### **Branding Engineer Co., Ltd.**

# Financial Results 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter, FY August 2022

Disclaimer

The opinions and forecasts contained in this document are based on our judgment at the time the document was prepared. We do not guarantee the accuracy of such information. Please be aware that changes in various factors may cause actual performance or results to differ materially. In addition, the information in this document relating to other companies is quoted from publicly available information and other sources, and the Company does not guarantee the accuracy or other aspects of such information.



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## Executive Summary ① 3rd Quarter, FY Aug. 2022 Results

- 3Q Sales: JPY 1.805 billion (+JPY 676 million, or +59.9% YoY)
   Sales and gross profits have increased for the 7th successive quarter, reaching record highs.
- Cumulative sales after three quarters have surpassed last year's full year sales.
- Continued investment in advertisement and recruitment-related expenses has resulted in record quarterly operating profits of JPY 102 million.
- Cumulative net profit after three quarters was JPY 121 million, achieving the full year budget. (110.5% of full year budget)

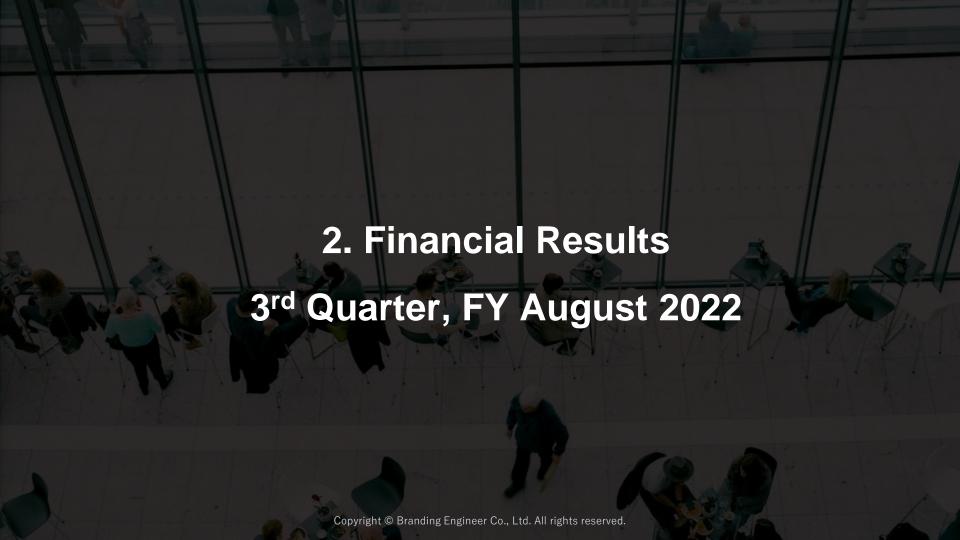


#### **Executive Summary 2**

#### Outlook for the 4th Quarter, FY Aug. 2022

- Achieved full year profit target after the 3Q
   Using profits generated up to the 3Q, invest aggressively in 4Q to achieve further growth over the mid-long term
- Continued investment in advertisement and recruitment-related expenses to recruit engineers and raise the quality of staff
- Aggressive management that aims to maximize future profits over near term gains through a recurring revenue model





#### Financials - YoY comparisons

#### Quarterly sales were +59.9% YoY, gross margins were +63.9% YoY.

	FY 8/2022 3Q	FY 8/2021 3Q		FY 8/2022 3Q (cumulative)	FY 8/2021 3Q (cumulative)	
	Actual	Actual	Change	Actual	Actual	Change
Sales	1,805	1,129	+59.9%	4,783	3,042	+57.2%
Gross margin	566	345	+63.9%	1,502	978	+53.6%
Operating profit	102	21	+373.6%	174	121	+43.7%
Net profit	83	5	+1396.5%	121	74	+64.4%

Quarterly sales and gross margin (YoY) 2.000 1,805 1,800 1.600 1.400 1,129 1,200 1,000 800 566 600 345 400 200 2021/8 2022/8 3Q 3Q Sales Gross margin



#### Financials - YoY comparisons (adjusted operating profit)

Excluding one time office relocation costs and M&A expenses, 3Q adjusted operating profit was JPY 120 million (+371.6% YoY) and cumulative operating profit after three quarters was JPY 256 million, or double that of last year.

	FY 8/2022 3Q	FY 8/2021 3Q	
	Actual	Actual	Change
Operating profit	102	21	+373.6%
Depreciation, amortization of goodwill	15	2	+433.1%
EBITDA	118	24	+380.8%
Office relocation expenses	0	_	_
M&A expenses	1	0	+32.9%
Adjusted operating profit	120	25	+371.6%

FY 8/2022 3Q (cumulative)	FY 8/2021 3Q (cumulative)		
Actual	Actual Change		
174	121	+43.7%	
29	6	+364.7%	
203	127	+59.6%	
26	_	_	
26	2	+1083.0%	
256	129	+97.5%	

(Unit: JPY million)

#### Full year earnings forecast and progress

3Q cumulative net profit against annual forecast: +110.5%

3Q sales and profits have far exceeded forecasts.

Using excess profits generated, we plan to invest heavily in advertisement and recruitment in 4Q to increase the number of engineers and staff and achieve further growth in FY 2023 and thereafter.



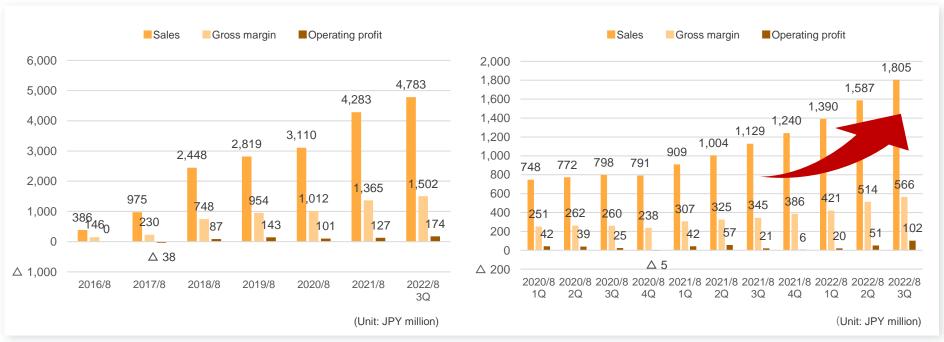


#### Quarterly earnings

Quarterly sales surpassed JPY 1,800 million

Record sales and gross margins for the 7th successive quarter exceeded

previous year's sales after 3Q. Further growth expected in 4Q.





#### SG&A - YoY by quarter

3Q saw continued aggressive capex to promote growth.

Advertising and recruitment expenses to attract engineers, the source of recurring earnings, have raised labor costs. However, digital transformation has improved our labor cost ratio over the previous year.

	FY 8/2022 3Q	FY 8/ 3	/2021 Q
	Actual	Actual	Change
Wages	226	147	+53.7%
Advertising	97	80	+20.8%
Rent	19	19	△0.5%
Commissions	52	31	+84.3%
Recruitment ads	24	19	+28.6%
Others	43	26	+66.1%
Total	463	323	+43.2%

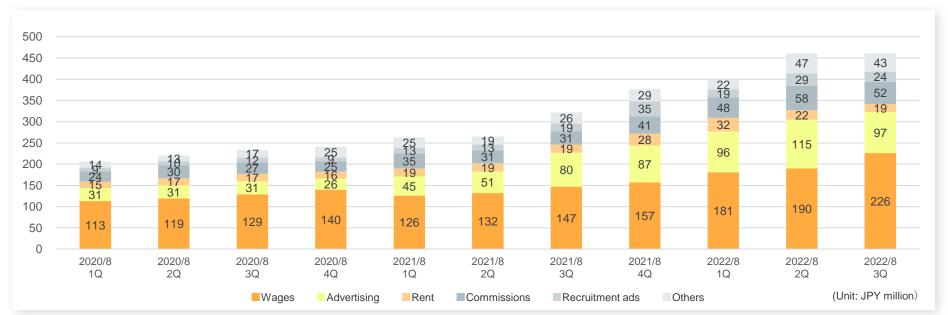
FY 8/2022 3Q cumulative	FY 8/2021 3Q (cumulative)		
Actual	Actual	Change	
598	406	+47.3%	
309	177	+74.6%	
74	58	+26.9%	
159	97	+63.0%	
72	45	+58.8%	
112	70	+59.5%	
1,328	856	+55.0%	



#### SG&A - by quarter

Advertising expenses rose by 262% compared to 4Q FY Aug. 2020, when the company went public. 3Q saw higher operating profits which will enable continued investing in future growth through advertising and recruitment.

Newly hired engineers are expected to contribute to recurring profits over the medium to long term.

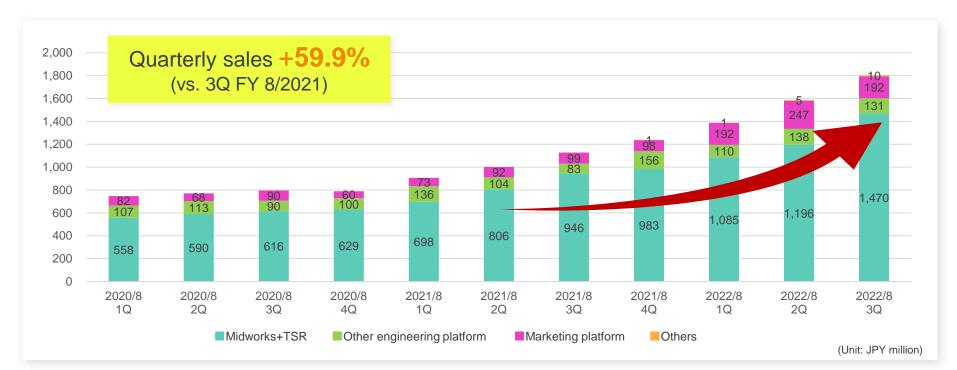






#### Quarterly sales by segment

In 3Q, our engineering platform led by Midworks drove sales higher. Total 3Q sales were +59.9% YoY





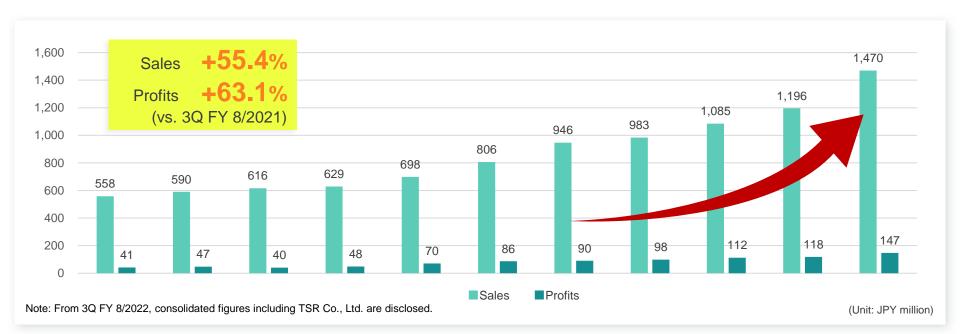
#### Midworks

Quarterly sales were JPY 1,470 million.

Together with profits, they continued to surpass record highs.

Continued investment in advertising and recruitment-related expenses for mid-long

Continued investment in advertising and recruitment-related expenses for mid-long term business growth Sales were +55.4% and profits were +63.1% YoY.



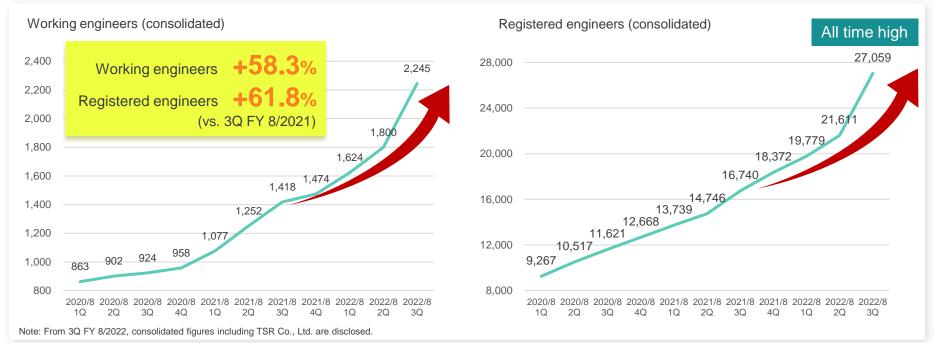


#### Midworks

The number of working engineers continues to surpass record highs.

By consolidating TSR Co. Ltd., the number of working and registered engineers has soared. We will accelerate advertising expenses to hire more engineers in 4Q

surpassing the previous record.





4. Market trends and the positioning of Branding Engineer

#### Market trends and the positioning of Branding Engineer

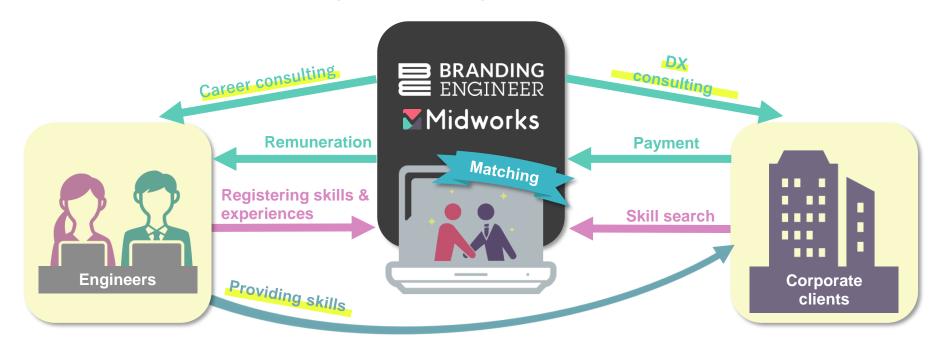
2 factors behind **Branding Engineer's growth** Skill sharing service in the expanding freelance engineer market **Providing** flexible **Branding Engineer's** organization advantage in the al design freelance engineer Responding market on a spot basis The advantages of using freelance engineers



#### Our Business Model

We provide comprehensive DX consulting services to companies.

Midworks, our core business, provides freelance engineer skill-sharing services to companies in the expanding freelance engineer market.





#### What is Midworks?

Connecting freelance engineers with companies
Matching service (skill sharing service)
We offer a wide variety of package plans to
remove your fears of becoming independent.



- **■**Business transportation allowance
- **■**Career advancement support expenses
- Accounting support system expenses
- Free membership to freelance association
- **■**Use of welfare services
- ■Co-payment (50%) of life insurance premiums

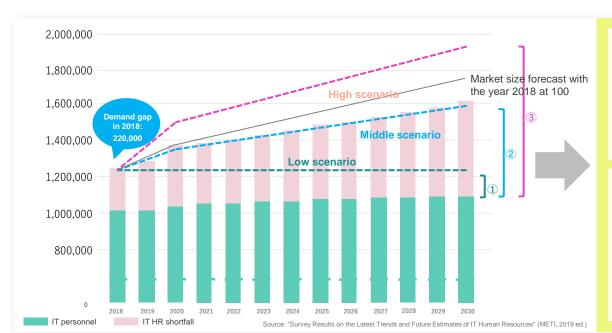


#### The expanding freelance engineer market

#### Reason 1

#### IT engineer job demand remains steady despite COVID

- IT personnel are in short supply due to strong demand stemming from digitalization and higher IT budgets at major corporations
- 60% of major corporations are willing to hire outsourced engineers (according to our survey)



IT personnel demand gap in 2030

#### Between 160,000-790,000

- 1 low scenario
- 2 middle scenario
- 3 high scenario

#### IT HR trends

The demand for IT personnel outstrips supply. By 2030 there will be a shortage of up to 790,000 people. We believe that the shortage of engineers will increase, and that the value of our company, which offers various engineering services such as training and freelance engineer matching services, will rise.



#### The expanding freelance engineer market

#### Reason 2

#### A rising number of freelance engineers

### Diversification of workstyles

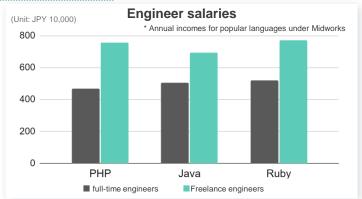
• In response to the reform of work styles promoted by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare of Japan, an increasing number of engineers are choosing to work without being tied down by time or location.

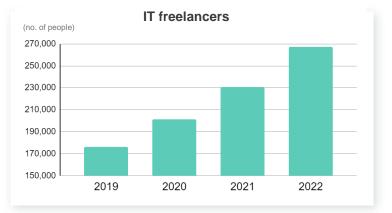
Higher pay than full-time employees · Average compensation for freelance engineers is 50% higher than that of full-time engineers (according to our research)

• The psychological hurdle to independence is low because the risk of losing one's job is low due to the high job-to-employment ratio.

Ability to acquire a variety of skills

- · Freelancers are not tied to one workplace, allowing them to acquire skills and languages.
- · Freelancers can participate in various phases of any company, allowing them to improve their skills.





Full-time employees: (Reference) TECH Street, "2020 Annual Income ranking by Programming Language", data among those in their 30's. Freelance: Annual salaries calculated from monthly pay at Midworks (2021-07-01-2021-09-30)

Source: Brocante Inc., "IT Freelance Human Resources and IT Freelance Agent Market Research 2021"



#### Our advantage in the freelance engineer market

Advantage ①

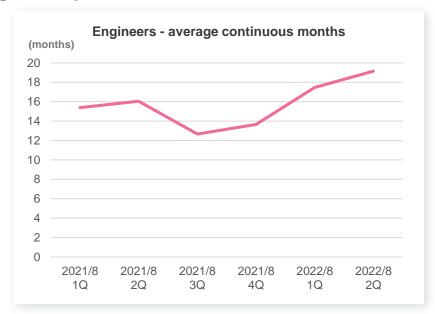
A high level of satisfaction and number of months of continuous service due to services designed from an engineer's point of view

- Branding Engineer's founder is a former engineer who has provided services from an engineer's point of view from day one.
- Midworks offers a package of benefits and salary guarantees to freelance engineers who sign up for our service. This eradicates any feelings of uncertainty that freelancers may have.



As a result.....

We maintain a high level of satisfaction and a high average number of months of continuous service



We have established an advantage in a business model where LTV (Life Time Value) is measured by the unit price x no. of continuous months



#### Our advantage in the freelance engineer market

Advantage 2

Efficient acquisition of freelance engineers through marketing

- Visualize the return on investment for each advertising medium until a contract is signed, and reinforcing the placement of ads with the highest returns on investment.
- Promote to engineers who register, the advantages of Midworks, such as its benefit programs, low commissions and guaranteed salaries.

#### Advantage ③

**Efficiency through Branding Engineer's unique matching system** 

- As an organization with its own engineers and expertise, we have developed a platform that achieves efficient matching.
- With our time efficient matching system based on the needs of the company and engineers, we have prevented lost opportunities on both sides.



#### The advantages of employing freelance engineers

With the changing social landscape and scaling of projects, having flexible freelance engineers can bring benefits to companies.

#### **Enabling flexible business design**

- Create an organization comprising full-time engineers with freelance engineers.
- Easy cost adjustment
   which reduces the
   Risk of cost overruns.



#### Available on a spot basis

- Assign engineers with the necessary skills only when necessary with the necessary skills only when necessary
- Assign engineers
  with the skills required
  for each phase of the project



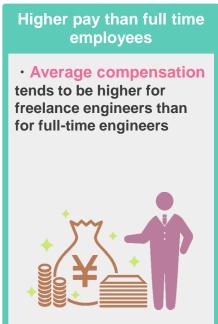


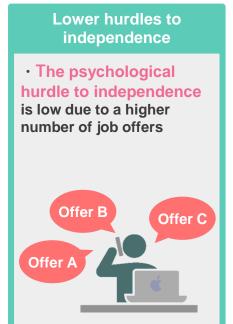
#### The advantages of becoming a freelance engineer

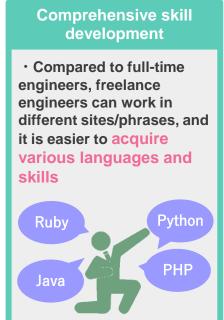
With new trends and change of the times, there are

#### many advantages to becoming a freelance engineer.



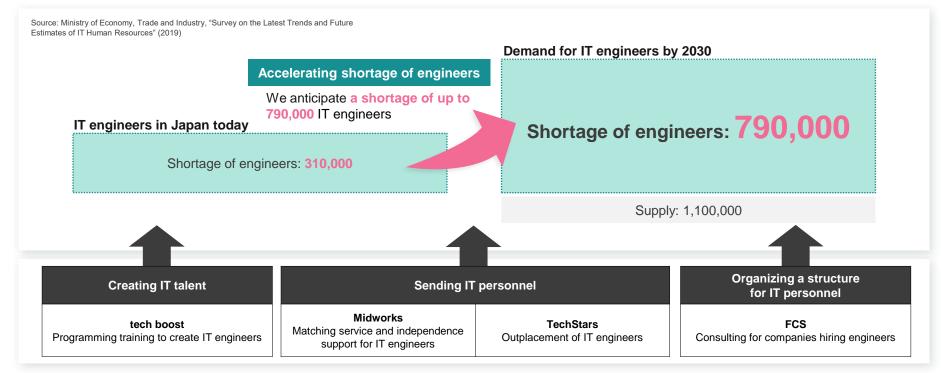






#### The market for Engineering Platform Services

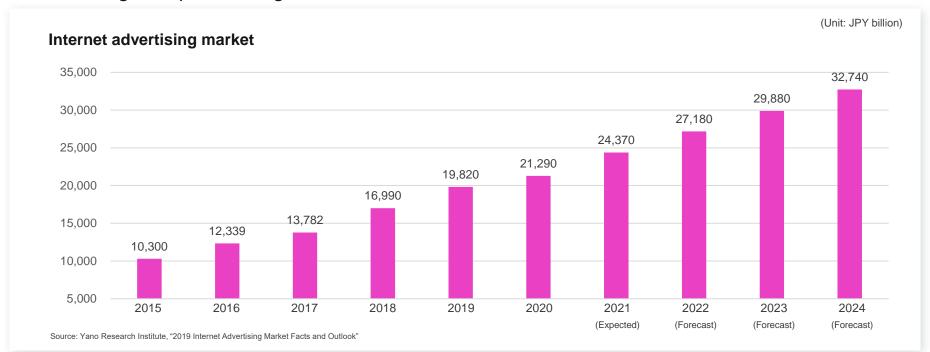
The market for engineer training and employment support is expanding due to the shortage of engineers. Demand for consulting services using engineers is also expected to increase.





#### The market for Marketing Platform Services

The internet advertising market is expanding every year and should reach JPY 3.2 trillion by 2024. Web marketing methods are diversifying and demand for web marketing consulting is expected to grow.





#### FY Aug. 2022 - key features

## Continued investment for growth

Focusing on advertising expenses, which is the growth trigger for engineering platform services, we will continue to invest for growth.

Management is not focused on short-term profits, but on becoming a company with a 100 billion yen market capitalization in the shortest amount of time possible.

## Further cooperation amongst business divisions

Changed segments to Platform Services for Engineers and Marketing Platform Services. Reinforce collaboration between each business division to accelerate expansion and become a platform company for both engineers and marketing.

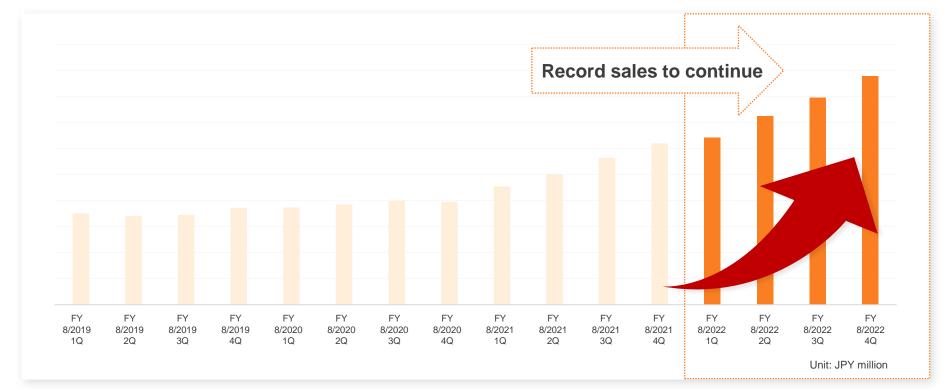
### New businesses and M&A

Expand our structure and functions to enter new domains and to conduct M&A to raise our growth curve by leveraging our strengths in IT engineering and digital marketing



#### Quarterly sales

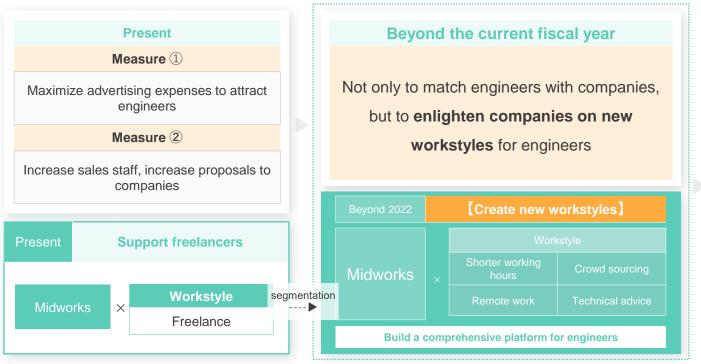
## We see **record sales** for each quarter in FY Aug. 2022





#### Platform service for engineers

For FY Aug. 2022, our focus is to create new ways for freelance engineers to work, and improve our value added in matching engineers with companies.



#### Future goals

#### IT engineers

Promote a free workstyle. Create an environment by enhancing options and increasing value whereby every IT engineer can enjoy his/her workstyle.

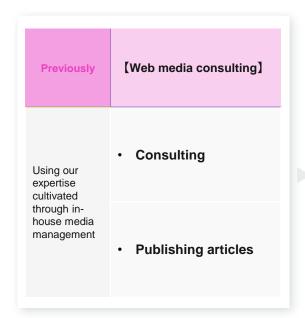
#### Companies

Create hybrid engineering teams of full-time and freelance engineers. Building essential IT that enables every company to achieve DX.



#### Marketing platform services

Expanding our business from web media consulting to web marketing consulting Offer comprehensive web marketing services such as SNS and web advertising, and other new forms of marketing support unavailable in the past

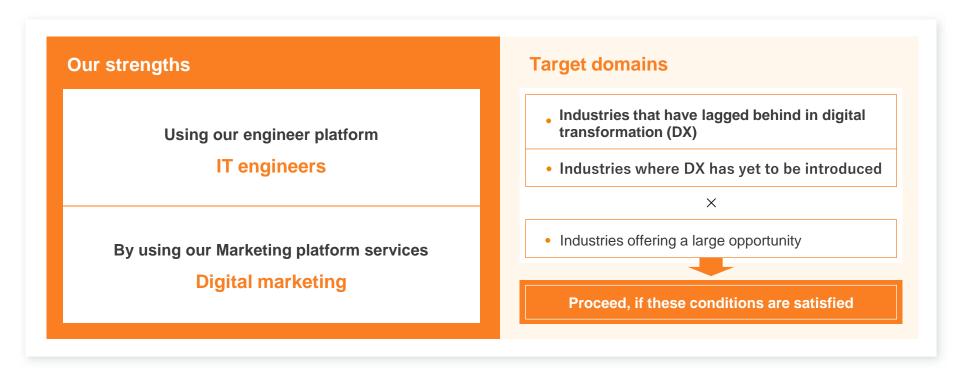


Current year	[Web marketing consulting]
	Web media consulting
	Web advertising consulting
Expanding the scope of web marketing consulting	SNS consulting
	• D2C consulting



#### New businesses

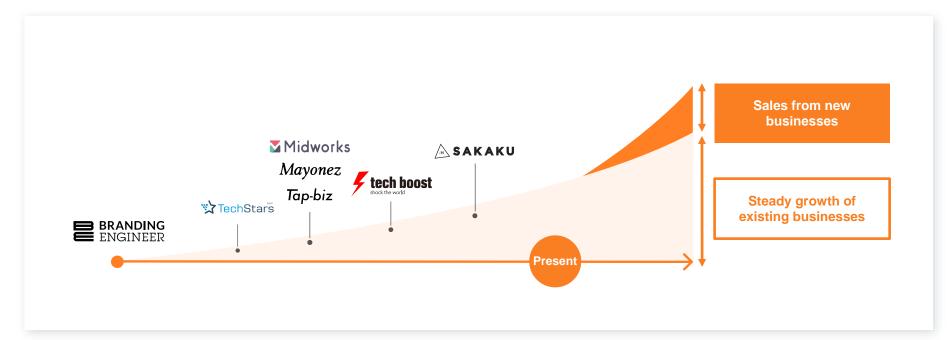
Entering new domains where we can leverage our own strengths.





#### New businesses

Continue to invest for growth while expanding business scale through steady growth of existing businesses and the contribution of sales from new businesses





#### Issuance of performance-linked stock options

To raise awareness of the need for medium- and long-term growth and value enhancement, with the aim of achieving a market capitalization of 100 billion yen, the Company will issue both free and paid-in stock options with market capitalization and performance conditions.

Exercise conditions	Market capitalization of JPY 100 billion or Net profit of JPY 2.5 billion
Recipients	Executive officers, Directors of subsidiaries, General managers, Team leaders, external advisors
Dilution	Free stock options and paid-in stock options totaling 1.5% of total outstanding shares

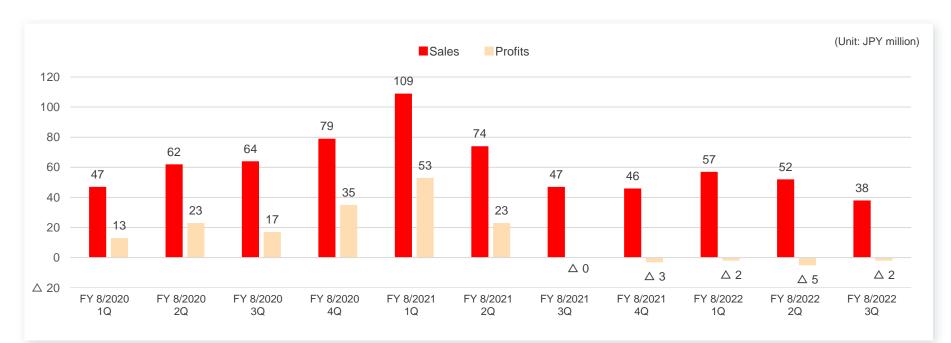




## Quarterly results - supplementary information on tech boost

In the 3Q, we reviewed plans for individuals.

We aim to recover sales beyond FY 8/2023 by differentiating users and rebranding our services.

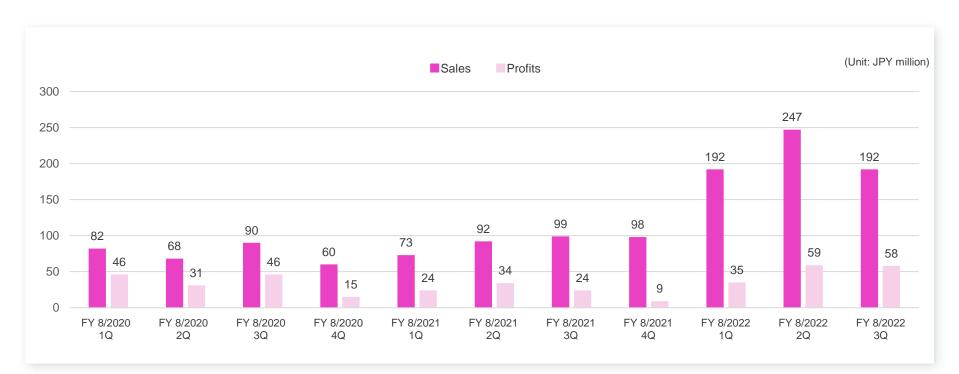




## Quarterly results - supplementary information on Marketing Platform Services

Expansion into web marketing consulting has been successful.

Sales were JPY 192 million (+93.2% YoY)





## Quarterly results - supplementary information on the Balance Sheet

With the acquisition of TSR, fixed assets (amortization of goodwill) and fixed liabilities (debts) rose sharply.

	End-3Q FY 8/2022	FY 8/2021	
	Actual	Actual	Change
Current assets	1,860	1,171	+58.8%
Cash & deposits	877	481	+82.1%
Fixed assets	507	147	+243.1%
Total assets	2,371	1,324	+79.0%
Current liabilities	957	638	+49.9%
Fixed liabilities	696	104	+569.2%
Net assets	717	581	+23.3%

(Unit: JPY million)







## "Breaking Common Sense"

Breaking the rules to create true value

A strong entrepreneurial spirit that continues to create new ideas and defy conventional wisdom



## Company description

**Company:** Branding Engineer Co., Ltd.

(TSE code: 7352)

Established: October 2013

Representatives: Yasushi Kawabata (CEO)

Katsuya Takahara (COO)

Capital: JPY 129.967 million

(as of 31st Aug. 2021)

No. of employees: 160 (as of 31st Aug. 2021)

Business: 1) Midworks

2) Media

3) tech boost

4) FCS

5) Others (including TechStars)

**Permits:** General Worker Dispatching Co. [Ha 13-306090]

Employment Agency Business Permit [13-Yu-307261]

Offices:

< Head Office>

6th floor, Shibuya Higashi-guchi Bldg. 2-22-3 Shibuya

Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to 150-0002 Japan

<Osaka Office>

Room A, 6th floor, Chiyoda Building West, 2-5-4 Umeda

Kita-ku, Osaka-shi, Osaka-fu 530-0001 Japan

<Miyazaki Office>

1<sup>st</sup> floor, Kurono Building, 3-6-34 Tachibana-dori-higashi

Miyazaki-shi, Miyazaki-ken 880-0805 Japan

<tech boost School>

6<sup>th</sup> floor, ST Shibuya Building, 1-15-14 Dogenzaka

Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to 150-0044 Japan

**History** Branding Engineer Co., Ltd. was established at Ebisu-nishi, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to as an IT engineering 10/2013 company specializing in HR technology and systems consulting. Started its FCS business. 9/2014 Issued 3rd party allocation of shares of JPY 20.007 million 1/2015 Set up Midworks 10/2015 Set up TechStars, a direct recruiting service specializing in IT engineers 3/2016 Launched Midworks, an IT-support services provider Issued 3<sup>rd</sup> party allocation of shares of JPY 101.99 million 7/2016 9/2016 Relocated head office to Maruyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to 10/2016 Launched Mayonez, a career magazine for IT specialists 5/2017 Launched Tap-biz, a career magazine for business people 10/2017 Opened tech boost, a programming school specializing in the latest AI, blockchain and IoT technologies 8/2019 Launched SAKAKU, a media consulting provider 7/2020 Listed on the Tokyo Stock Exchange Mothers market (TSE ticker code: 7352) 8/2021 Acquired 100% share of a media company making it a wholly-owned subsidiary, and consolidated the accounts 11/2021 Relocated head office to Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo-to

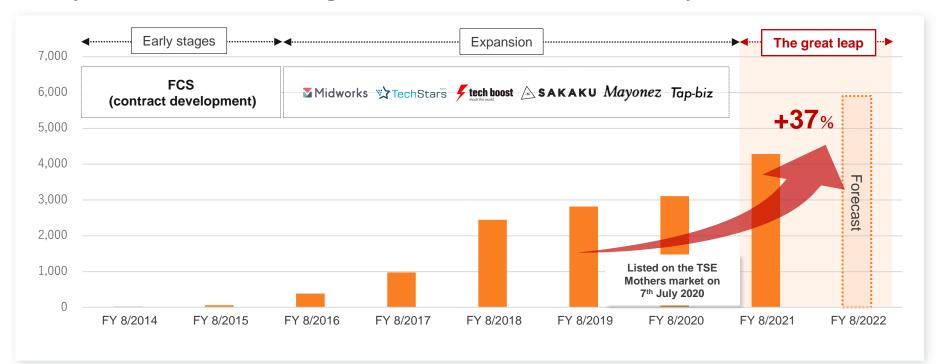


2/2022

Acquired TSR Solutions Co., Ltd. as a wholly-owned subsidiary

## Historical earnings

8 successive years of higher revenues since the company was founded in 2013. Revenues set to increase 37% this year. Our 3 years sales target was achieved a year early. Years 5 to 7 saw management reinforcement. Listed in July 2020.





## Branding Engineer - business description

# Platform services for engineers and Marketing platform services











#### Midworks

Matching services for freelance engineers

#### tech boost

Online programming education

#### **TechStars**

Career support services for IT engineers

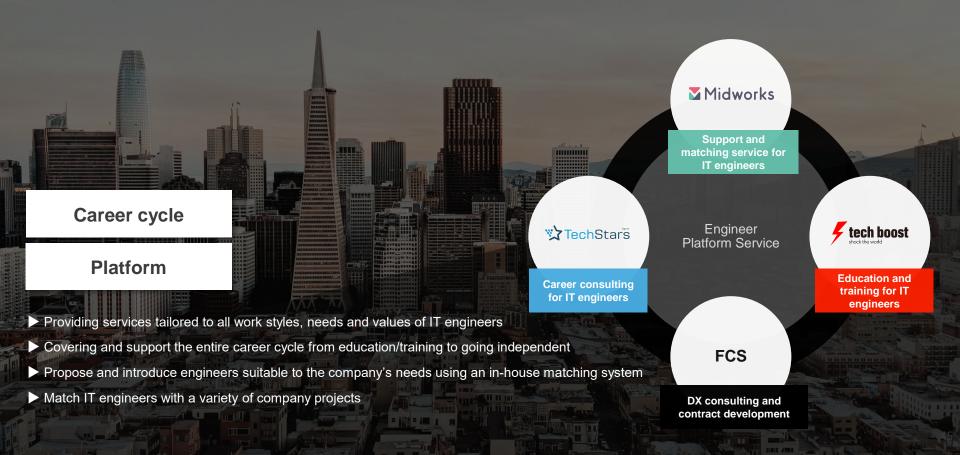
#### **FCS**

DX promotion and recruitment consulting

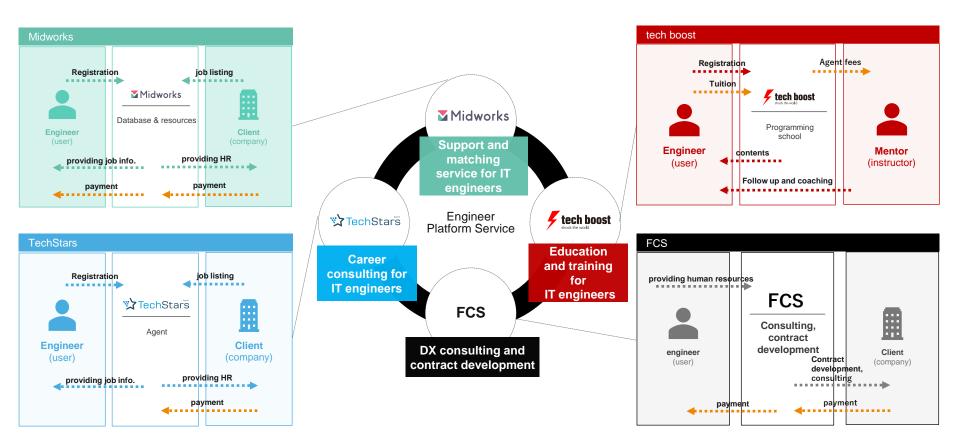




## **Platform services for engineers**



## Platform services for engineers - summary





## Platform business for engineers - list of businesses



#### **Midworks**

Freelance engineer matching service

Database of over 20,000 freelance IT professionals (as of Dec. 2021)

Wide variety of projects from companies

Promoting new ways of working with IT professionals



#### **FCS**

Providing various consulting services to companies on DX, ranging from contracted system development to providing recruitment consulting services to set up systems development divisions.



#### tech boost

Programming education for freelance engineers is offered in both classroom and online formats.

Engineers with practical experience act as instructors and provide practical IT training necessary for business people to cope with DX.

We offer a wide range of training programs to meet the needs of our customers.



#### **TechStars**

Job search service for IT engineers

By having a single consultant in charge of both the company and the job seeker, we are able to provide positions that match the values and needs of each individual job seeker from a wide variety of job openings.

## Platform business for engineers - scope of business

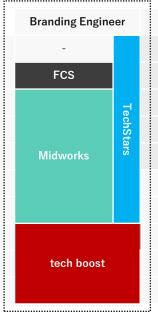
Our in-house engineer database

X

Marketing prowess to source a variety of engineers

...are our competitive strengths. We provide a wide variety of services to meet client needs.

Sending human resources, organization building	Strategy formulation
	Defining requirements
	Team design
	System design
	Development
	Operations, maintenance
	Testing
HR creation	Programming school
	(B-to-B)
	(B-to-C)

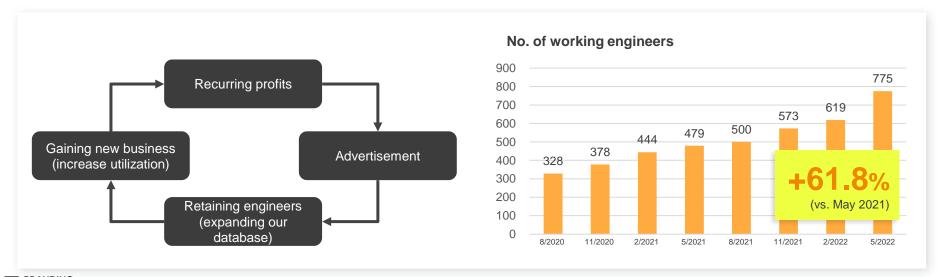


Company A	Company B	Company C	Company D
	-	-	
	-	-	
	-		
			-
-		-	-
-		-	-
-	-		-
-	-	-	-
-	-		-
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## Platform business for engineers (Midworks) - the business model

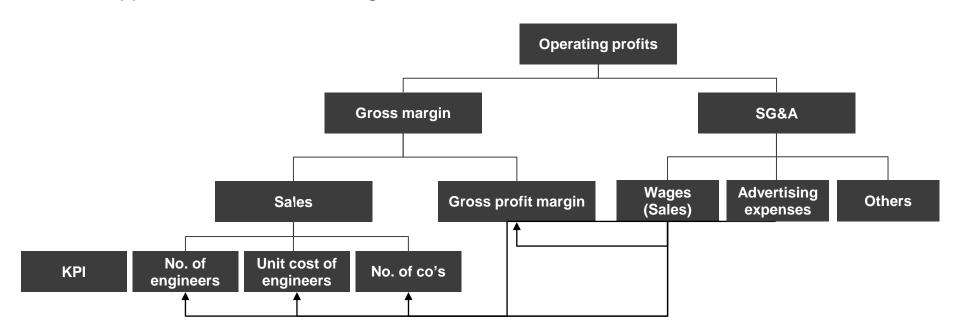
The engineer platform service is a recurring business model.

By increasing the number of clients (projects) and engineers, we have achieved stable sales growth. And by investing heavily in advertisement, we have been able to increase the number of working engineers by 61.8% (as of end-3Q; comparing end-May 2022 numbers with end-May 2021 numbers) The rise in working engineers contributes to our recurring profit growth.



## Platform business for engineers - the business model

Advertising has contributed to the higher number of engineers. Higher wages (Sales) have contributed to the higher number of companies (projects) and have supported the unit cost of engineers.





## **Marketing platform services**

Based on our knowledge of web marketing

#### **Expand into new areas**

- ▶ We operate over 10 media companies including Mayonez and Tap-biz
- Using our web marketing know-how through the operation of media companies, we provide web market consulting services to company's via SAKAKU

#### Web Marketing/Client Solutions

Our media companies

Tap-biz Mayonez

Others

Using our web marketing know-how

Web marketing consulting services

<u></u> SAKAKU

New areas

## Marketing platform services - business divisions



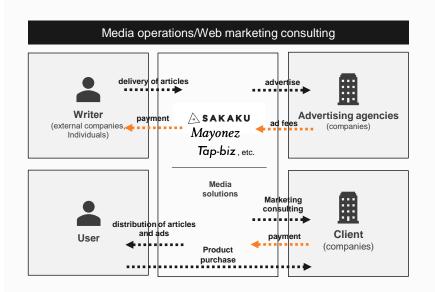
#### **Media operations**

We operate over 10 media companies including Mayonez, a lifestyle magazine for IT professionals, and Tap-biz, which provides information and knowledge to business people.



#### Web marketing consulting

Using our web marketing know-how through the operation of media companies, we provide web market consulting services that include SEO consulting, media start-up and writing articles.





## Acquisition of TSR Solutions

#### **Company description**



Company	TSR Solutions Co., Ltd.
Address	3-23-3 Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo-to, Japan
Established	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 2008
Paid-up capital	JPY 50 million
Description	IT solutions business
No. of employees	Approx. 80
Annual sales	Approx. JPY 611 million (FY March 2021)
Licenses & registration	General Worker Dispatching Co. [Reg. no.: Ha 13-305765] Employment Agency Business Permit [Permit no.: 13-Yu-309145] Info. Security Management System: [JIS Q 27001 (ISO/IEC 27001) Permit no.12572]
Main clients	Fujisoft, Sky, Hitachi Solutions, others



## Expected synergies from the acquisition of TSR Solutions

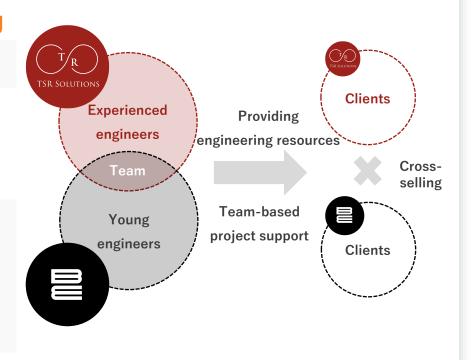
#### 1. Higher sales through cross-selling

Cross-selling by engineers from both companies to clients on both companies

# 2. High value added proposals by a team with common engineering characteristics

Linking the engineering databases of TSR, which has a strong infrastructure and many experienced IT engineers, and Branding Engineer, which has strong development skills and many young IT engineers.

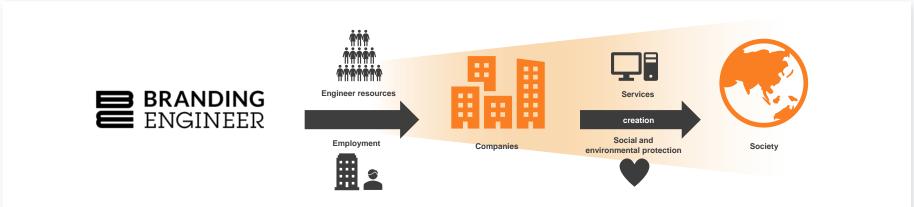
By providing support on a project-by-project basis, we are able to offer high value-added proposals to meet a wide range of client needs.





## ESG

Eliminating IT staffing shortages by matching companies with IT engineers Promoting DX in society and supporting the creation of new services New services bring environmental protection and social revitalization



Social & Environment	Governance
<ul> <li>Propose new ways of work for engineers, including support for freelancers</li> <li>Provide engineering resources to companies and create new services</li> <li>Creating services to enrich people's lives and revitalize society</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Enhancing corporate governance</li> <li>Compliance with the relevant laws and regulations</li> </ul>



## **ESG** initiatives

# Grow together with society by proactively promoting ESG

#### **Environmental protection through creative services**

- ◆ Reduce resource costs by going paperless
- Efficient waste disposal associated with DX
- ◆ Promote remote work to reduce carbon gas emissions





- ◆ Promoting diverse work styles including more freelance engineers
- ◆ Eliminating the shortage of IT engineers in Japan; produce more IT engineers

#### Social revitalization through creative services

- ◆ Provide engineering resources to create new value and services
- ◆ Create services to enrich people's lives and revitalize society

## **Enhancement of Corporate Governance**



- Compliance with relevant laws & regulations
- ◆ Build an appropriate escalation process & organization
- ◆ Implementing regular compliance training







## Disclaimer

This document contains forward-looking statements, plans and management objectives related to Branding Engineer ("the Company")

These forward-looking statements are based on current assumptions about future events and trends, do not guarantees that such assumptions will prove accurate, and involve risks and uncertainties. Please note that actual results may differ materially from these forward-looking statements due to changes in the business environment and other factors.

Unless otherwise indicated, the financial data presented in this document are presented in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in Japan.

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