



# Interim Report

Fourth quarter 2022

Thomas Berge, Interim CEO  
Morten Edvardsen, Interim CFO

A large, dark blue circle with a thin orange border, containing the text "Q4" in a large, white, sans-serif font.

Q4

# LINK facts and figures

**2000**

FOUNDING YEAR

**#1**

MESSAGING PLAYER IN EUROPE

**~ 16.8 bn**

MESSAGES SENT per year

**30**

OFFICES GLOBALLY

**19**

COUNTRIES IN OUR GROUP

**~ 50 k**

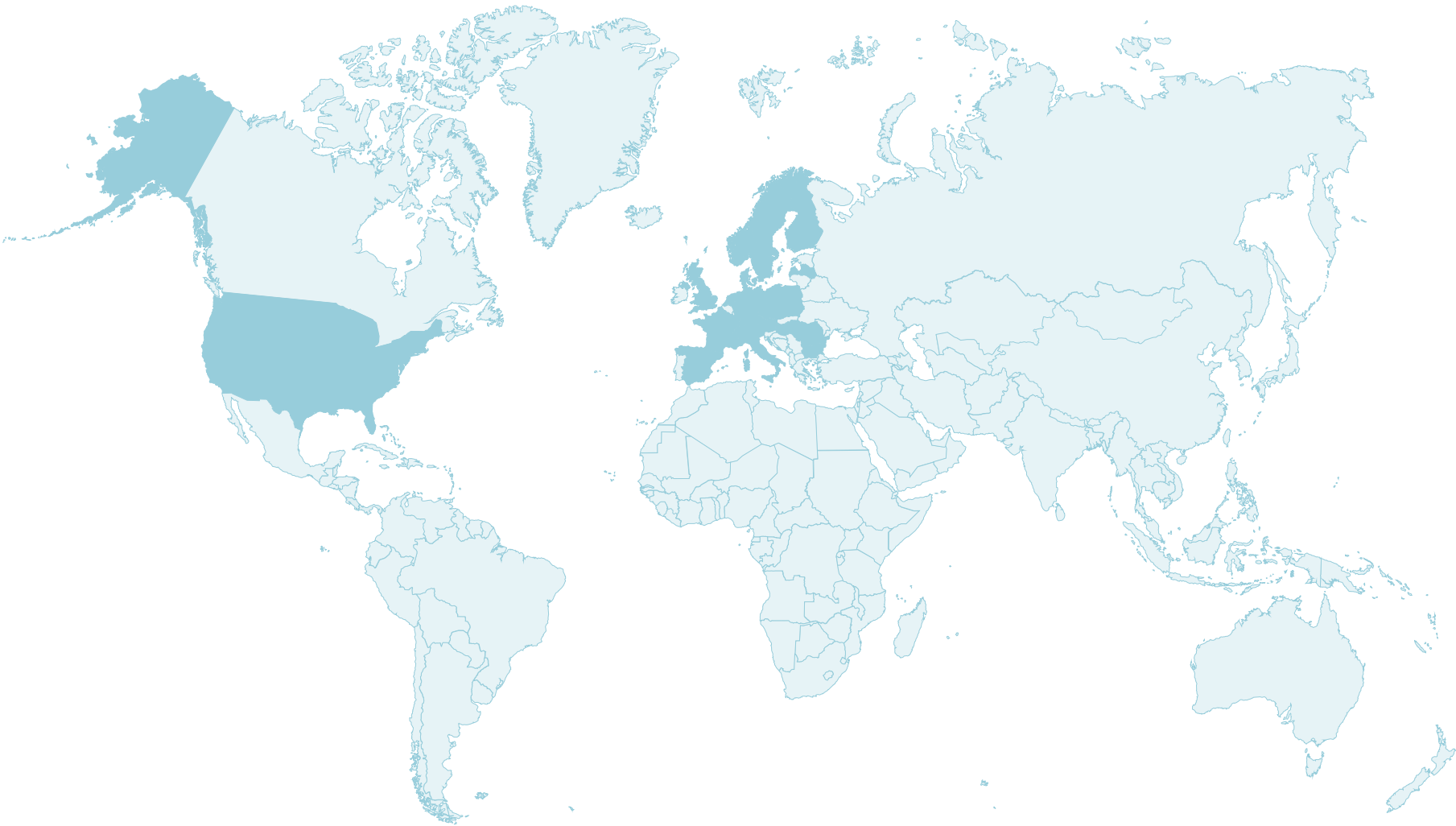
HAPPY CLIENTS WORLDWIDE

**NOK 5.2 bn**

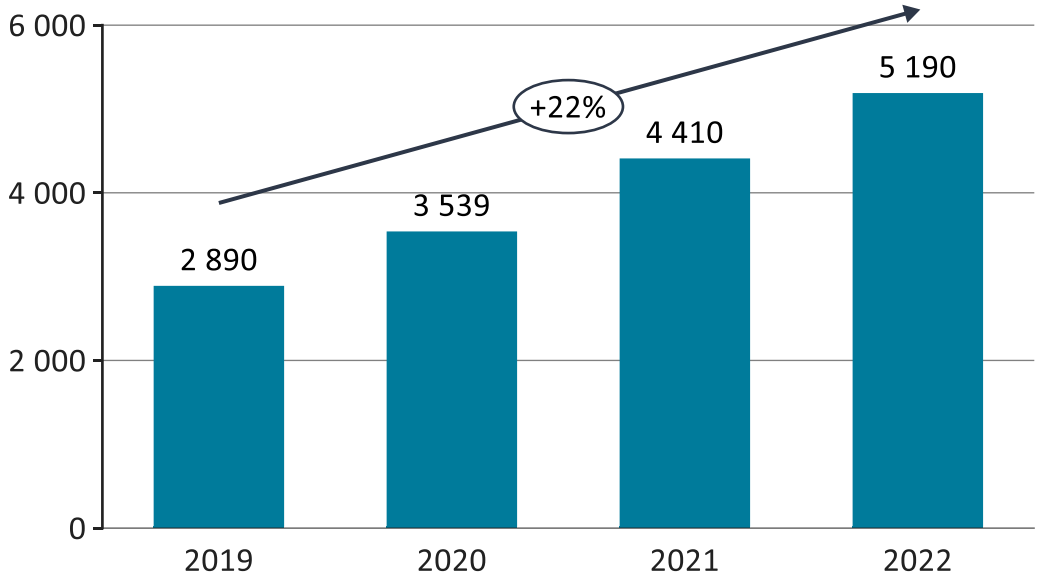
Revenue 2022

**NOK 625 m**

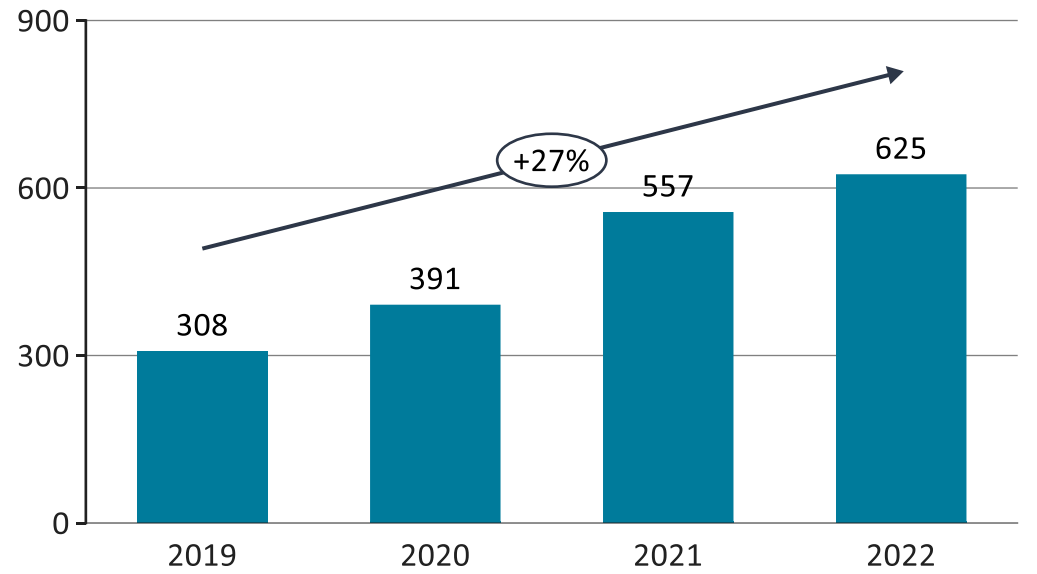
Adjusted EBITDA 2022



Revenue NOKm



Adjusted EBITDA NOKm



# Fourth quarter report 2022 highlights



All-time high revenue of NOK 1,525 million or a growth of 18%

- Organic revenue growth in fixed currency of 12% supported by
  - US growth with normalized critical event volumes compared to Q4 21 with unusually low activity
  - High growth momentum for Global Messaging aggregator volumes
  - Improved retail activity in Europe after soft volumes in Q2 22 and Q3 22



All-time high gross profit of NOK 400 million or an increase of 11%

- Organic gross profit growth in fixed currency of 5% and below revenue growth due to margin mix effects
  - Increase in low margin aggregator volumes and loss of high margin covid traffic YoY



All-time high adjusted EBITDA of NOK 188 million or a growth of 7%

- Previously announced opex reductions contributed NOK 9 million in the quarter



LINK signed 644 new and expanding agreements in the fourth quarter

- New agreements signed stable at high level YoY

# Improved execution providing the foundation for increased profitability



## 2022 challenges with negative impact on profitability

- Low growth momentum from new contract wins and too high run rate costs on entering the year
- Soft retail mobile marketing volumes in Q2 22 and Q3 22
- Gross profit growth in 2022 reduced by high comparables in 2021 related to non-recurring covid traffic



## Impact from actions to improve profitability

- Higher contract backlog in H2 2022 as refocused commercial activities increased inflow of new business
- High gross profit growth from global clients in absolute amounts and percentage
- Opex reduction initiatives ahead of and larger than previous forecast



## Revenue increased by 18% in the year to NOK 5,190 million

- Organic revenue growth was 12% in 2022 in fixed currency



## Gross profit grew by 15% to NOK 1,385 million

- Organic gross profit growth of 4% in fixed currency negatively impacted by high margin non-recurring covid traffic in the previous year



## Reported adjusted EBITDA growth of 12% to NOK 625 million

- Opex cuts initiated late 2022 at NOK 9 million in the last quarter of the year

# Steps taken delivering positive profit trend into 2023

## Expected development for gross profit and profitability in 2023

- Significantly improved commercial momentum to positively impact gross profit growth
- Opex savings progressing ahead of target to further support profitability
  - NOK 60 million improvement to 2022, partly offsetting underlying cost increases
- Covid growth dilution of 3 percentage points in 2022 to disappear after Q1 23
- Macroeconomic uncertainty remains, churn however expected to remain at a low level

## Forward-looking statement 2023

- Gross profit growth expected to be higher than in 2022
- Organic adjusted EBITDA growth expected to be 12-15% in fixed currency
  - Supported by execution on opex savings



# Commercial refocus - Strong growth in forecasted contribution from new wins

Large upswing in forecasted gross profit contribution from new contract wins

- Not including strong growth momentum also in the US which comes on top

Higher contract wins clearly supportive to gross profit growth

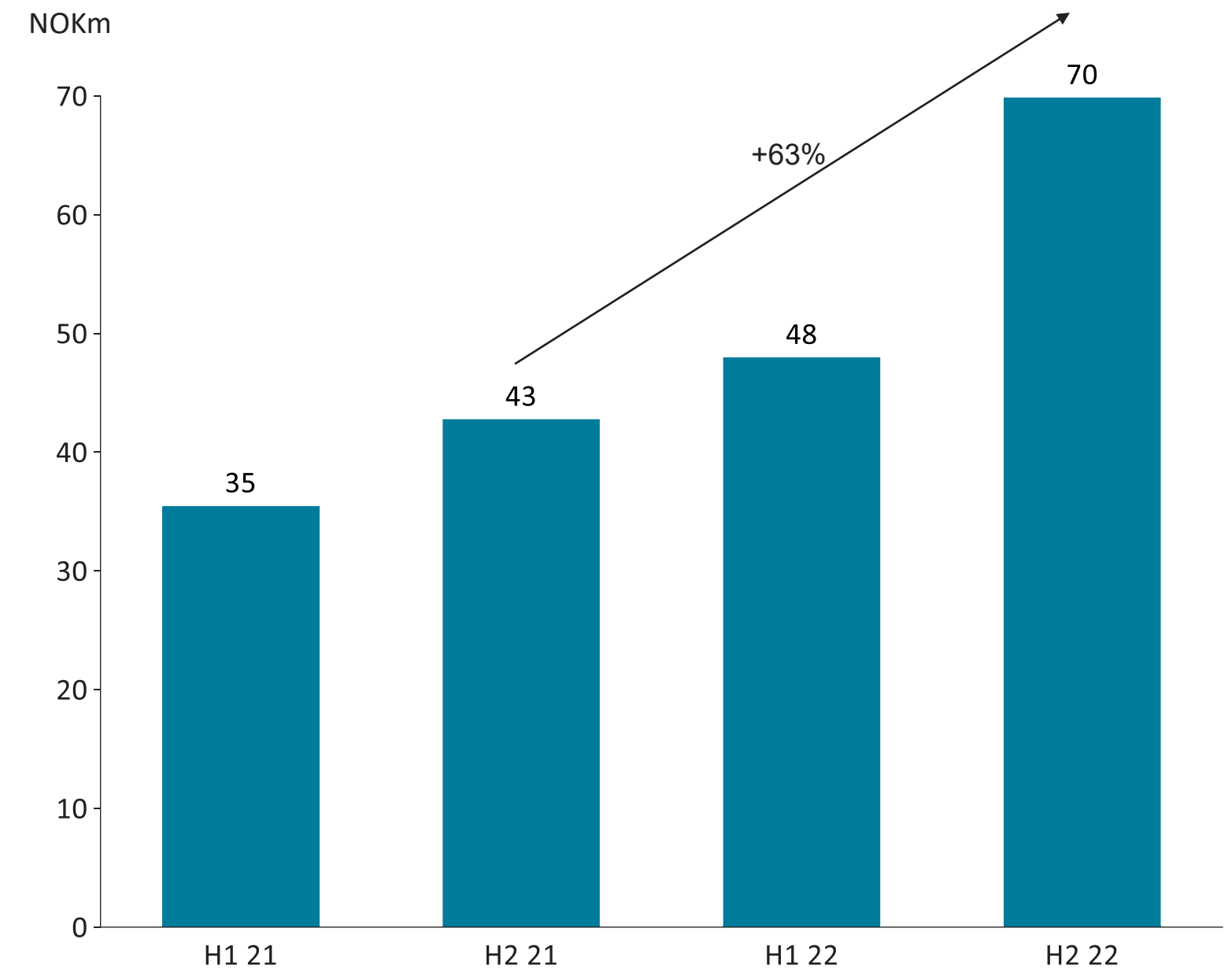
- Historical data indicates 75% of gross profit will be recorded in the P&L within 12 months

Several measures implemented in 2022 to execute on higher gross profit growth

- Stronger focus on products with proven market demand and less resources spent on building market adoption
  - Sell more SMS and switch customers to Rich SMS and OTT\* channels with higher profitability
  - Upsell Xenioo and WhatsApp to customers

\*) OTT channels include new communication methods like RCS, WhatsApp, Messenger etc.

Annualized gross profit contribution\* from new contract wins



\* Forecasted annual gross profit contribution based on best estimate from CRM system data, US contracts not included

# Cost initiatives ahead - Supporting adjusted EBITDA and free cash flow in 2023

### Higher cost reductions and execution ahead of plan

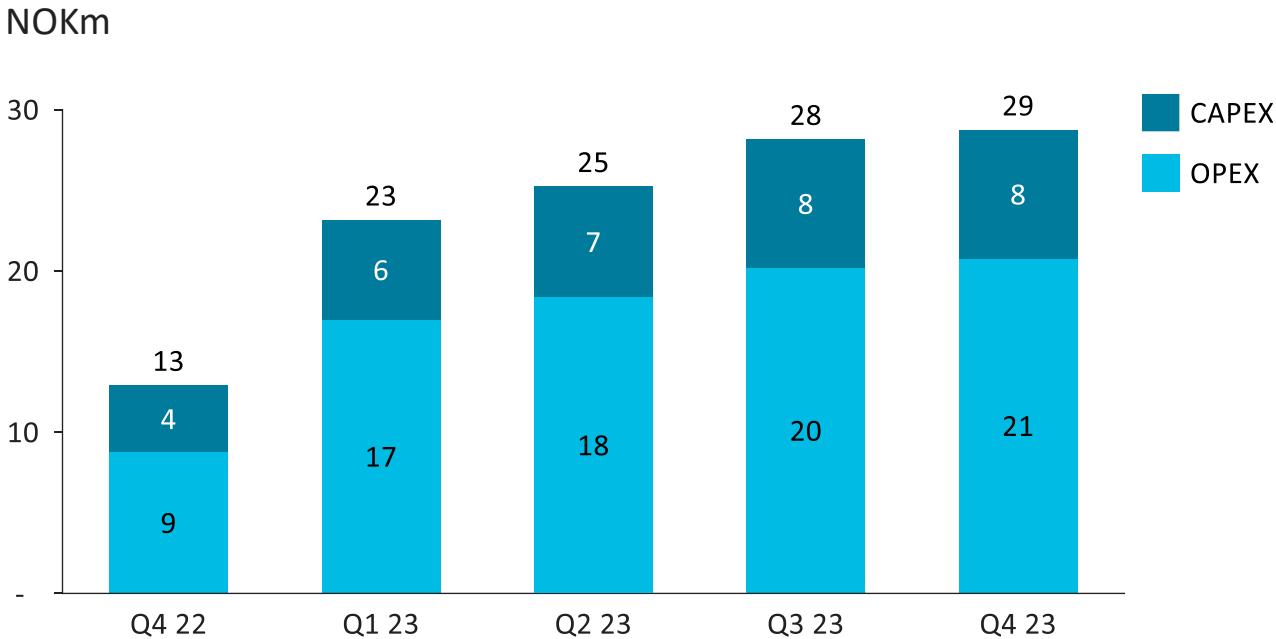
- Q4 22 actuals NOK 13 million, up from previous estimate of NOK 9 million
- Updated total cost savings for 2023 to NOK 105 million, an increase of NOK 27 million from previous estimate

### Opex reduction for 2023 re-forecasted at NOK 76 million

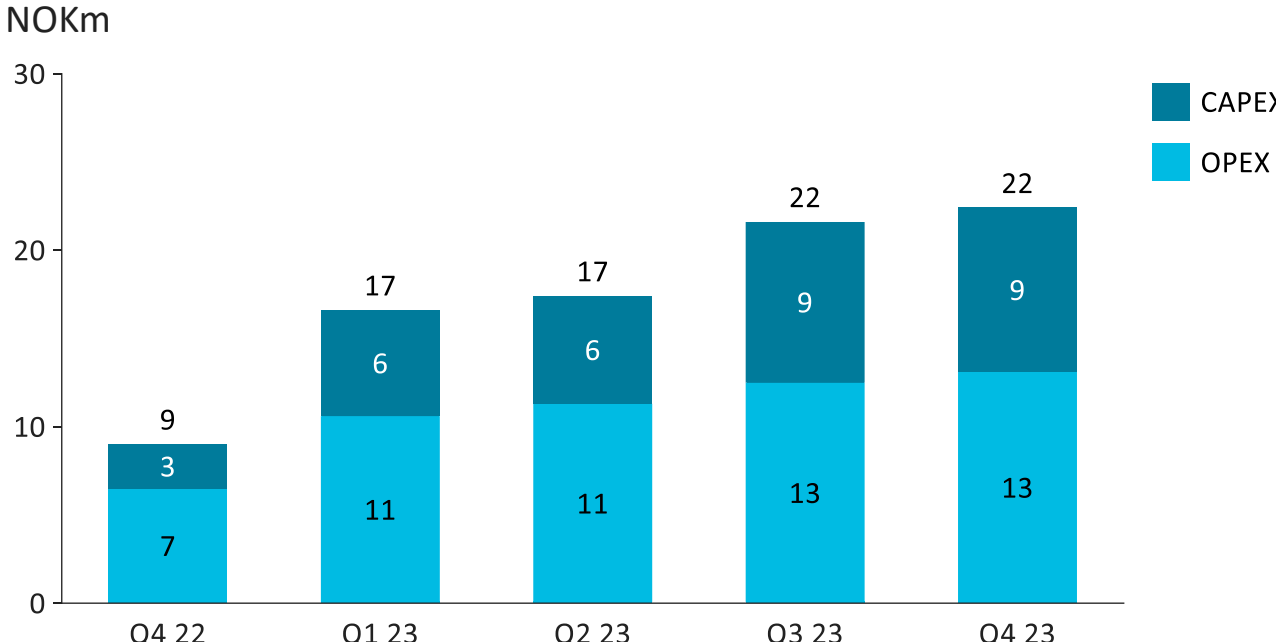
- New forecast is NOK 28 million higher than previous estimate for 2023
- Opex initiatives expected to increase profitability in 2023 by NOK 60 million compared to 2022

### Capex reduction for 2023 inline with previous forecast at NOK 29 million

Updated cost saving estimates from Q2 22 cost level



Initial cost saving initiatives from Q2 22 cost level



# Organic gross profit growth visibility from 2023

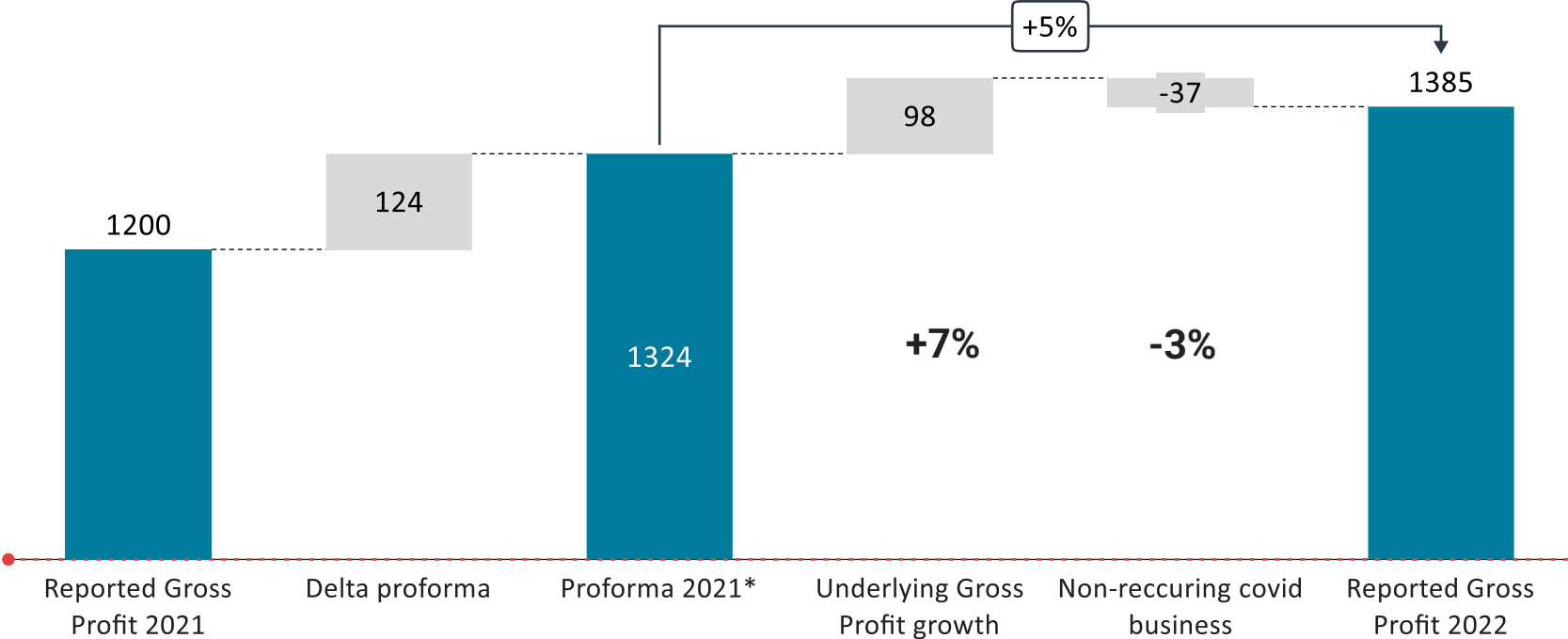
Lower gross profit growth in 2022 due to non-recurring covid traffic

- High covid related traffic in Austria, Poland and Norway, connected to vaccination and testing, in the same period the previous year
- Effect reduced gross profit growth in 2022 by 3 percentage points

Effect to disappear after Q1 23 as no material covid traffic after Q1 22

- Reported organic gross profit growth equal to underlying performance

Gross profit (NOKm) and growth (%)



\* pro forma excluding acquired US customer base.



# LINK grows and retains customers

49,907 active customer accounts growing 6% YoY

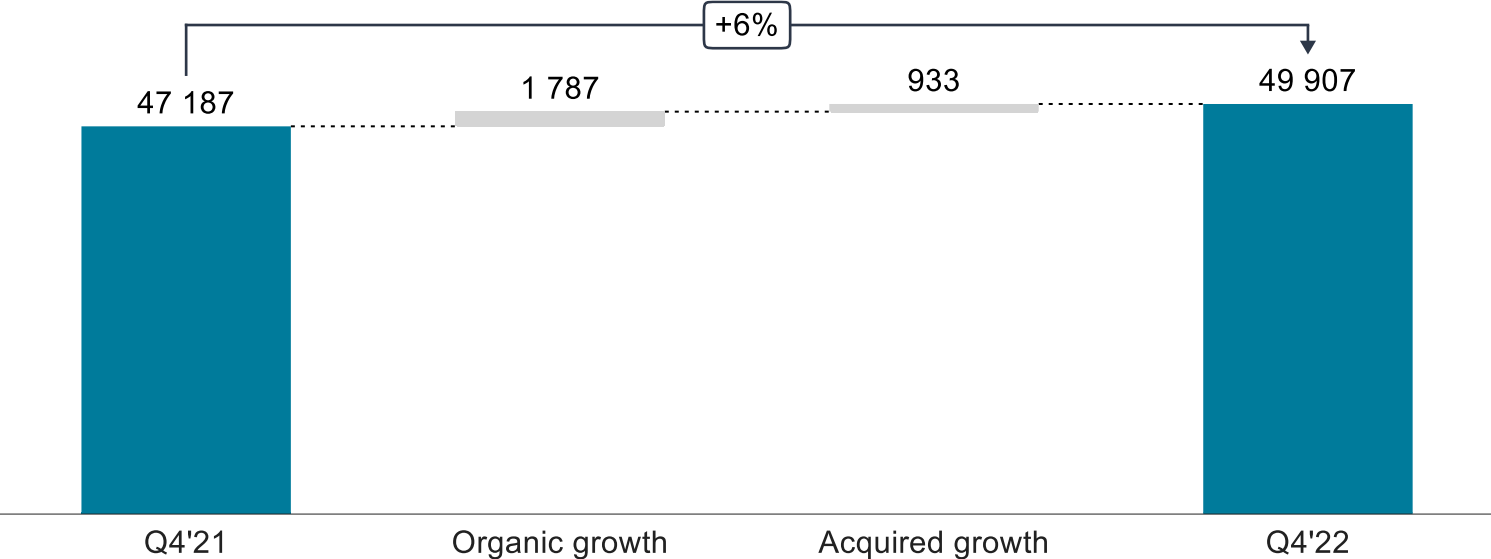
- Organic growth 1,787 new customer accounts
- 933 new customer accounts acquired

New agreements signed was stable at high level YoY

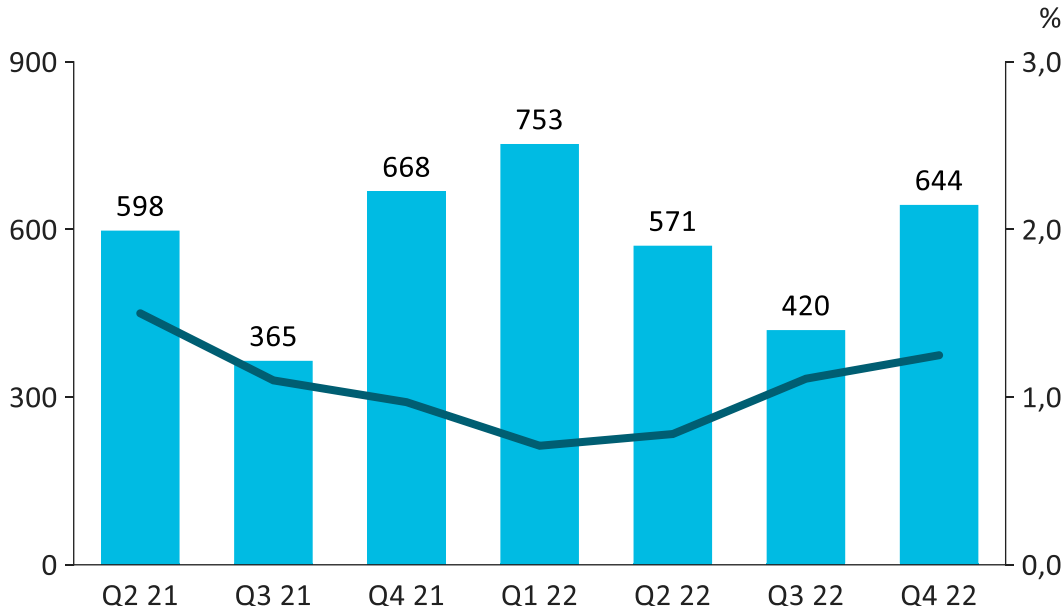
Customer churn remained very low at 1.25% in 4Q 22

- Been stable well below 2% in the last two years

## Customer accounts



## New agreements signed in quarter / Customer churn (%)



# LINK gaining traction in the US

Gross profit momentum with 54% growth to USD 9 million in Q4 22

- High order backlog for messaging solutions
- Broader exposure to critical events messaging with utilities
  - New agreements signed across the US with large potential to scale revenue

LINK signed two new large utility contracts with committed revenue of USD 7.6 million

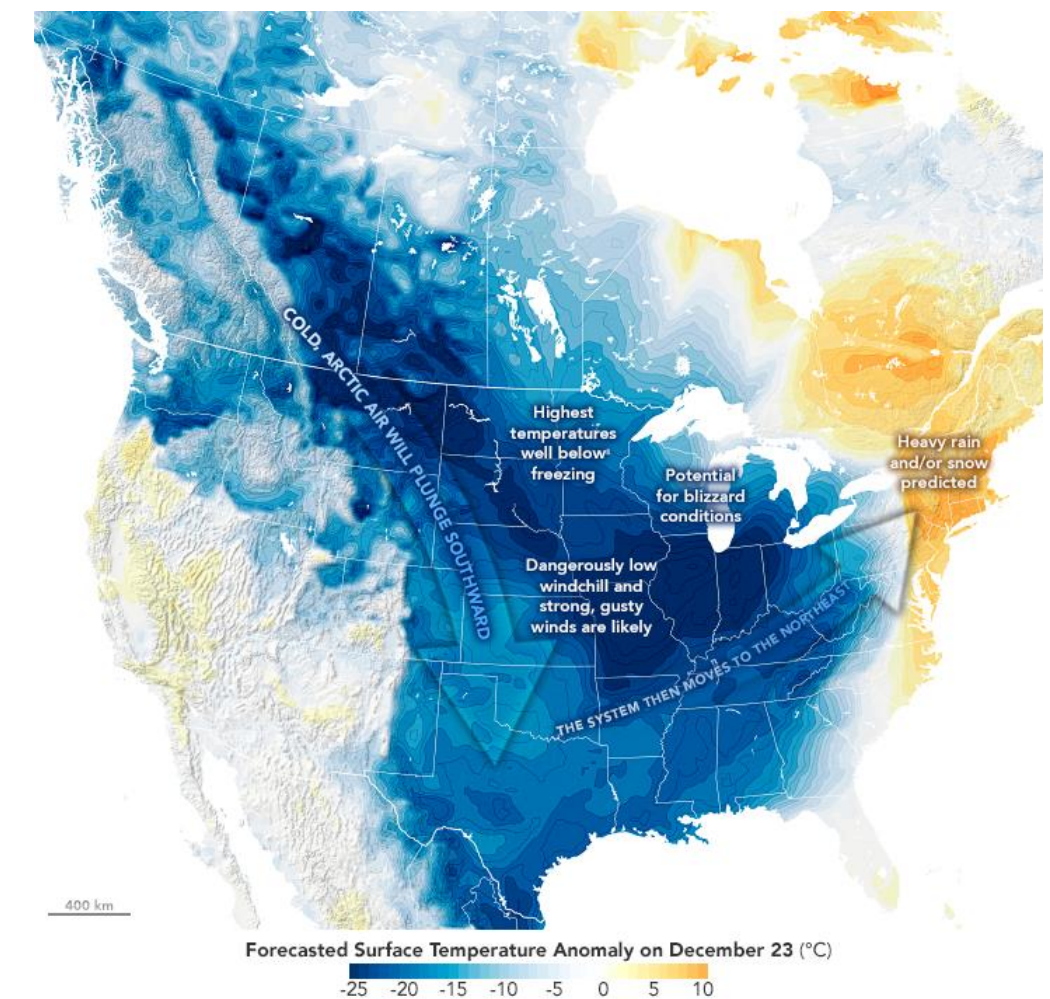
- Three-year contracts generating license fees and professional service revenue
  - Unquantifiable critical events messaging an addition
- Fortune 500 companies with more than 10,000 employees and several million customers

LINK has in addition agreed to take over a customer base in the US in November

- Carved-out from larger undisclosed company with no material impact on LINK financials
- Merged with Message Broadcast to provide further diversification and growth opportunities
- Customer base cash settled at multiple equal to financial policy ceiling of 3.5x leverage

## Business expanded across US since acquisition

Exposure to US winter storms in December 2022



NASA Earth Observatory

# CPaaS solutions increasingly contributing to overall growth

Group growth in new contract wins amplified by strong CPaaS development

- Forecasted gross profit contribution from CPaaS solutions grew 140% in Q4 22 YoY
  - However longer P&L lead times as clients need to adapt their value chains

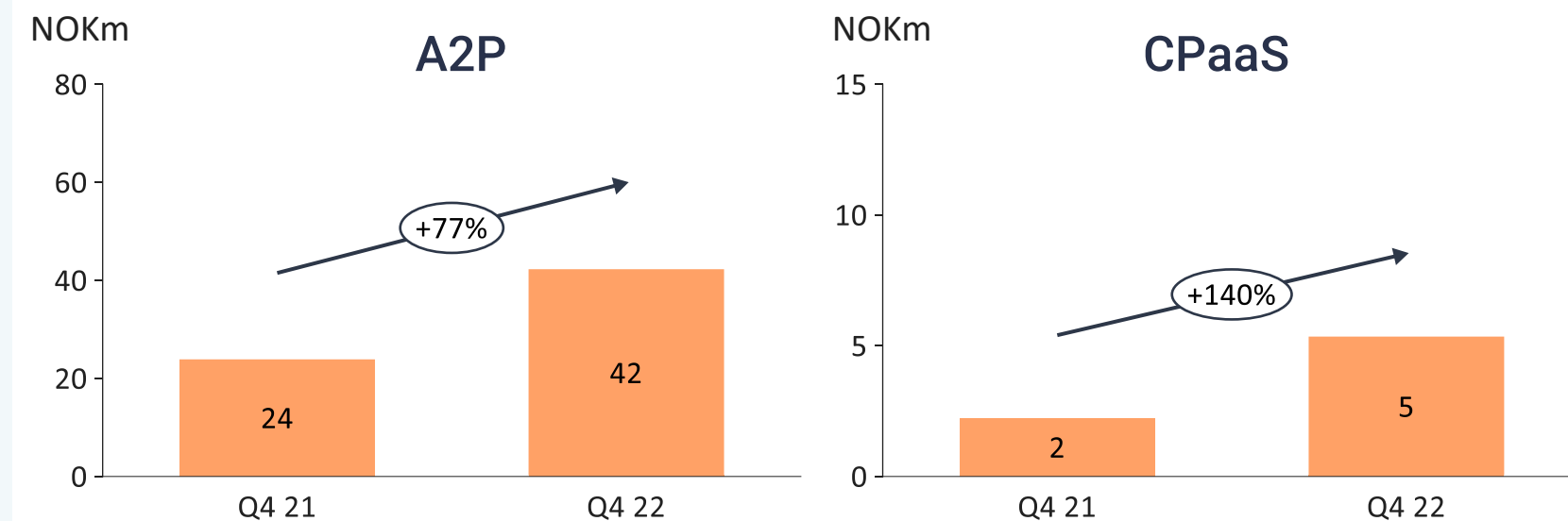
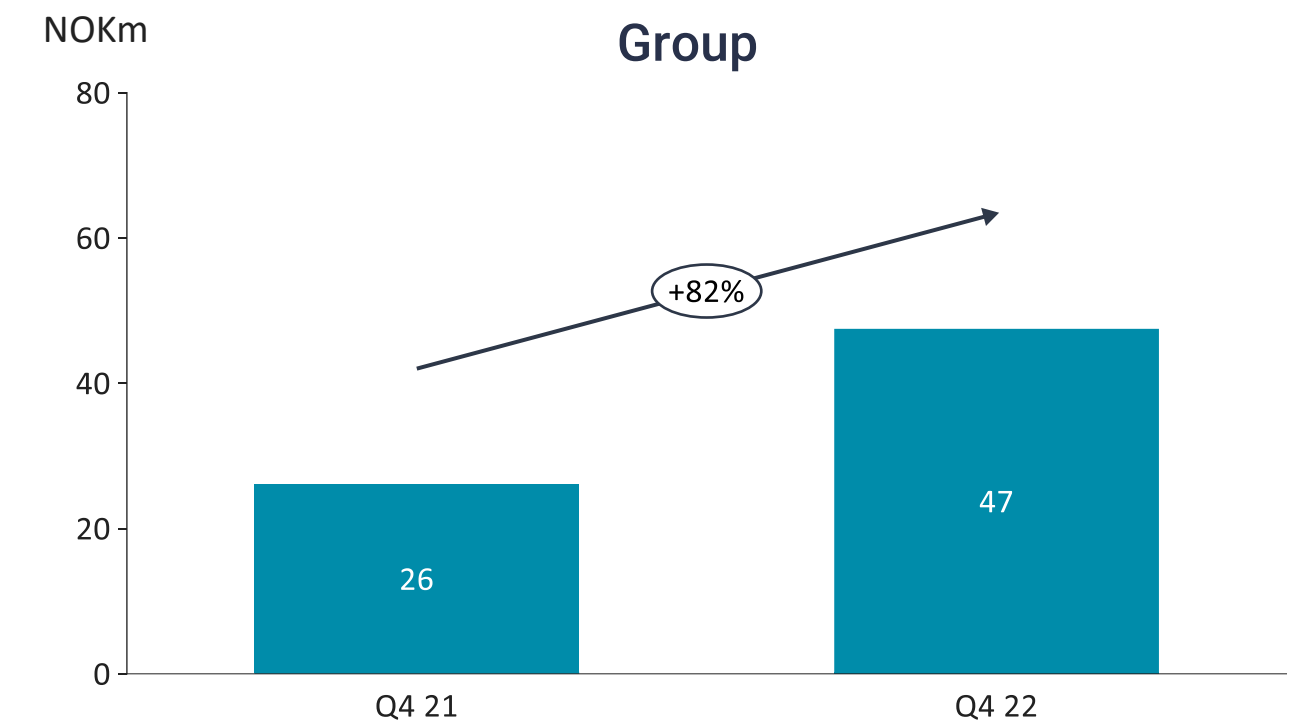
CPaaS lifted group growth in contract wins above 77% recorded for A2P services

- CPaaS share of group total increased to above 10% in Q4 22

Global Sales strong contributor to upswing in CPaaS contribution

- Sales team gained traction with several leading global clients

## Gross profit contribution\* from new contract wins



\* Forecasted annual gross profit contribution based on best estimate from CRM system data

# Market trends confirm shift towards conversational solutions

## Market adoption for selected CPaaS products accelerating

- Confirmed by LINK's growth in new CPaaS contract wins

## Notification use cases for essential communication

- Stable market demand and growth momentum estimated in the high single-digits
- Market growth mainly on alerts, reminders, payment and security products while 2FA is stable

## Mobile marketing use cases increasingly adopting new channels

- Accelerated demand for new channels with a richer feature set
  - Use cases evolving from one-way mass communication to more conversational solutions
- Improved retail volumes in Q4 compared to below normal volumes in Q2 22 and Q3 2022
  - Recent market demand exhibiting increased volatility

## Customer service growing from lower base of around 10% of group revenue

- Parts of IVR (automated telephone systems) replaced by messaging services which enhance consumer interaction and reduce supplier costs
- Chatbots and new channels in demand, however more time-consuming to implement and scale

## LINK's Xenioo chatbot has been well received in the market



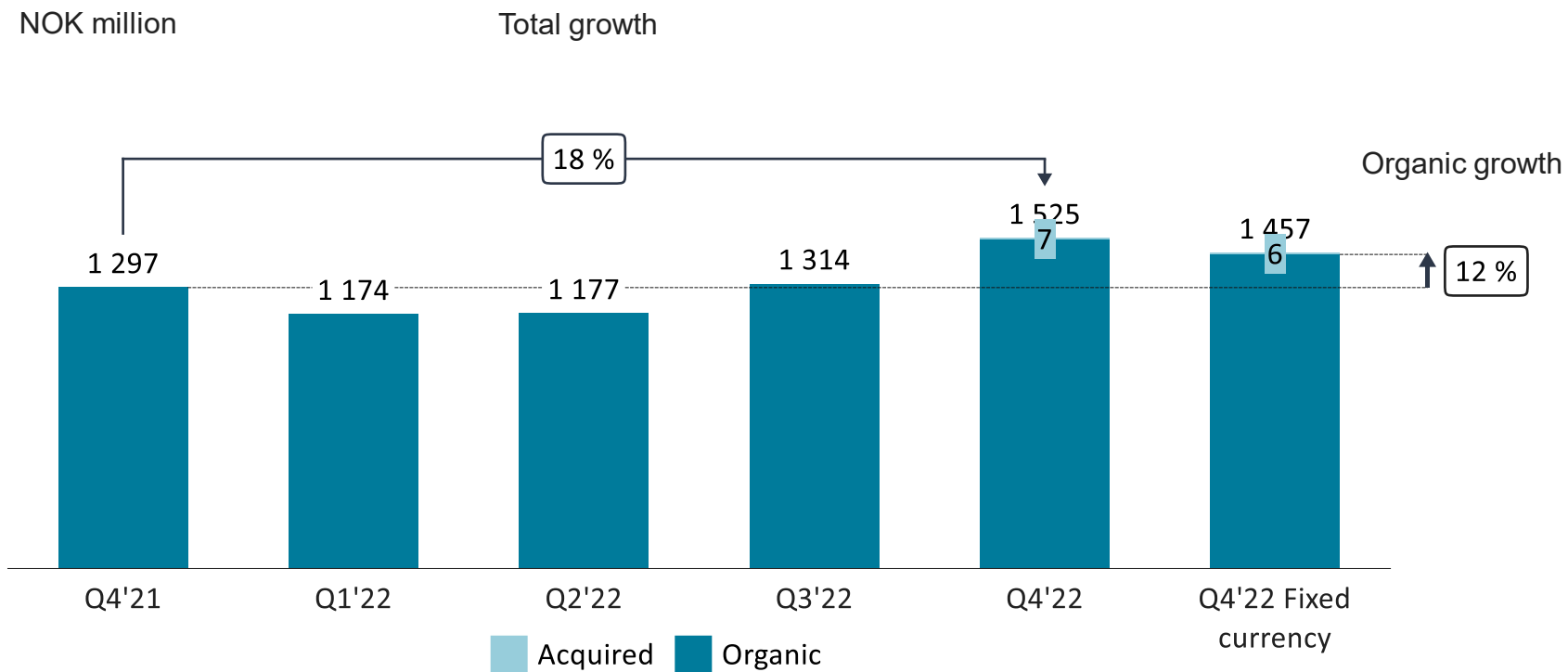


# Financial Review

Fourth quarter 2022

# Reported revenue growth of 18% to all-time high NOK 1,525 million

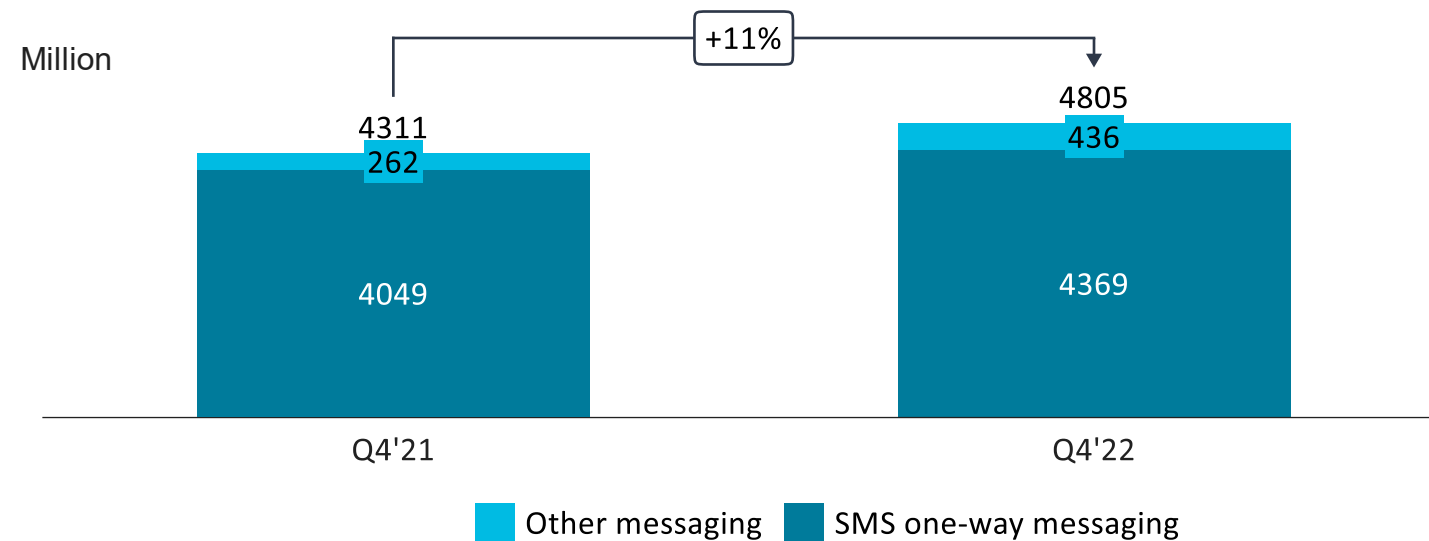
## Total reported revenue



## Organic revenue growth of 12% in fixed currency

- Improved contribution from the US with 91% revenue growth
  - Critical events messaging of NOK 20 million from winter storms in December
  - Messaging solutions growth of 59% from signed contracts during H2 2022
- Global Messaging revenue growth of 64%
- Retail activity improved from low level previous two quarters

## Reported volume growth YoY (%)

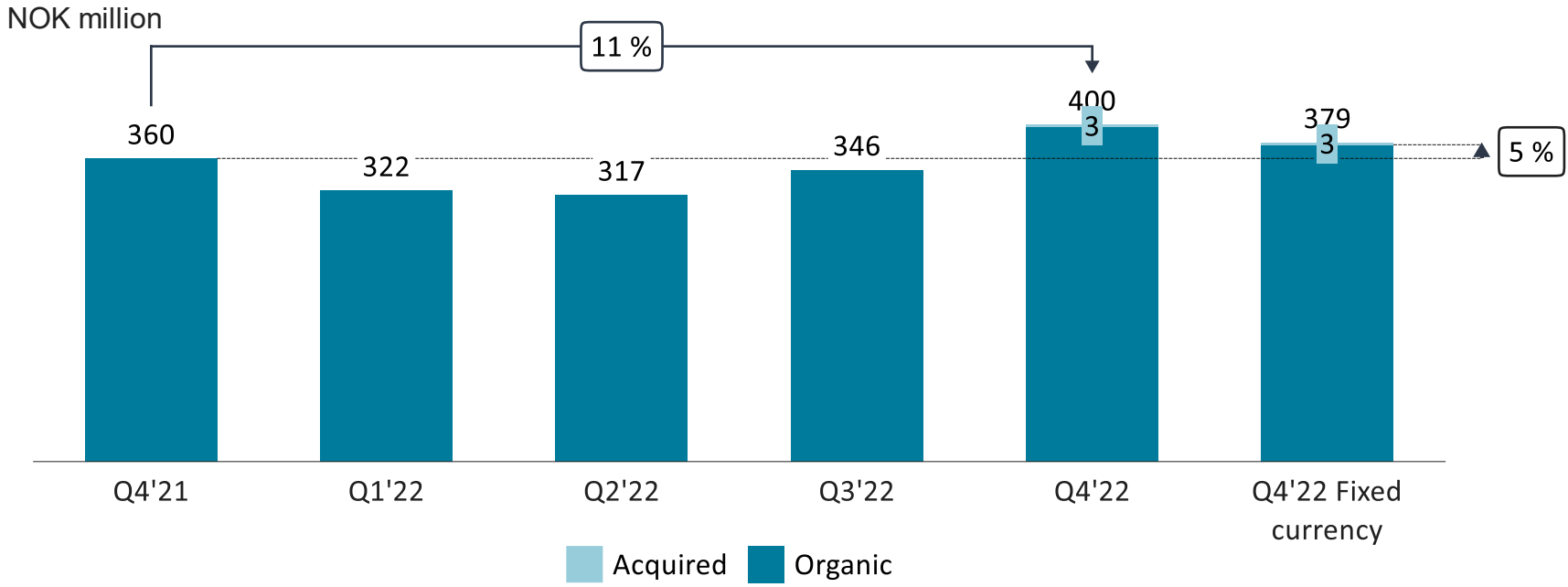


## Reported volume growth for Q4 22 at 11% and lower than revenue growth

- Higher share of non-messaging revenue like licences and professional services
- Global Messaging volume mix towards destinations with higher price per message

# Reported gross profit increased 11% to all-time high

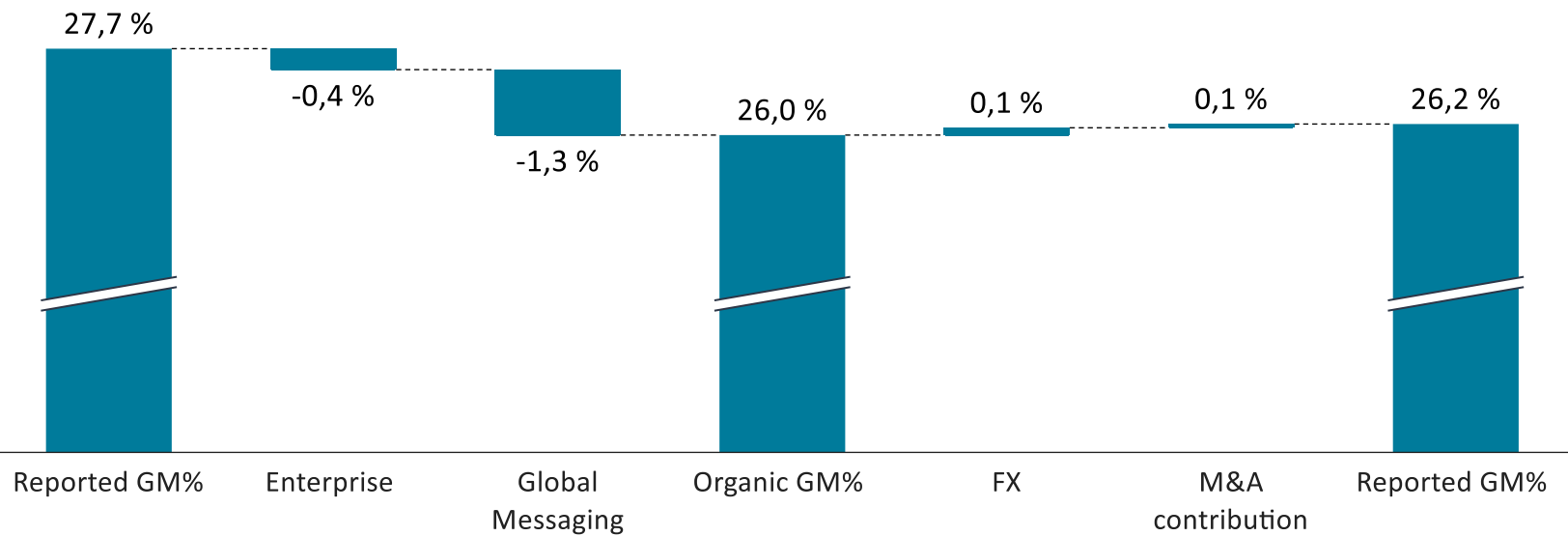
## Reported gross profit



All-time high gross profit at NOK 400 million

- Organic gross profit growth in fixed currency was 5%
- Gross profit growth slower than revenue growth due to mix effects

## Gross margin (%)

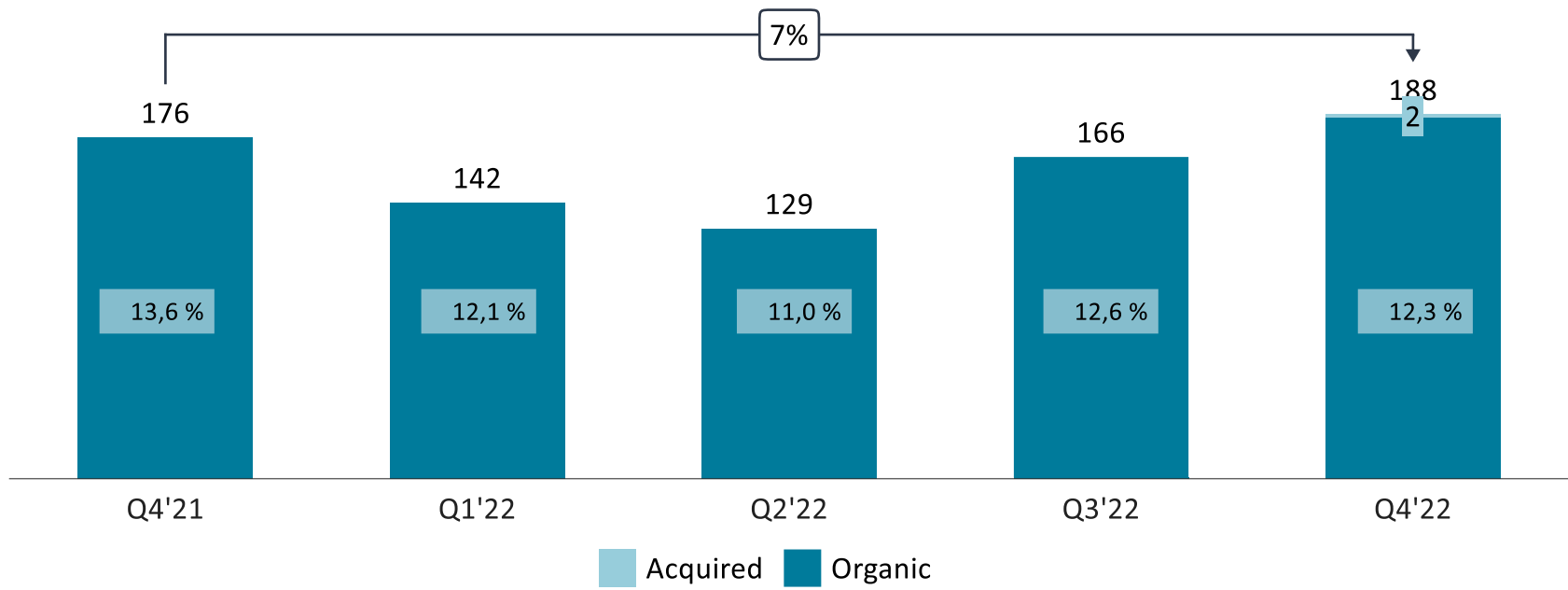


Gross margin dilution of 1.5 percentage points YoY in Q4 22

- Margin decline in Northern Europe related to price increases
- Central Europe margin decline related to traffic mix away from covid traffic and higher revenue from global clients with lower gross margin levels
- Positive mix effect from higher share of US revenue in the quarter mitigating other small movements

# Reported adjusted EBITDA increased 7% to all-time high NOK 188 million

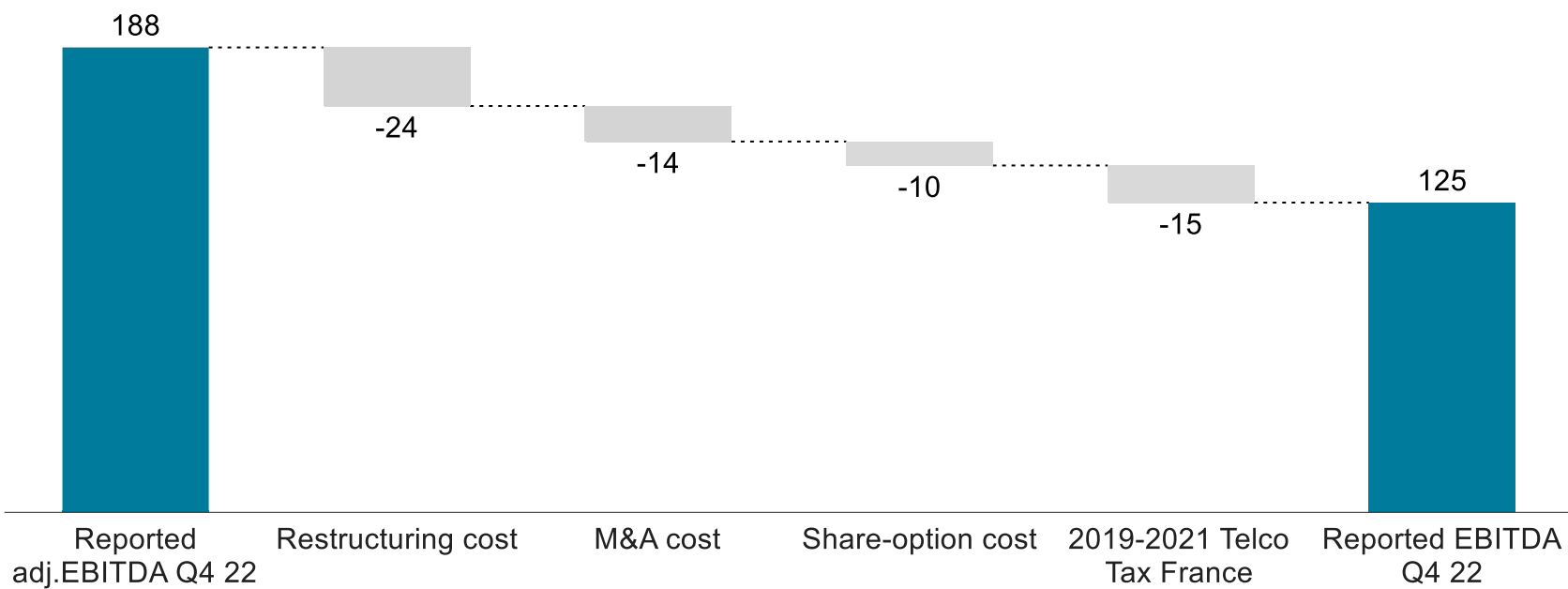
Reported adjusted EBITDA (NOKm) and margin (%)



## All-time high adjusted EBITDA at NOK 188 million

- Ongoing opex initiatives supportive to growth in the quarter
- Telecom tax in France fully expensed from 2022 at annual level of NOK 4.5 million

Reported adjusted EBITDA to EBITDA (NOKm)



## Non-recurring costs of NOK 63 million in Q4

- Restructuring costs NOK 24 million mainly related to ongoing cost initiatives.
  - Annualized run-rate cash effect of initiatives realized as of December NOK 68 million
- M&A costs NOK 14 million
  - NOK 5 million related to acquisition of customer base in the US
  - NOK 5 million run-off completed projects and NOK 4 million ongoing projects
- Share option costs NOK 10 million
- Historic tax liability in France related to 2019 - 2021 of NOK 15 million



# Profit and Loss statement

NOK in millions	Q4 2022	Q4 2021	YTD 2022	YTD 2021
Total operating revenues	1 525	1 297	5 190	4 410
Direct cost of services rendered	(1 125)	(937)	(3 805)	(3 210)
<b>Gross profit</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>1385</b>	<b>1200</b>
Operating expenses	(212)	(184)	(760)	(644)
<b>Adjusted EBITDA</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>176</b>	<b>625</b>	<b>557</b>
Non-recurring costs	(63)	(55)	(148)	(252)
<b>EBITDA</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>478</b>	<b>305</b>
Depreciation and amortization	(109)	(100)	(416)	(338)
Impairment of intangible assets and goodwill	(180)	-	(180)	-
<b>Operating profit (loss)</b>	<b>-164</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>-118</b>	<b>-33</b>
<b>Net financials</b>	<b>-168</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>-37</b>	<b>-14</b>
<b>Profit (loss) before income tax</b>	<b>-332</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>-155</b>	<b>-48</b>
Income tax	53	(14)	4	(30)
<b>Profit (loss) for the period</b>	<b>-279</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-151</b>	<b>-78</b>

## Depreciation and amortization of NOK 109 million

- Depreciation of intangible assets of NOK 22 million from internal R&D
- Depreciation of acquired excess values of NOK 81 million deriving from PPA's
- Remaining related to depreciation of leasing arrangements and fixed assets

## NOK 180 million write-down of goodwill in Spain

- Related to acquisitions in 2017 (GMS and Didimo)

## Net financial items negative NOK 168 million

- Negative currency effect of NOK 146 million with limited cash impact
- Interest NOK 34 million reflecting outstanding EUR 370 million bond
- Positive NOK 13 million correction made to outstanding earn-out liability

# Strong balance sheet

NOK in millions	Q4 2022	Q4 2021
Non-current assets	8 924	8 792
Trade and other receivables	1 244	905
Cash and cash equivalents	827	844
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>10 994</b>	<b>10 540</b>
<b>Equity</b>	<b>5 226</b>	<b>5 090</b>
Deferred tax liabilities	533	557
Long-term borrowings	3 837	3 696
Other long term liabilities	45	64
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>4 416</b>	<b>4 317</b>
Trade and other payables	1 331	1 063
Other short term liabilities	22	71
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>1 353</b>	<b>1 134</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5 769</b>	<b>5 451</b>
<b>Total liabilities and equity</b>	<b>10 994</b>	<b>10 540</b>

Non current assets increased mainly due to currency effects

- Marginal additions related to purchase price allocations (PPA)

Cash on balance sheet NOK 827 million

- Sellers credit including interest for Tismi acquisition of NOK 74 million paid
- Acquisition of customer base in the US NOK 62 million

Equity NOK 5,226 million and equity percentage of 48%

Receivables and payables increased with organic growth

- Relative growth reflected higher US revenue with low cost of goods sold
- Fluctuations in receivables impacted by timing of collection from large solid global enterprise clients

Net interest bearing debt NOK 2,960 million

# Free cash flow to support deleveraging in 2023

## Reported free cash flow

NOK '000	Q1 2022	Q2 2022	Q3 2022	Q4 2022	LTM Q4 2022
<b>Adj.EBITDA</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>625</b>
Change working capital	(98)	89	(103)	66	(46)
Taxes paid	(13)	(6)	(10)	(30)	(58)
Non-recurring costs	(14)	(18)	(15)	(53)	(104)
<b>Net cash flow from operating activities</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>417</b>
Add back non-recurring costs	14	18	15	53	104
<b>Adj. cash flow from operations</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>521</b>
Capex	(50)	(45)	(38)	(47)	(180)
Interest	(3)	(69)	(1)	(69)	(142)
<b>Cash flow after capex and interest</b>	<b>(21)</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>198</b>

Adjusted LTM cash flow from operations NOK 521 million

- Reported cash flow from operations include M&A related expenses
- FCF generated after capex and interest of NOK 198 million

Working capital varies significantly between quarters

- LTM build mainly reflects periodization and not higher underlying WC
- WC remains net negative and a funding source for organic growth

High cash conversion LTM

- Adjusted cash flow from operations 83% to adjusted EBITDA
- Free cash flow after interest and capex 32% to adjusted EBITDA

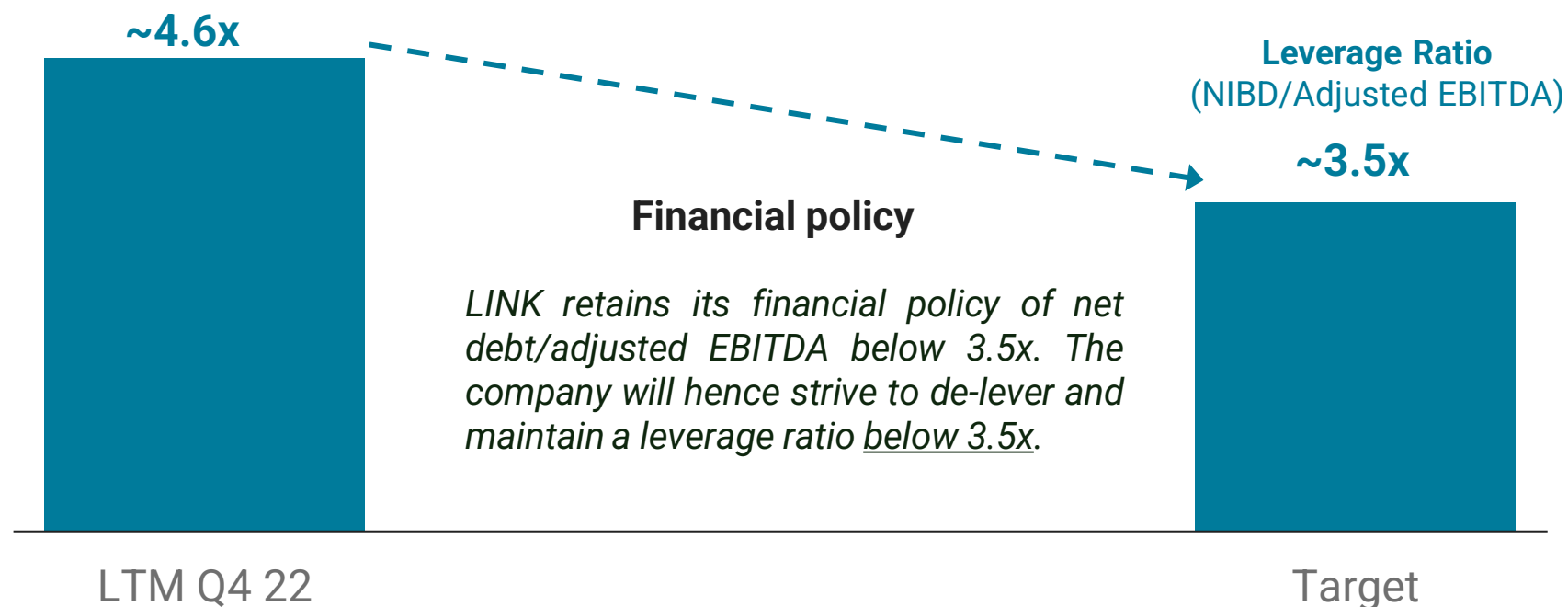
Cost reduction initiatives supporting FCF and adjusted EBITDA in 2023

Reported LTM Q4 22 leverage at 4.6x

- FCF and growth in adjusted EBITDA to reduce leverage over time

LINK's EUR 370 million fixed coupon bond matures in December 2025

- Fixed interest rate at 3.375% secured for 33 months





Q&A

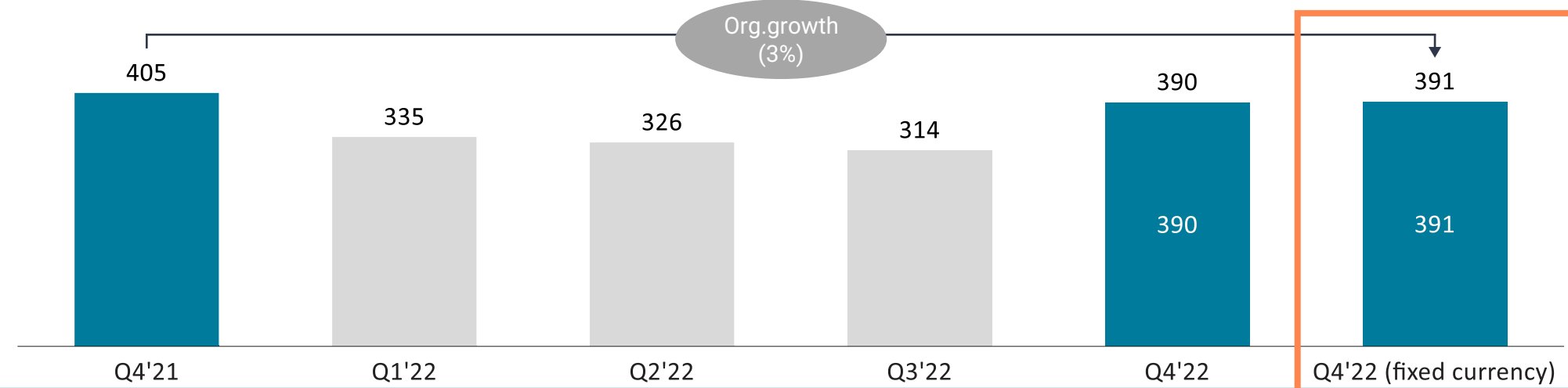


# Appendix

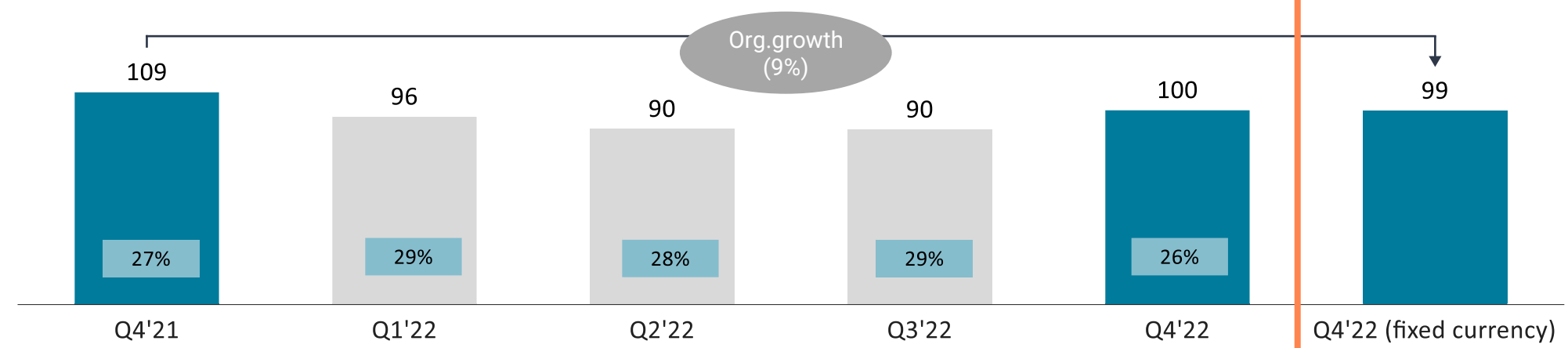
Segment information

# Northern Europe

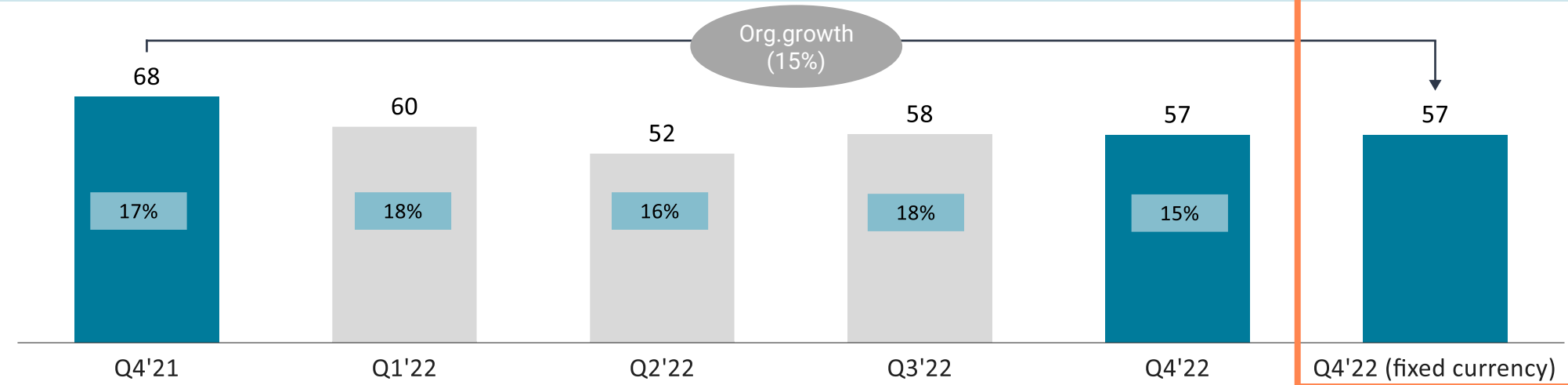
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

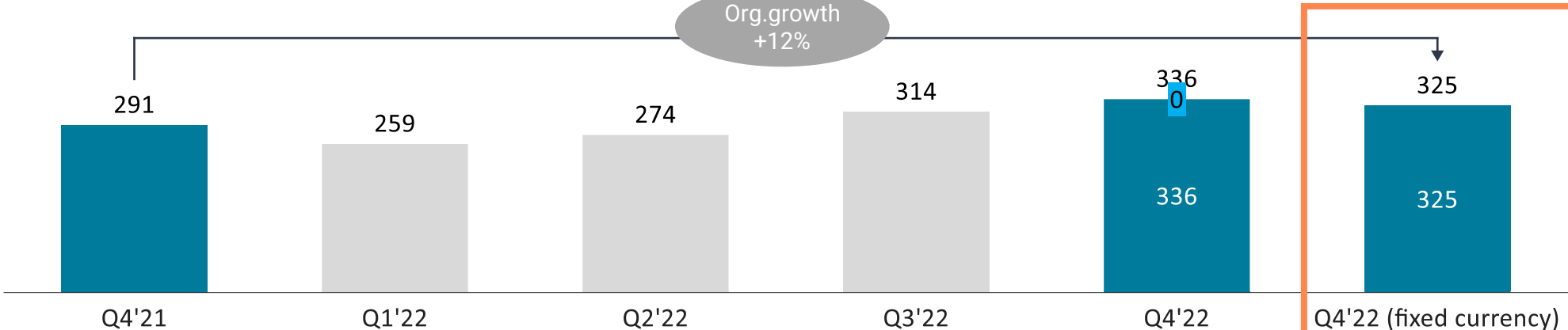


Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

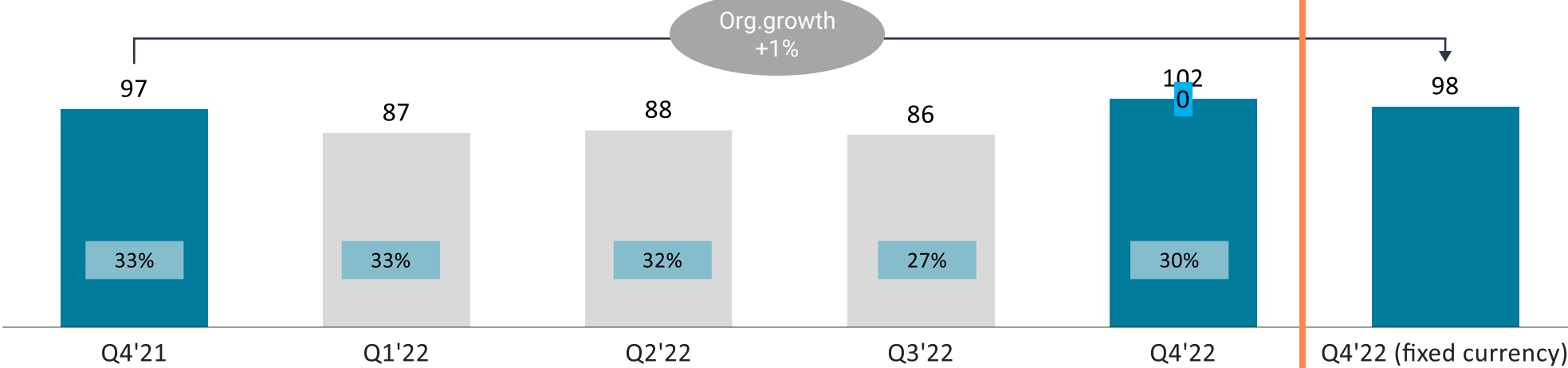


# Central Europe

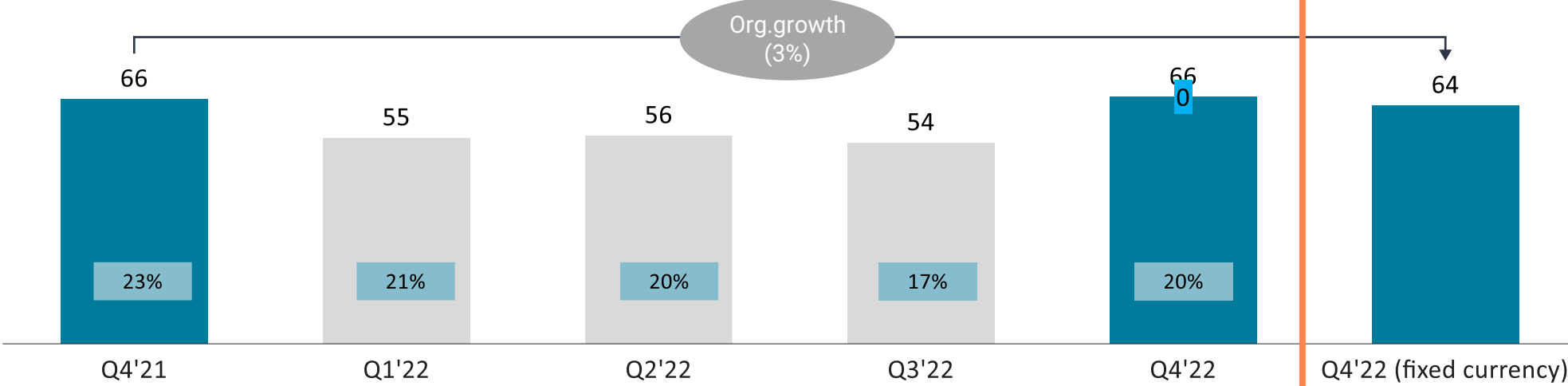
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

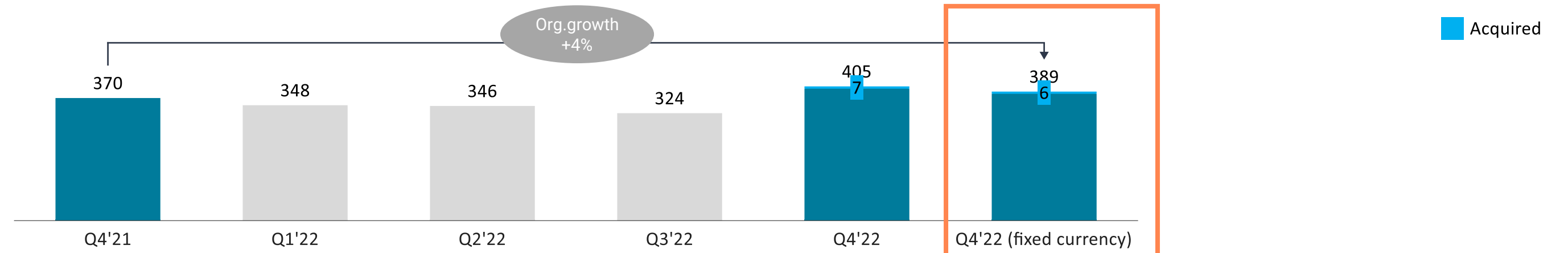


Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

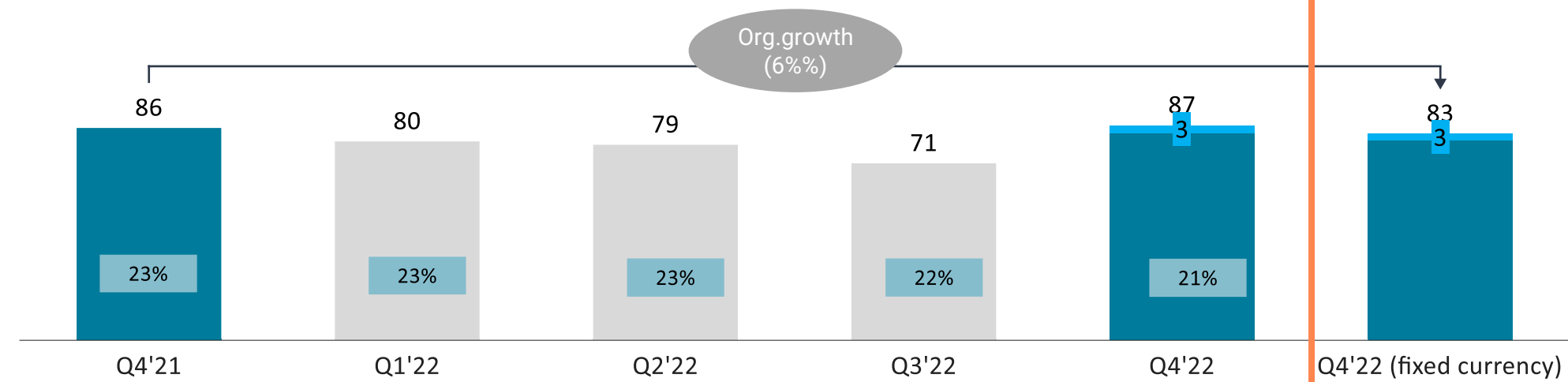


# Western Europe

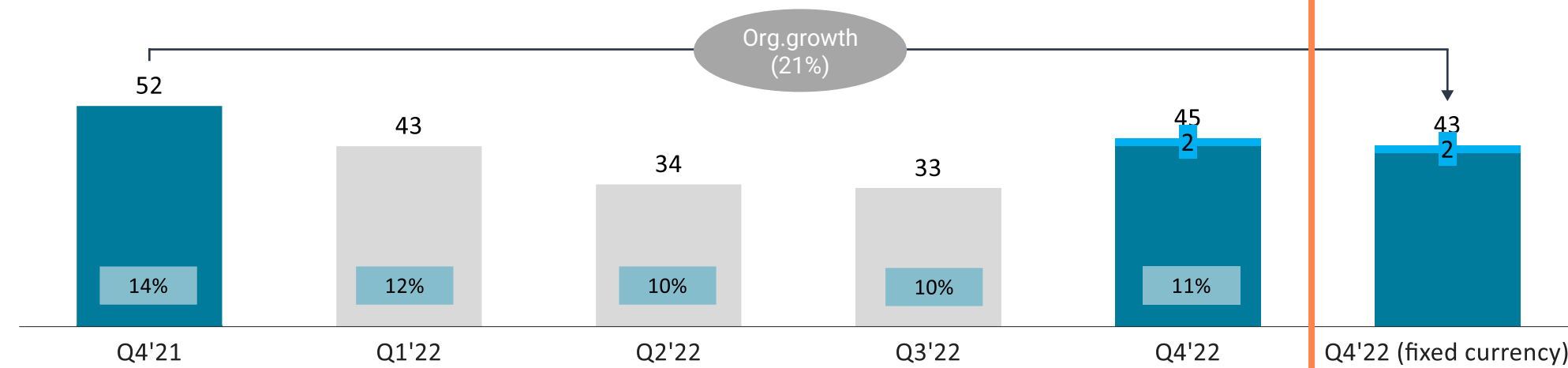
Revenue (NOKm)



Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

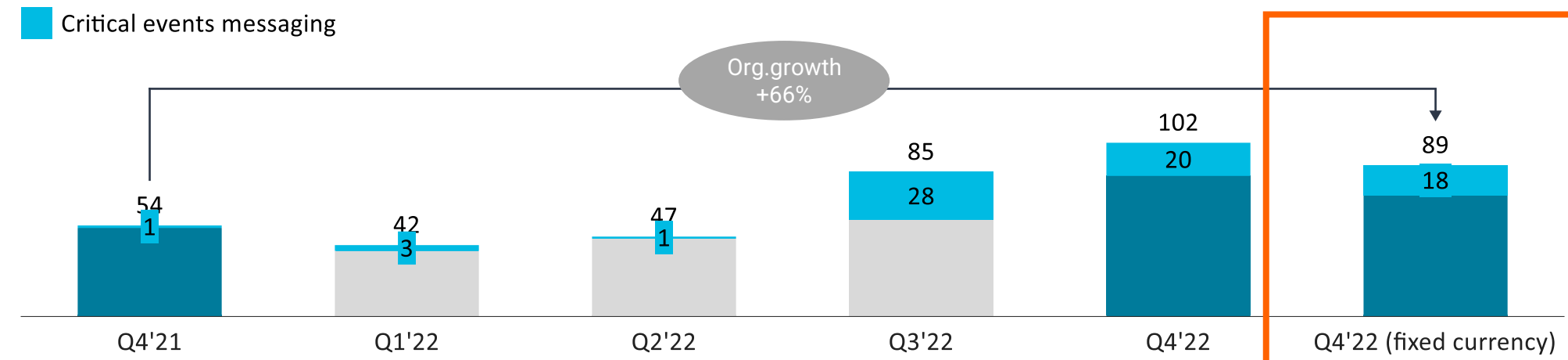


Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

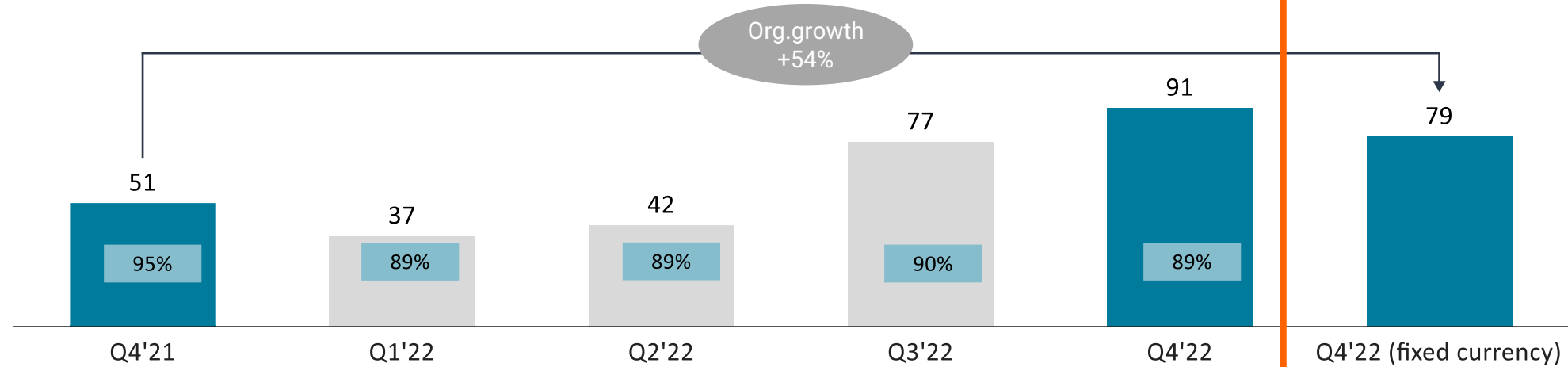




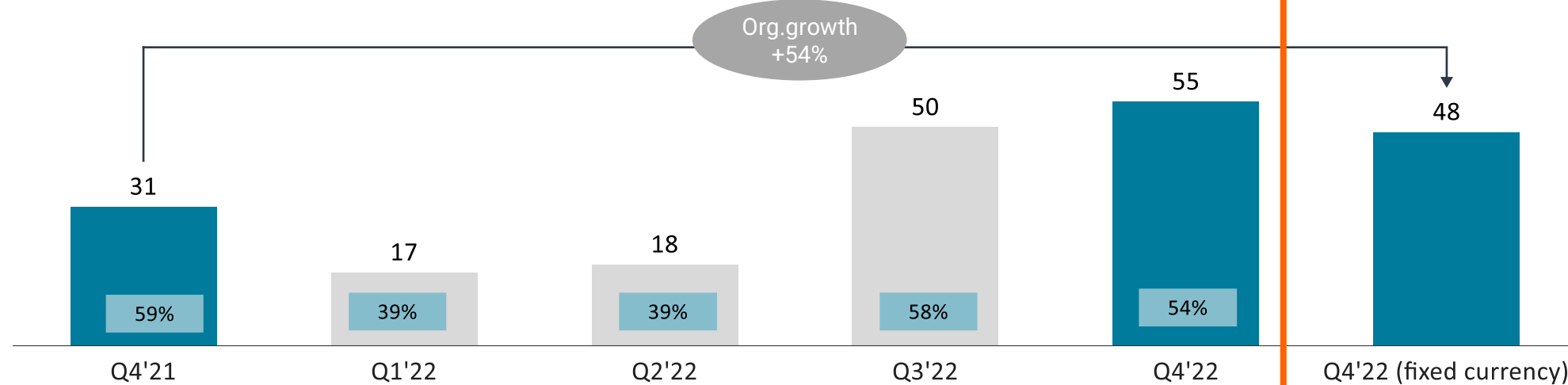
## Revenue (NOKm)



## Gross Profit (NOKm / %)

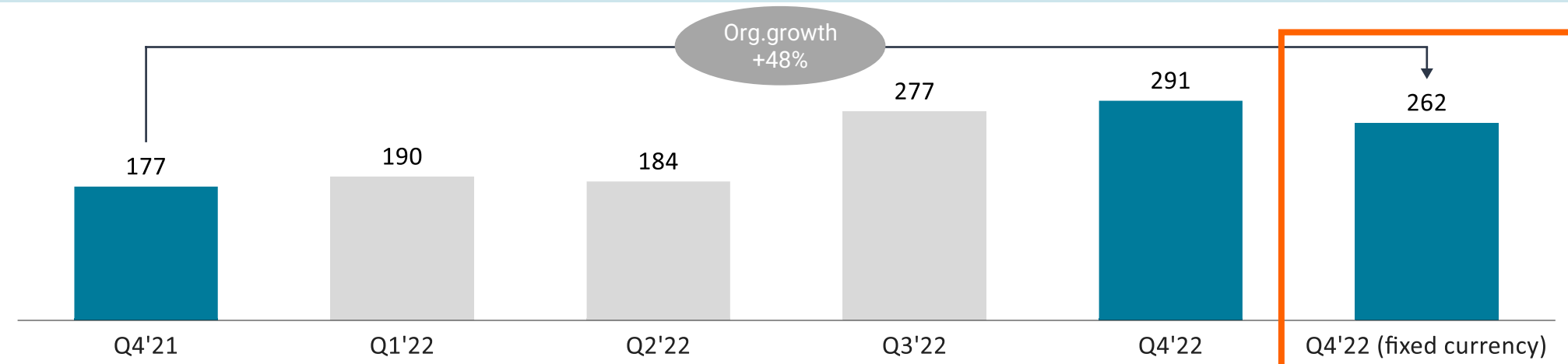


## Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)

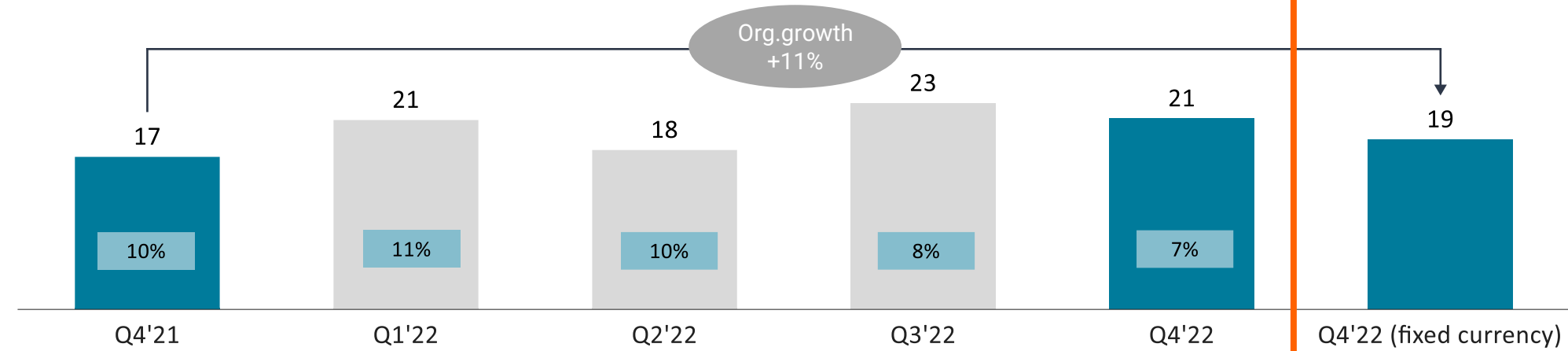


# Global Messaging

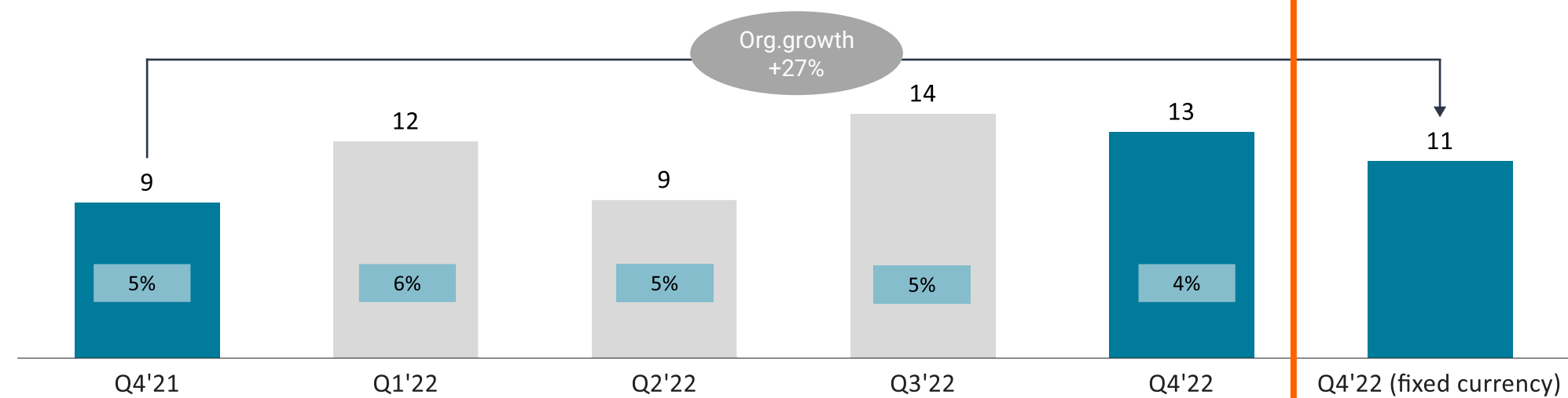
## Revenue (NOKm)



## Gross Profit (NOKm / %)



## Adjusted EBITDA before group cost (NOKm / %)





Follow us

Because every  
communication  
matters

