outlets			
	■ The YouTube channel of Oricon's own media "ORICON NEWS" has amassed 1.8 million subscribers	Creation and promotion/management of online ads			
Data Providing Business	<ul> <li>Collects sales data and creates rankings for music, videos, and books</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Revenue from broadcasters and e-commerce sites, etc. for providing music databases and ranking data</li> </ul>			
Mobile Business	Paid streaming service for mobile devices and PCs	Pay-as-you-go billing for member downloads			
	■ Music streaming site "Oricon Music Store"				
	■ eBook site "Yomulun"				

# **Asset Allocation Approach**

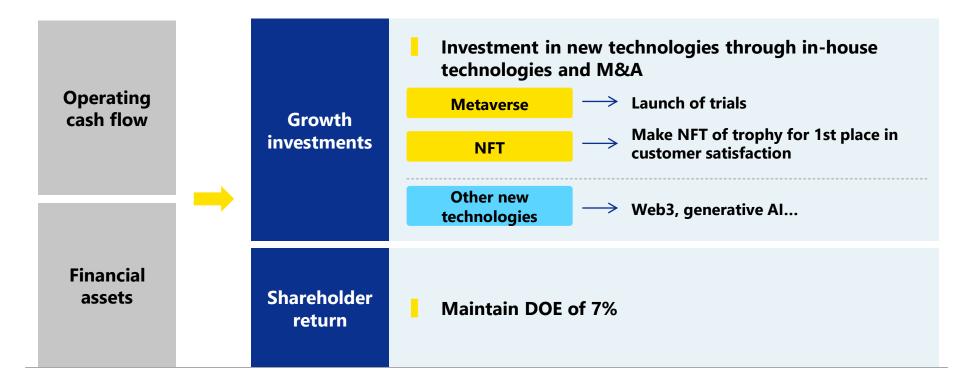


# Policy to Proactively Invest Management Resources in Technologies and Seeds of Future Business Opportunities



- In addition to shareholder return, cash and deposits and free cash flow will be used to actively invest management resources in technologies and seeds of future business opportunities
- In addition to our recent demonstration test efforts involving Metaverse, NFTs, and other technologies, we will develop approaches to promising technologies and seeds of future business opportunities through various methods, including in-house technology investment and M&A

#### **Cash allocation approach**



#### **Recent investments**



# **Shareholder Return Policy**



- Continue to achieve one of the highest DOE among TSE listed companies, backed by ROE levels exceeding 20%
- Dividend per share has increased 2.5 times that of 5 years ago

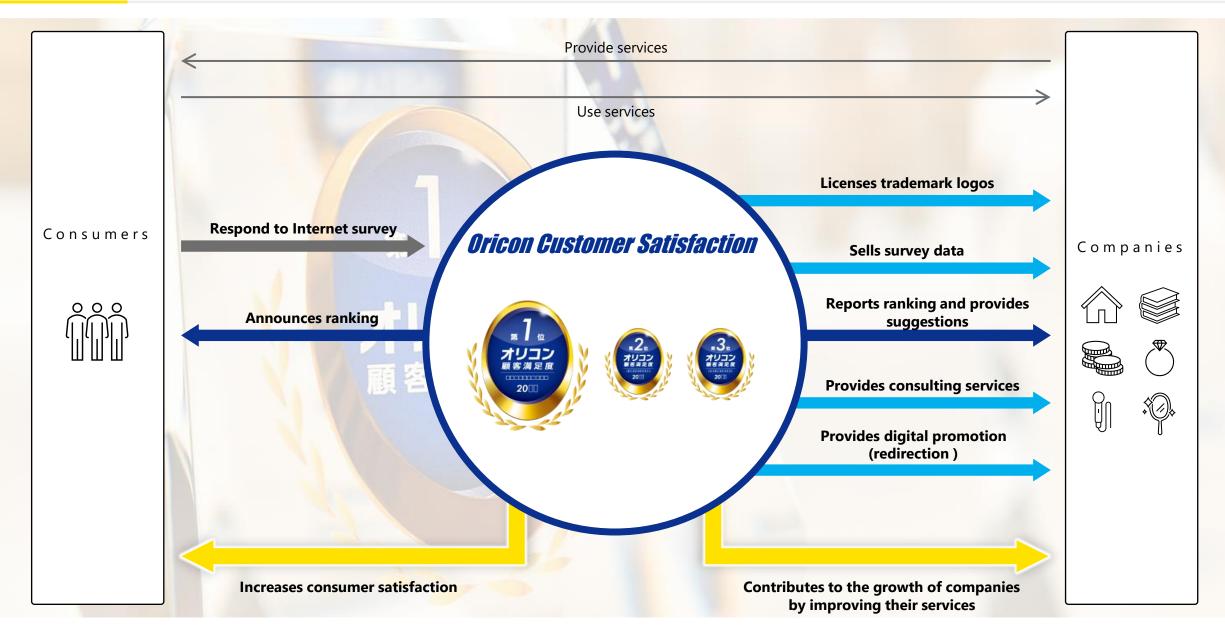
Accounting period	FY15	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
ROE	16.4%	17.6%	18.9%	24.1%	27.1%	25.9%	26.1%	25.2%
Dividend per share (yen)	8.0	10.0	10.0	12.0	17.0	17.0	23.0	27.0
DOE	6.0%	7.4%	6.8%	7.0%	8.3%	7.1%	8.1%	8.2%

# Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business Model and Strengths



# **Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business Overview**





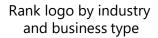
# Oricon Customer Satisfaction Research Trademark Use and Trends in the Number of Annual Rankings Announced



- The Oricon Customer Satisfaction Research trademark logo can be used in various media by signing a contract by plan
- Although the number of services covered by the rankings has increased and trademark use sales are growing, there is still great potential for further use of the Oricon trademark logo as trust in the rankings grows even further

#### Main trademark logos







Item or sector rank logo by industry and business type

#### Main media in which logo can be used (range varies by plan)

TV commercials / Externally-distributed ads (GDN, YDA, listing ads) / YouTube ads / Social media ads / Transit ads (in taxis, trains, etc.) / Outdoor ads (board posters, large screens, etc.) / Direct ads (DMs, mail magazines, newspaper inserts, free newspapers, etc.) / In-store sales promotional materials (catalogs, novelty items, etc.) / Newspaper and magazine ads / Company websites (corporate sites)

# Trends in the Number of Annual Rankings Announced and Number of Survey Participants (Cumulative)

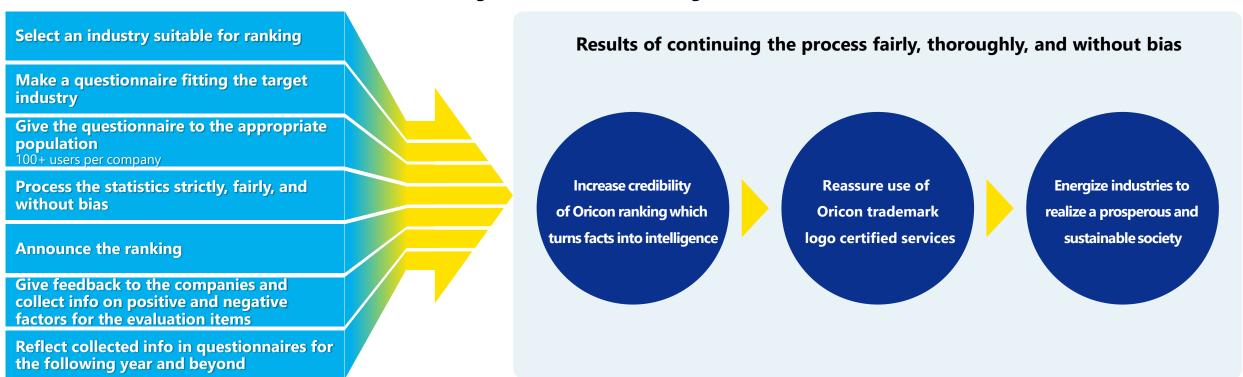


## **Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Process and Oricon's Strengths**



- Select target industries independently as a third party that takes neither consumers' nor companies' sides, conduct fair and unbiased research, and strictly process data and statistics to create rankings
- Leverage our brand power built through the music rankings which we have continuously provided to consumers from a fair and unbiased standpoint to steadily build credibility of Oricon rankings in industries besides music

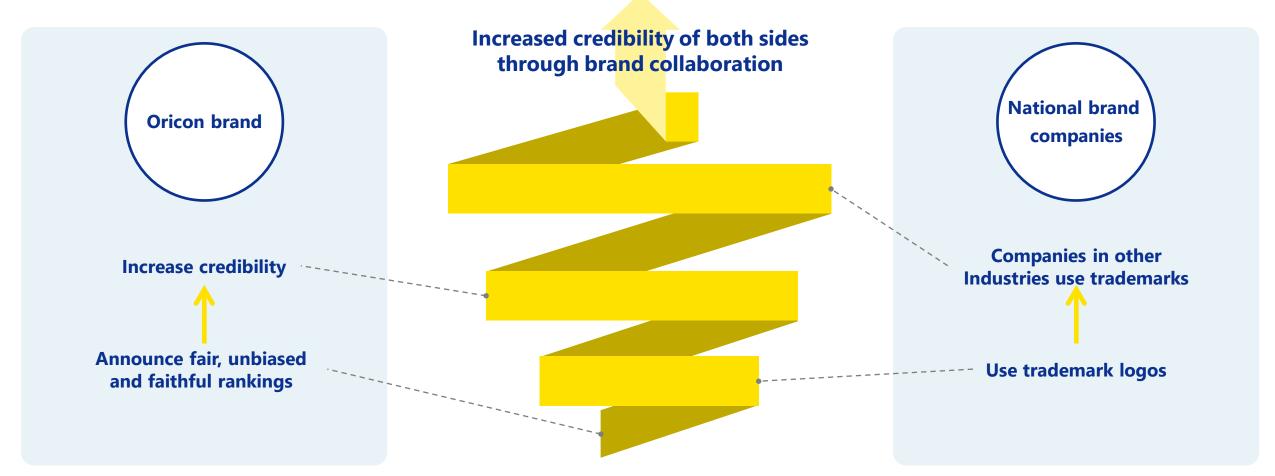
#### Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Process: "Turning Satisfaction into Intelligence"



## **Brand Collaboration with Oricon Trademark Logo Licensed Companies**



Oricon brand credibility is further increased when renowned national brand companies use Oricon trademark logos backed by fair, unbased, and faithful Oricon rankings, which in turn encourages other national brand companies in different business industries to use our trademark logos. This brand collaboration eventually leads to increased credibility of both the Oricon brand and Oricon trademark logo certified services



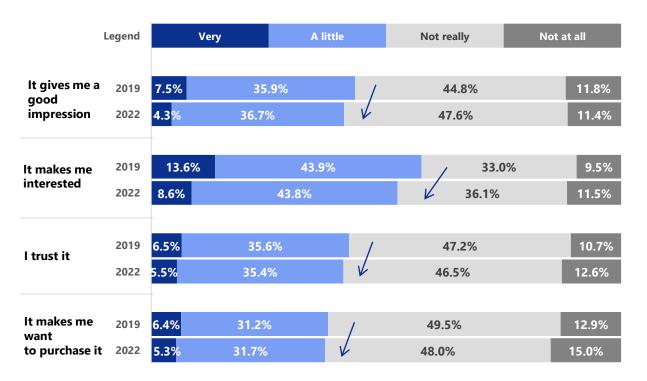
# Questioning the Credibility of No. 1 Labeling Turns Out to Be a Tailwind



- Due to the increased No.1 labeled ads without legitimate evidence, the image of such advertised products and services have been slightly tarnished from 2019 to 2022
- Many people think No.1 labeled ads should be based on facts (nearly 80%). Therefore, this situation is a tailwind for a fair and unbiased third party institution like us which prioritizes improving customer satisfaction, as it will help increase the credibility of our rankings

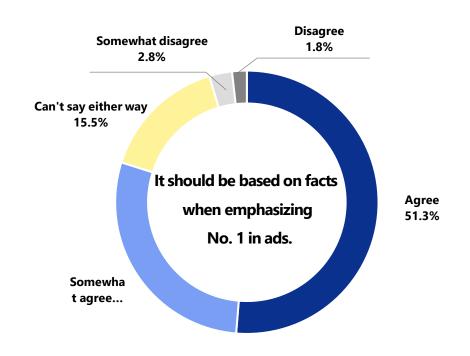
#### Impression of No. 1 Labeled Products & Services

(Based on 1,000 respondents / Individual answers)



#### **Opinions on No. 1 Labeled Ads**

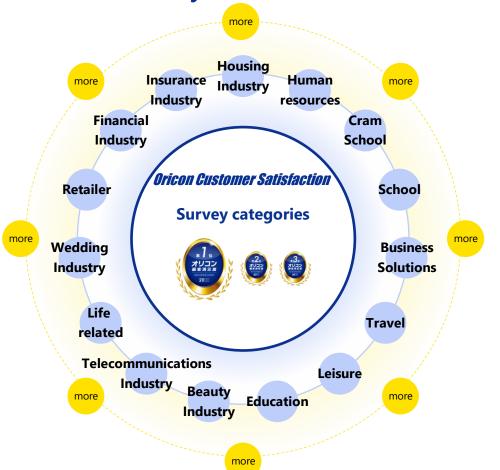
(Based on 1,000 respondents / Individual answers)



# Two Approaches to Expand Oricon Trademark Logo Usage



- Oricon Customer Satisfaction Research still has room to expand the number of categories and rankings covered, and also has potential for growth in terms of contract rates
- Continue to conduct fair and accurate surveys and announce rankings to further enhance its credibility as an index established in society that connects consumers and companies



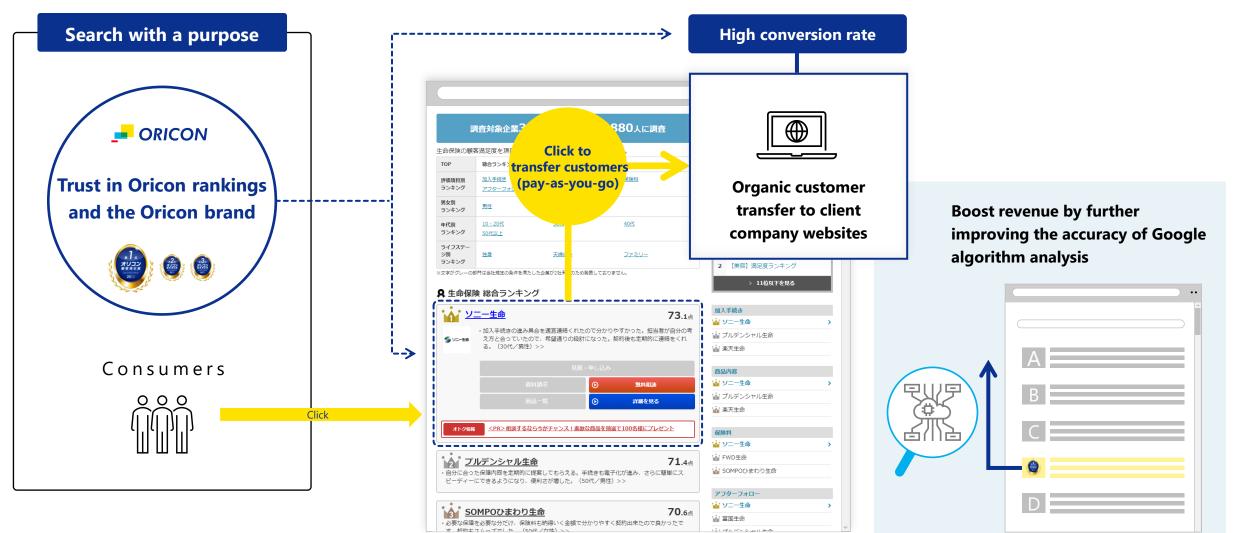
#### **Trends in the Number of Annual Rankings and Contract Rates**



## **Digital Promotion Business Initiatives**



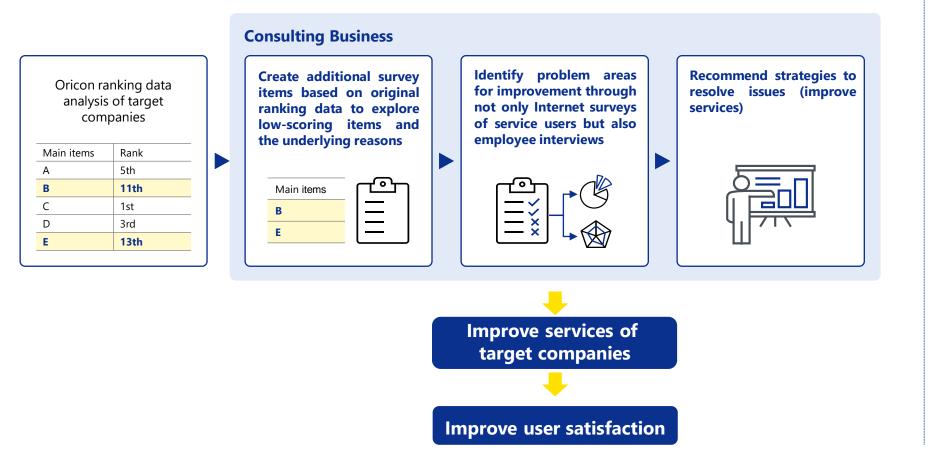
- The business focuses on organic customer transfer from search engines and Oricon's own media to client company websites. The conversion rate from Oricon rankings to client company websites is high due to trust in the Oricon brand
- Strengthen initiatives to boost revenue by further refining search engine algorithm analysis, particularly that of Google



# **Consulting Business Initiatives**



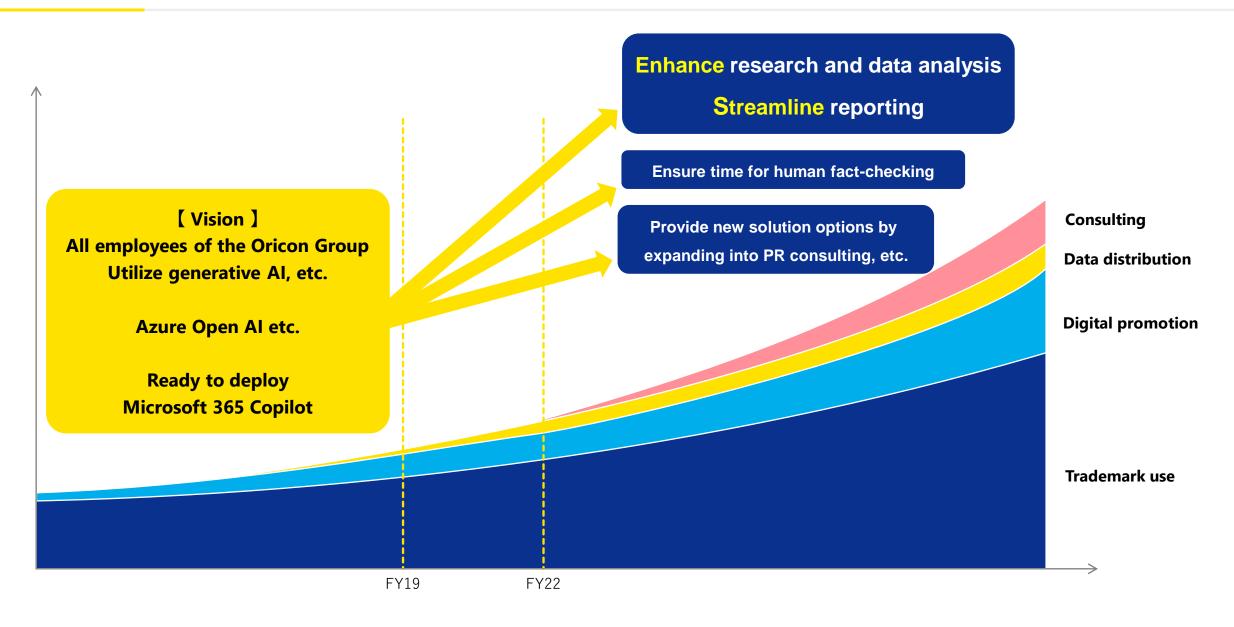
- By identifying low-scoring items in Oricon ranking data and conducting additional user surveys and employee interviews, we can locate specific areas of dissatisfaction among service users and propose measures to solve issues
- We intend to expand the Consulting Business to companies that have not yet concluded trademark logo licensing contracts because we can apply our accumulated expertise without a large increase in personnel





# **Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business Growth Image**

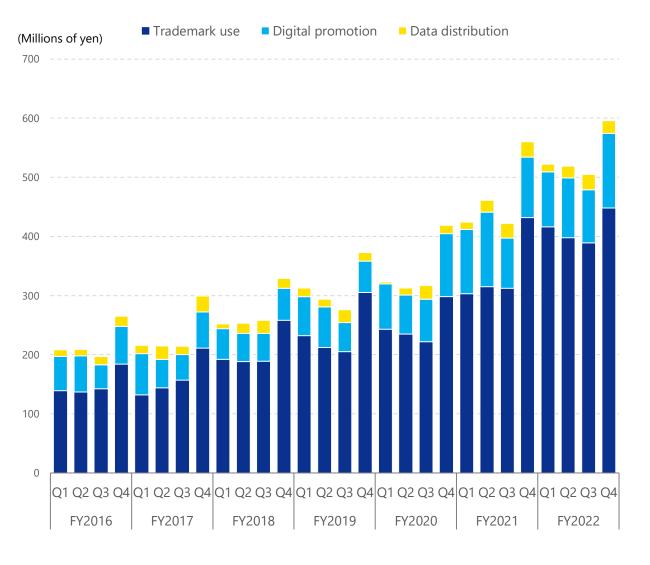




### Continued Growth of the Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business by Raising Awareness



#### Customer Satisfaction (CS) Research Business Quarterly Net Sales Trends



#### **Customer Satisfaction (CS) Business Net Sales Trends**

(Millions of yen)	Trademark use	Digital promotion	Data distribution
FY2016	601	224	54
FY2017	644	222	78
FY2018	828	201	63
FY2019	953	237	65
FY2020	997	320	52
FY2021	1,362	421	83
FY2022	1,651	410	82

# News & Media Business Model and Strengths



#### **News & Media Business Overview**



# **Entertainment industry companies**

- Entertainment production
- Record labels
- TV and radio stations
- Film distribution companies
- Publishers
- Event planners, etc.

#### **Package distributors**

- CD stores, electronics retailers
- E-commerce sites, convenience stores
- Bookstores, etc.

#### **Content distributors**

- Download stores
- Subscription streaming services
- Video streaming services



## **News & Media Business Strengths**



- Distributes reliable news backed by strong connections in the entertainment industry
- Captured the top market share in the entertainment category of major portal sites for over 10 years
- Established status as an entertainment news agency, including being used by Kyodo News to distribute articles to local newspapers

1

Solid foundation built on strong connections in the entertainment industry

2

Corporate strength capable of original news and video creation

**Our strengths** 

3

Accumulated expertise in article writing and editing for both print and online media

4

Our highly-valued dedication to providing articles that do not harm the subject's image, news based on fact, and intention to write articles readers appreciate

# Established status as a news agency focused on entertainment

- Distribution network to major news sites and news apps backed by high credibility
- Provision of news to local newspapers and content to major media such as national newspapers and TV stations, in addition to online media
- YouTube channel with over 1.96 million subscribers, as well as many views from non-subscribers, which consistently provides content that reaches over a million views

# **Capturing New User Demographics by Implementing Short Videos**



- Be the first to focus on the potential of short videos (3 to 5 minutes long) in entertainment news distribution
- Capture new user demographics through short videos that take advantage of Oricon's strengths and appeal to the lifestyles and tastes of the younger generation

Solid foundation built on strong connections in the

entertainment industry

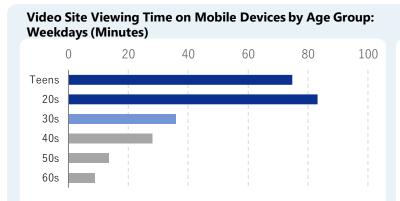
Corporate strength capable of original news and video creation

# Be the first to focus on the potential of entertainment short videos

芸能動画を毎日配信! ORICON NEWS

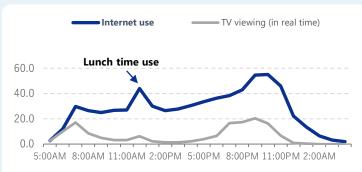


**Capture new user demographics** 



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications FY2021 Survey Report on Usage Time of Information and Communications Media and Information Behavior

#### Users in their 20s by Media Type: Weekdays (%)



Source: Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications FY2021 Survey Report on Usage Time of Information and Communications Media and Information Behavior

#### YouTube Ranking by the Number of Gen Z Viewers

Rank	Channel name	Viewers	Video category
1	THE FIRST TAKE	2.27 million	Music
2	oricon	1.78 million	Entertainment / variety shows
3	Hyakumantenbara Salome	1.51 million	VTuber
4	Nintendo official channel	1.41 million	Gameplay and game-related content
5	Ayase / YOASOBI	1.40 million	Music

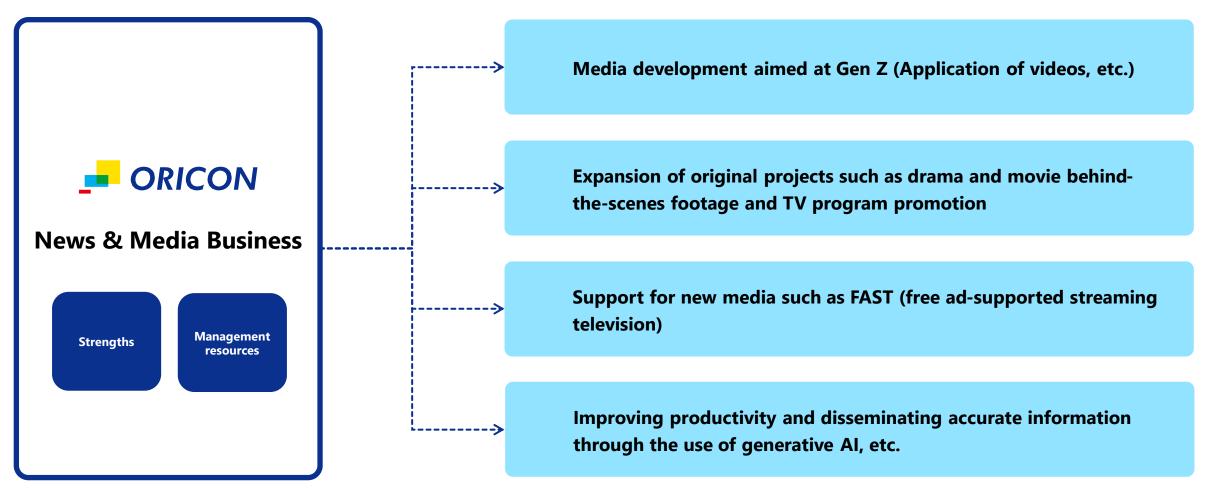
Notes: Gen Z is defined as viewers aged 16-26 as of December 2022. Data collection period: June 2022 - Dec. 2022 (target devices: PCs and smartphones) It is counted as one viewer if a video is played at least once during the data collection period. The number of views is the number of views per month.

Source: VALUES, Inc. "Ranking of YouTube Channels by the Number of Gen Z Viewers"

## Future Direction for the Expansion of the News & Media Business



- Policy to promote multifaceted business expansion based on the strengths and management resources cultivated to date in the News & Media Business
- Take on new and unique challenges without being reliant on a specific platform



The forward-looking statements including the earnings forecasts contained in this report are based on information currently available to us and certain assumptions that we believe to be reasonable. Accordingly, please be advised that we do not guarantee the achievement of the forecasts, and the actual results may differ significantly from the forecasts due to a variety of factors.

Oricon Inc. https://www.oricon.jp/