



## Disclaimer



This presentation contains forward-looking statements, which offer no guarantee with regard to future performance. These statements are made on the basis of management's views and assumptions regarding future events and business performance at the time the statements are made. They are subject to risks and uncertainties including, but not confined to, future global economic conditions, exchange rates, legal provisions, market conditions, activities by competitors and other factors outside Sonova's control. Should one or more of these risks or uncertainties materialize or should underlying assumptions prove incorrect, actual outcomes may vary materially from those forecasted or expected. Each forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date of the particular statement, and Sonova undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, except as required by law.

This presentation constitutes neither an offer to sell nor a solicitation to buy any securities. This presentation does not constitute an offering prospectus within the meaning of Article 652a of the Swiss Code of Obligations nor a listing prospectus within the meaning of the listing rules of SIX Swiss Exchange.

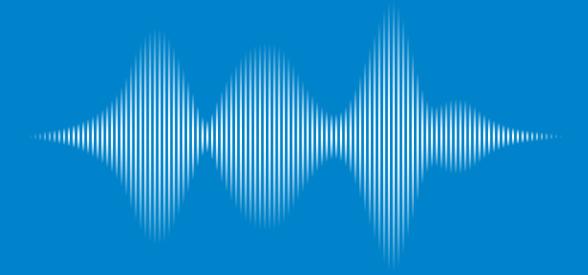
Sonova name, products names and logos are registered trademarks of Sonova.

Sennheiser™ is a registered trademark of Sennheiser electronic GmbH & Co. KG used under license by Sonova.



# Introduction Welcome and market update

Birgit Conix, Chief Financial Officer



# Investor & Analyst Day 2024



## Agenda and Speakers

11.00	Welcome and market update	Birgit Conix, CFO	
11.10	Strategy and outlook	Arnd Kaldowski, CEO	
11.25	Continuously pushing the boundaries of innovation	Rob Woolley, GVP Hearing Instruments	
11.45	Managing technology breakthroughs	Arnd Kaldowski, CEO	
12.05	Phonak Infinio – Unlock a world of possibilities	Oliver Frank, VP Phonak Marketing	
12.45	1 <sup>st</sup> Q&A		
13.15	Lunch, product demo & marketplace		
14.45	Achieving AC excellence in Germany – A blueprint for global success	Oliver Lux, GVP Audiological Care	
15.15	Unlocking hidden value through Sonova X	Arnd Kaldowski, CEO Ludger Althoff, GVP Operations Lilika Beck, GVP Consumer Hearing	
15.45	2 <sup>nd</sup> Q&A and closing remarks		
16.15	Factory tour & Last chance for product demo		
17:00	Conclusion of Investor & Analyst Day 2024		

# Sustainable market leader in an attractive industry



### Attractive market

- Attractive secular growth drivers
- Significant penetration potential in mild and moderate hearing loss population and high growth developing markets
- Continued potential to innovate "Better Hearing"
- Opportunity to elevate hearing aid adoption and value capture through focus on known comorbidities



## Leading market position

- Leading position in the Hearing Industry
- Advanced vertically integrated business model
- Broadest and most advanced product offering
- Global and differentiated distribution network, with scaled direct consumer access

## Focus on sustainability

- Strong purpose and positive impact on society by providing advanced hearing health care
- IntACT ESG strategy executed Group-wide
- Ambitious climate actions linked to science-based targets
- Industry leading ESG performance, recognized by major rating agencies

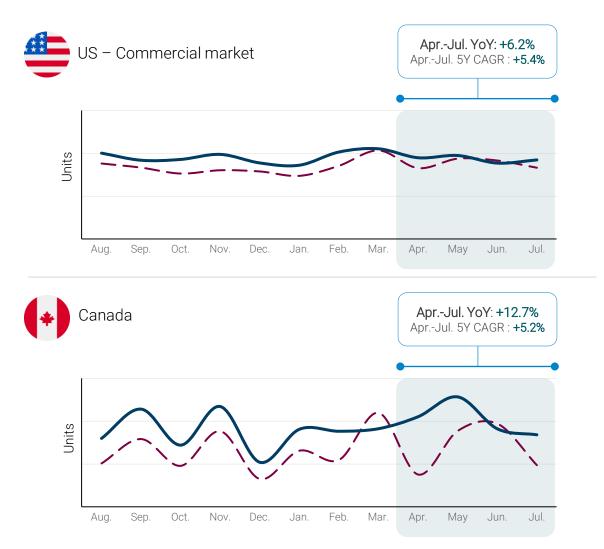
## Strong financials

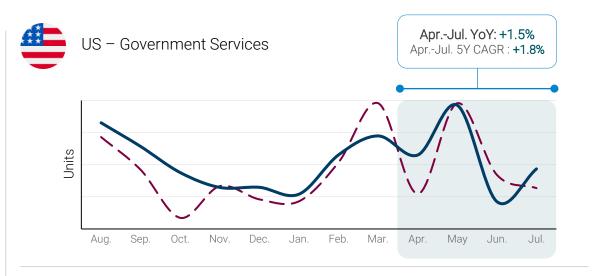
- Attractive profit margins
- Strong balance sheet and cash generation
- Moderate leverage and long-term debt structure at low interest rates
- Significant capacity for organic and inorganic growth investments
- Low tax rate
- ► The fundamentals of Sonova's business remain strong and offer attractive value creation opportunities

# Market update – Hearing Instruments



North America – Slowdown in Managed Care, double digit growth rate in Canada





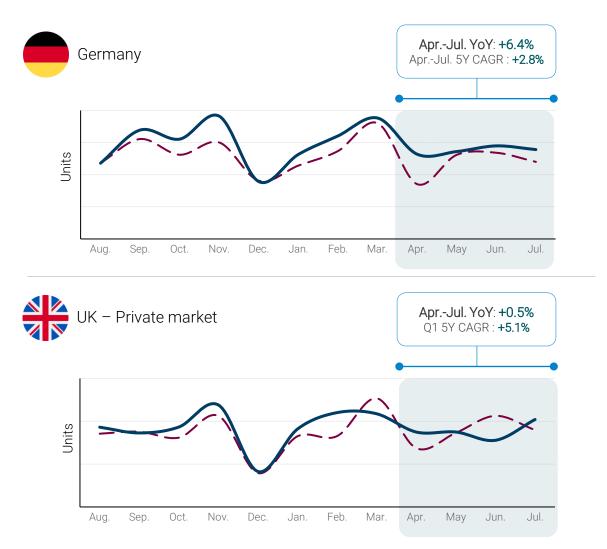
- US Commercial market market growth slowed with Managed Care up MSD YTD 2024/25, down from >20% growth rate in PY
- US Government Services market is currently weighed down by capacity constraints due to hiring freezes and staff shortages
- Canada Strong momentum with DD growth YTD 2024/25 after HSD in FY 2023/24

- Actual - Same period of the prior year

# Market update – Hearing Instruments



Europe – German market tracking higher, soft French and UK Private markets



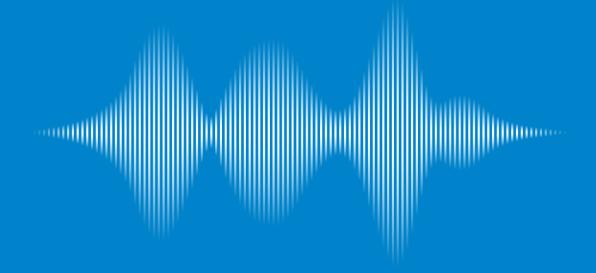


- Germany MSD market growth YTD, in line with development in 2H 2023/24
- France continued market decline YTD 2024/25, although less severe, after market contraction in FY 2023/24
- UK Private market market flat YTD 2024/25 but outlook improving due to better consumer sentiment amidst stabilizing politics
  - Actual Same period of the prior year



# Introduction Strategy and outlook

Arnd Kaldowski, Chief Executive Officer



## Sonova's strategy



Strategic pillars

**Lead innovation** in audiological performance & consumer experience

Leverage **M&A** to accelerate growth strategically

Continuous **process improvement** through Sonova X **& structural optimization** 



Invest in high growth developing markets

Expand consumer access through omni-channel audiological care network and consumer device business

Extend reach through multi-channel, value-adding partnerships & commercial excellence

► Strategy unchanged: Innovation, consumer access & continuous process improvement in focus today

# Our growth ambition



Ambition to gain market share through customer-focused growth strategy and strong commercial execution

## Mid-term targets

Sales CAGR 6-9% p.a. in LC organic: +5-7% M&A: ~+1-2%

adj. EBITA CAGR 7-11% p.a. in LC

## Market growth (in value)

Mid-term CAGR 4-6% p.a.

## Sonova growth strategy

Executing on our strategic pillars to drive above-market growth



## Key focus areas

Targeted growth initiatives in 5 focus areas enabled by continued growth investments



Accelerate high growth markets

► Key growth drivers in focus today: Lead hearing innovation and broaden consumer access

# Key growth drivers



Customer centricity and growth initiatives to drive sustainable, above-market growth

Lead innovation		Broaden consumer access	Deliver commercial excellence	Accelerate high growth markets			
Advance audiological performance	Expand consumer value			Ingil growth markets			
Pioneer technology & deliver best-in-class audiological performance	Deliver consumer- centric value-add through differentiated solutions	Provide broad consumer access to pinnacle audiological services & solutions	Be the partner of choice through state-of the art & customer- oriented service	Expand presence in markets with high growth potential			
Key growth drivers							
<ul> <li>Elevate core hearing performance by expanding processing power and algorithms (incl. Al technologies)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Enhance consumer value though technology-enabled medical services and expand category with early-entry hearing devices</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Expand network         through M&amp;A and         greenfield openings</li> <li>Elevate consumer         journey through         digitization and omnichannel interaction</li> </ul>	- Elevate relationships with B2B customers through value-added services, feet on the street investments and commercial excellence	- Scale up Audiological Care business network and further build on consumer audio brand in <b>China</b>			

► Key growth drivers in focus today: Lead hearing innovation and broaden consumer access

## Outlook



### FY 2024/25 market and business assumptions

- Global hearing care market slightly slower than expected in
   1Q 2024/25 but still expecting normal growth of 4-6% for the year
- Lower market growth in North America as expected –improvement in EU driven by DE and NHS but continued weakness in FR
- FY2024/25 to benefit from significant new products which will elevate Sonova's industry-leading performance and drive growth
- Very positive initial market response to new products but limited contribution to 1H on sales – first half profitability impacted by launch costs, late-cycle ASP pressure and manufacturing ramp-up
- Sales momentum expected to pick up in 2H combined with lower costs to lead to significant growth in profitability
- Restructuring and integration costs expected at around CHF 30-40 million in FY 2024/25

### FY 2024/25 expected currency impact (based on mid August 2024 FX)

- Recent FX development leading to negative impact for the year (at current rates)
- Sales growth in CHF to be reduced by ~1-2%-pts
- Adj. EBITA growth in CHF to be reduced by ~3-4%-pts

In LC	Outlook FY 2024/25	
Sales growth	+6% to +9% p.a.	
adj. EBITA growth	+7% to +11% p.a.	

Note: adj. refers to adjusted figures; for details, please refer to the Appendix.

► Outlook FY 2024/25 confirmed – 1H profitability impacted by usual launch costs and ASP dynamic

# ESG highlights



Overview of tangible achievements highlighting continued progress towards our ESG commitments



## **Environmental**

- ➤ Reduced greenhouse gas emissions by 28% (Scope 1-3) vs. 2019 (on a comparable basis) and by 12% vs. previous year
- ► Climate targets officially approved by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi)
- ➤ 100% renewable electricity globally within our own operations
- ▶ Reduced hearing instruments product and transportation packaging weight by 9% vs. previous year



**Social** 

- ► Increased **employee engagement** score to 83%, up 1 percentage point vs. previous year
- ➤ Share of women in senior management increased to 28.3% (vs. 22.0% in 2022/23) and women in middle management increased to 39.9% (vs. 36.4% in 2022/23)
- ► Over 500 people leaders trained in "Mental Health First Aid Conversations for Managers"
- ► More than 4,000 fitted hearing aids through Hear the World Foundation projects



## Governance

- ➤ Advanced ESG reporting and external assurance to ensure regulatory compliance
- ► Improved **product reliability** for hearing instruments (+7%) and cochlear implants (+14%) compared to 2022/23
- ► Further advanced supplier ESG risk assessments
- ▶ 10% of the variable cash **compensation** of the MB linked to ESG performance

► Substantial progress on our *IntACT* ESG strategy achieved in FY 2023/24

# ESG ratings



Overview of Sonova's rating results for environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors

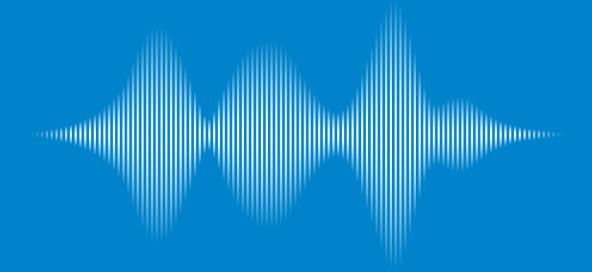


► Major ESG rating agencies give Sonova industry-leading scores in their most recent assessment

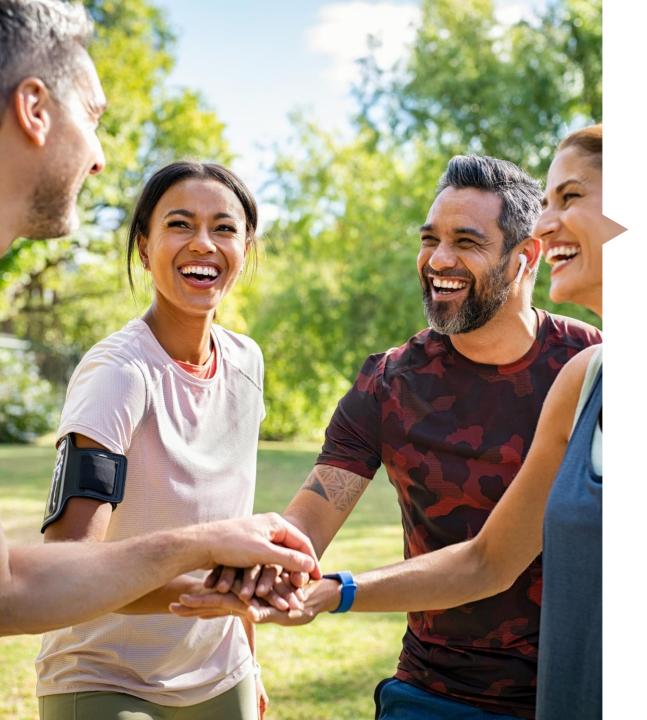


# Lead Innovation Continuously pushing the boundaries of innovation

Rob Woolley, GVP Hearing Instruments







# How we measure long-term success in the HI BU

- 1 Market share in units and value
- 2 Sustainable growth in units and value
- Number of end-consumers enjoying the delight of hearing

## The 4 elements needed to achieve market leadership



# Excellence in consumer experience

Through a consumer oriented, seamless buying journey and easy-to-use, high-performance hearing solutions

# Ability and scale for superior innovation

Invest and maintain industryleading solution portfolio



# Excellence in customer experience

Enabling our customers to thrive in their business through a trusted partnership, a broad product portfolio and service offering

# Commercial excellence & access to hearing care

Expand market share and access through superior Go-to-market





Collaborate with external clinical and technology partners



What is needed to scale for

superior innovation?

Invest in technology and innovation in house



Build for scale and invest in competence including improving in our proprietary chip and process technology



Drive culture of innovation & learning

## Areas of innovation which drive true value for consumers



Enjoy the delight of hearing and live a life without limitations

Hearing performance

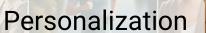
Sound quality

Connectivity

Speech in noise

Ease of use







# Sonova has continuously delivered breakthrough technology based on true consumer needs



### Hearing performance Ease of use Rechargeability Universal Better Comfort and Better **Better** understanding understanding of peace of mind understanding in connectivity hearing in any from the front dynamic situations conversations situation 1st Li-lon 1st narrow 1st Made-For-All 1st multi 1st automatic 1st adaptive beamformer rechargeable HI microphone classification of directional connectivity directionality beamforming environment 2016 2018 2004 2012 2024 1994 1999 **AUDIO ZOOM CLARO SAVIA QUEST BELONG MARVEL**

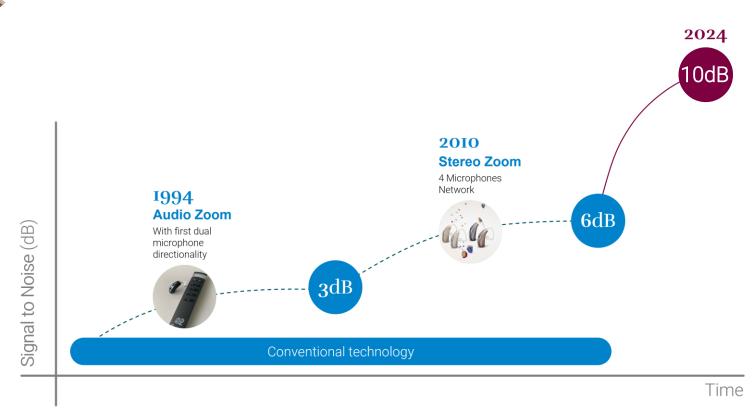
# Speech in noise:

Enjoying conversations in even the most demanding situations is the most difficult task to solve in the hearing instrument industry.





# We have taken a huge step in "speech in noise" improvements



# What are the challenges and barriers to use DNN in hearing instruments today?





# Consider real life situations

Need to work in real life situations with speakers from multiple angles as well as openfittings



## Intense training needed

Need for intense training data and generalization of untrained input data



## Minimize the delay

Need to minimize the delay which could occur with the large computational complexity to less than 15ms

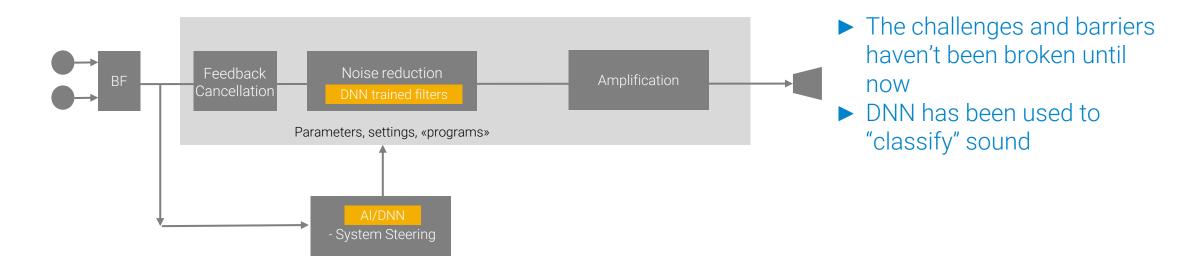


# Powerful chip technology needed

Need for a high computational complexity with millions of parameters specific for speech enhancement and powerful chip technology to support it

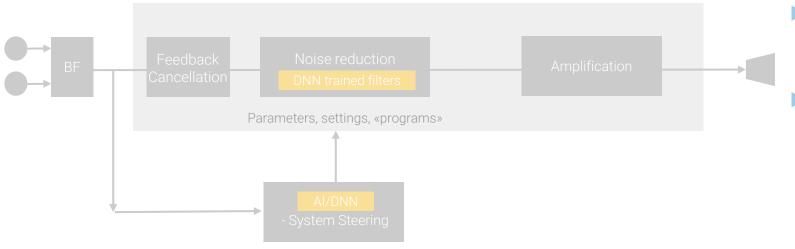
## How DNN has been used in Hearing Instruments until now





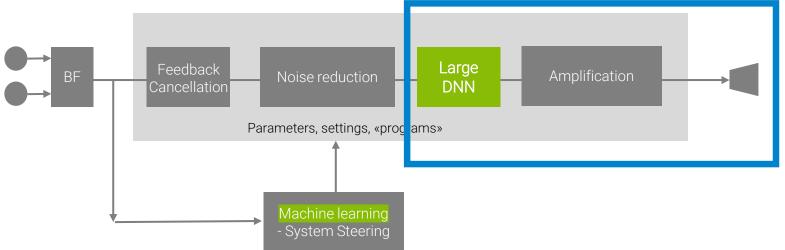
# How Sonova is using DNN for a significant step change





- ► The challenges and barriers haven't been broken until now
- DNN has been used to "classify" sound

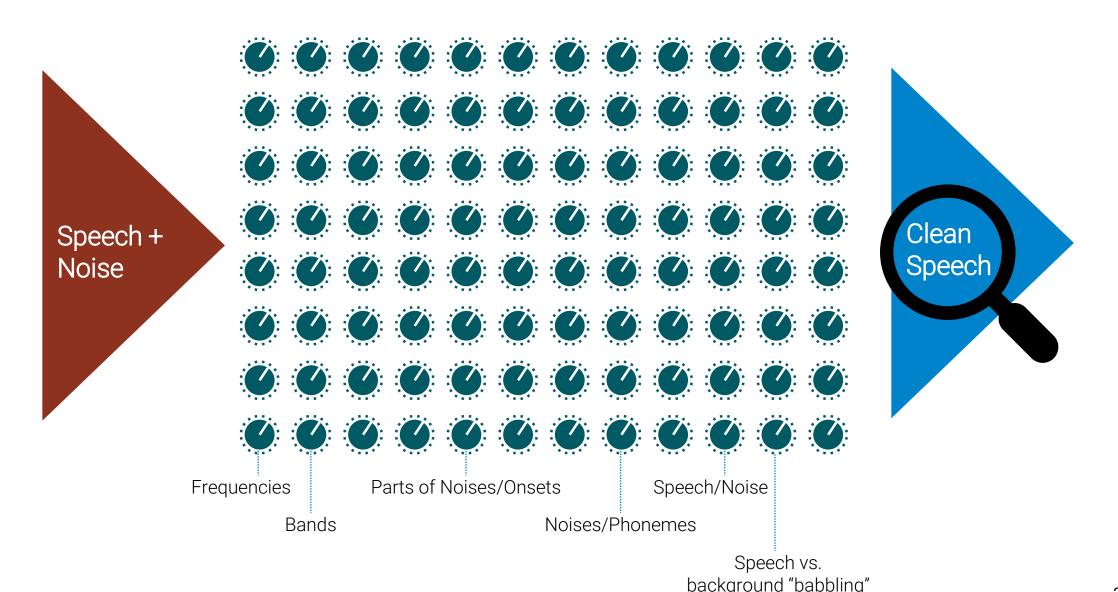




- Dedicated data, algorithm and hardware on "Speech in Noise"
- Dedicated DNN architecture is now used for "sound processing" yielding significant SNR improvements

# Imagine millions of tuning knobs to filter out clean speech





# How did Sonova overcome the barriers and challenges?





## **Qmetrics**

Sophisticated training, performance assessment & optimization



### **DNN Architecture**

Specific, large DNN architecture optimized for speech enhancement



## **DEEPSONIC Chip**

Computational power through a NPU computational architecture

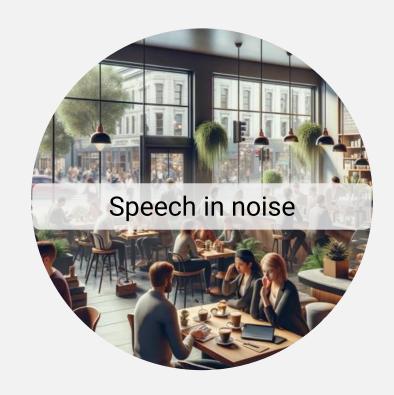


## Organizations development

Integrate new skills/team members with existing team, develop joint culture, avoid "not-invented-here" syndrome



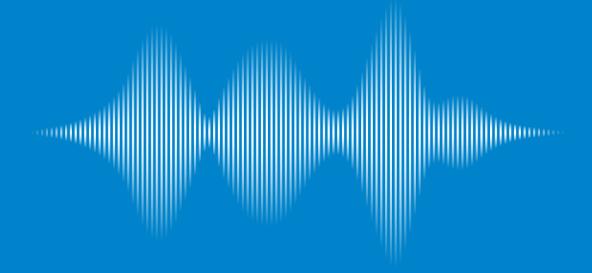
True step change in speech in noise situations for our consumers





# Lead Innovation Managing technology breakthroughs

Arnd Kaldowski, Chief Executive Officer



# Everything starts with a vision



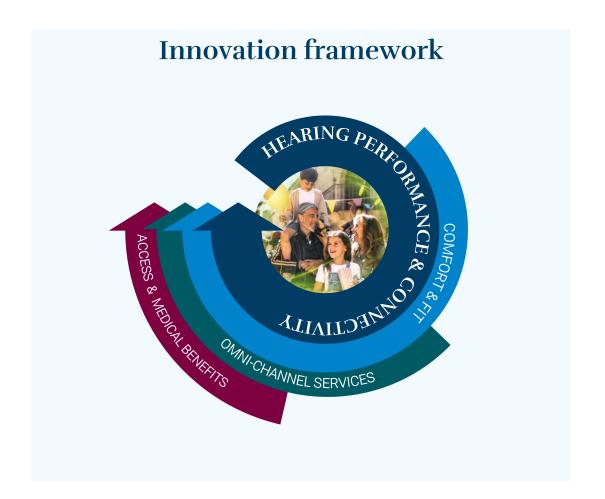


Our vision is a world where everyone enjoys the delight of hearing and lives a life without limitations.

# Our aspiration – Where we stood 6 years ago



Leveraging our innovation framework to address unmet needs



## Where the hearing industry was recently

- Hearing performance far better than 10+ years ago
- Consumers still don't hear as well as they aspire to
- Strong progress made in usability e.g. rechargeability or waterproofing (Sonova) and connectivity
- New technological breakthrough needed for significantly better hearing in noise



Improved hearing performance is the biggest unmet need and remains at the center of our innovation strategy

► A technological breakthrough was needed to address key unmet need: Significantly better hearing in noise

# Key innovations that changed the industry



Where Sonova stands today

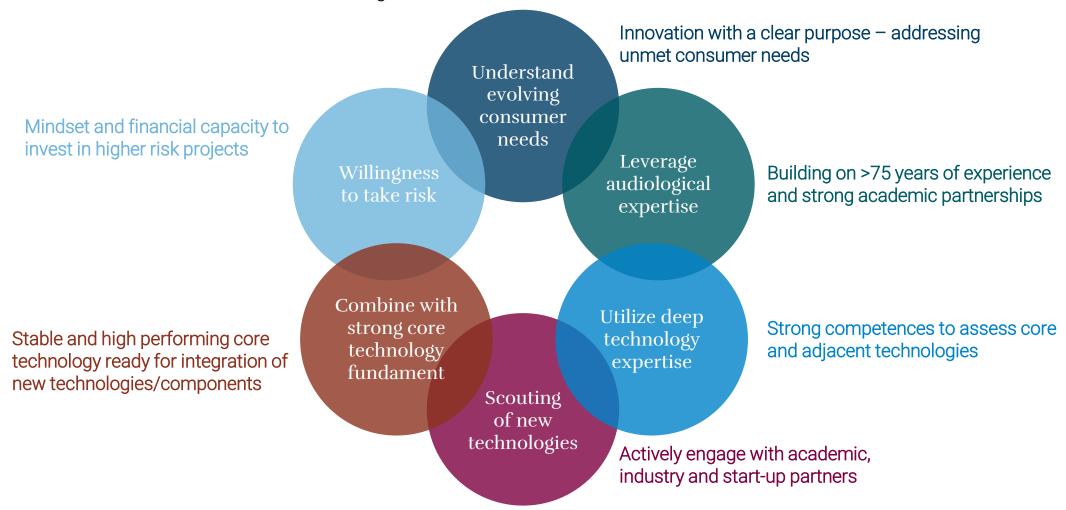
### Beamforming and traditional algorithms Real-time AI-based sound processing Connectivity and rechargeability Beam steering with multiple microphones Real-time Al sound processing thanks to (MFA) connectivity Reprogrammable DSP platform powerful large DNN on a proprietary chip Li-lon rechargeability AutoSense OS – ML\*-based beamforming New dual-chip architecture and new Sensor technology algorithm technology SoundRecover- 1<sup>st</sup> frequency compression Additive to the benefits of current App ecosystems to improve audibility technologies e.g. beamforming MEMS microphones and transducers Signal to Noise ratio Sonova with Infinio Sphere again pioneering breakthrough technology, enabling a new level in speech clarity Sonova with Lumity in leading position in from any direction hearing performance, MFA connectivity, rechargeability and reliability Industry & Sonova Today \*Note: ML: Machine Learning technology breakthroughs

Sonova is taking the next technology leap, opening a new chapter in speech enhancement

# Enabling technological breakthroughs



Key enablers for Sonova to break new technological barriers



Breakthrough innovation requires multiple capabilities beyond technological know-how

## Leveraging "Open Innovation" to accelerate time to market



Building-up DNN capabilities at Sonova

## 6 years ago: Make, partner or buy? – This time: Acquiring access to new skills and capabilities

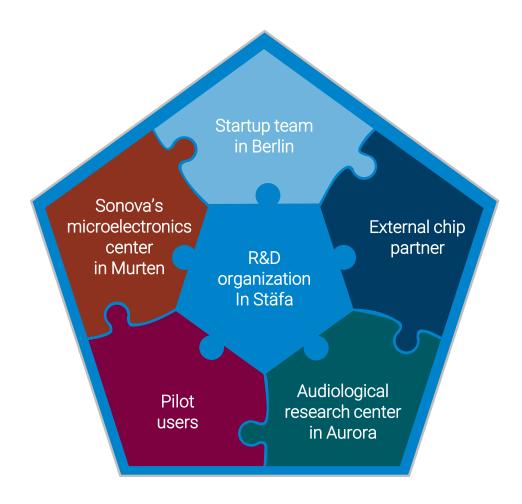
- Acquisition in 2019 small, but highly focused team specialized on DNNs for speech enhancement
- Successful knowledge transfer and expansion of DNN team @ Sonova

### Leveraging Sonova's core competences

- Deep audiological know-how
- All "conventional" Sonova core technologies
- In-house and partner chip design capabilities

### Embrace diversity – Adjust leadership style

- Bring together a variety of skill-sets and disciplines
- Manage a variety of internal / external stakeholders, cultures, backgrounds and needs
- Combine a startup-culture with a large corporate engage both worlds to collaborate effectively



➤ Successfully combining the best of uniquely different worlds – A critical success factor

# The art of integrating a start-up



Keeping the team motivated while gradually integrating their capabilities and the solution

### Soft integration of a start-up...

- Light integration approach leave start-up spirit intact
- Different compensation models
- Different work environments retain start-up culture
- Let team focus on core tasks
- Establish and consistently leverage joint project vision

### ...while making both worlds work seamlessly together

- "Over-invest" in project and interface management
- Have clearly aligned set of milestones and priorities (with "teeth")
- "Over-invest" in alignment and regular face to face exchanges (even during COVID)



Leveraging large corporate capabilities while keeping the start-up spirit alive





# Unlock a world of possibilities.

Oliver Frank, VP Phonak Marketing

# PHONAK life is on



Sound quality



Connectivity



Reliability



Personalization





Exceptional sound quality from the first moment.



Market leading connectivity takes a giant leap forward



Tested.
Reliable.
Proven. Swiss
engineering at
its best.



Personalized for you and your clients.







Exceptional sound quality from the first moment.





Adaptive Phonak Digital 3.0 (APD 3.0)



Al Dome Proposer



AutoSense OS 6.0



# First impressions count

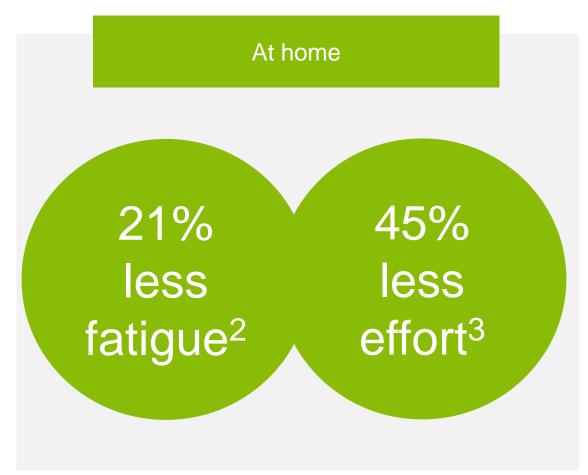






### Sound Quality from the first fit - in clinic and at home





- 1. Stewart, E., Adler, M., Seitz-Paquette, K., "Adaptive Phonak Digital (APD) 3.0 is the preferred first fit compared to a leading competitor device". Phonak Field Study News in preparation expected August 2024
- 2. Latzel, M, Heeren, J and Lesimple, C. (2024) "Speech Enhancer reduces listening effort and fatigue." phonak Field Study News retrieved from <a href="https://www.phonak.com/evidence">www.phonak.com/evidence</a>
- 3. Habicht, J. & Schuepbach-Wolf, M. (2024). Speech Enhancer reduces subjective listening effort of speech by up to 45%. Phonak Field Study News retrieved from www.phonak.com/evidence





Market leading connectivity takes a giant leap forward





Universal connectivity



Stable, smart, effective



Ultra-responsive



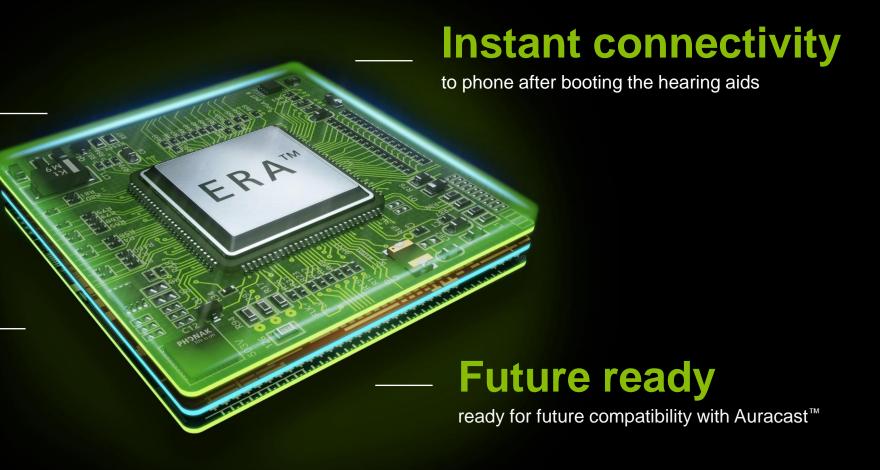
# **Ultra-responsive**

6x transmission power

More stable connections

**Universal Connectivity** 

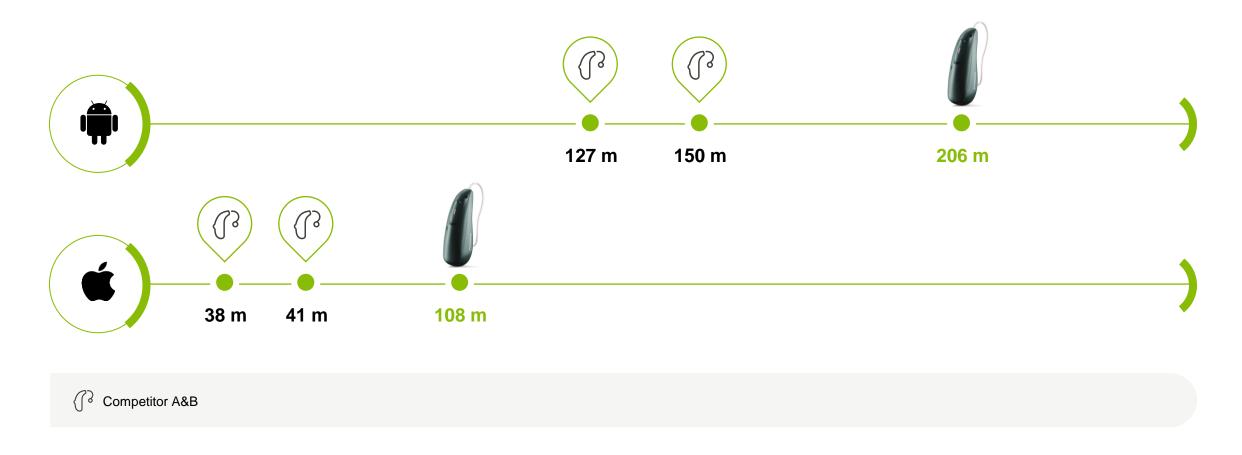
for instant compatibility with all Bluetooth® -enabled devices







# Connection stability – Receiving distance from phone call to hearing aids







Tested.
Reliable.
Proven. Swiss
engineering
at its best



Ecosystem



Design



**Testing** 



# Importance of reliability for hearing Care professionals



Infinio RICs are our 3<sup>rd</sup> generation of RIC products that incorporate our 'Life' technology

Now offered as standard in Infinio



Tested beyond IP68 for peace of mind

10,000

hours and

135\*

individual tests ensure durability







Personalized for you and your clients





Al Dome Proposer

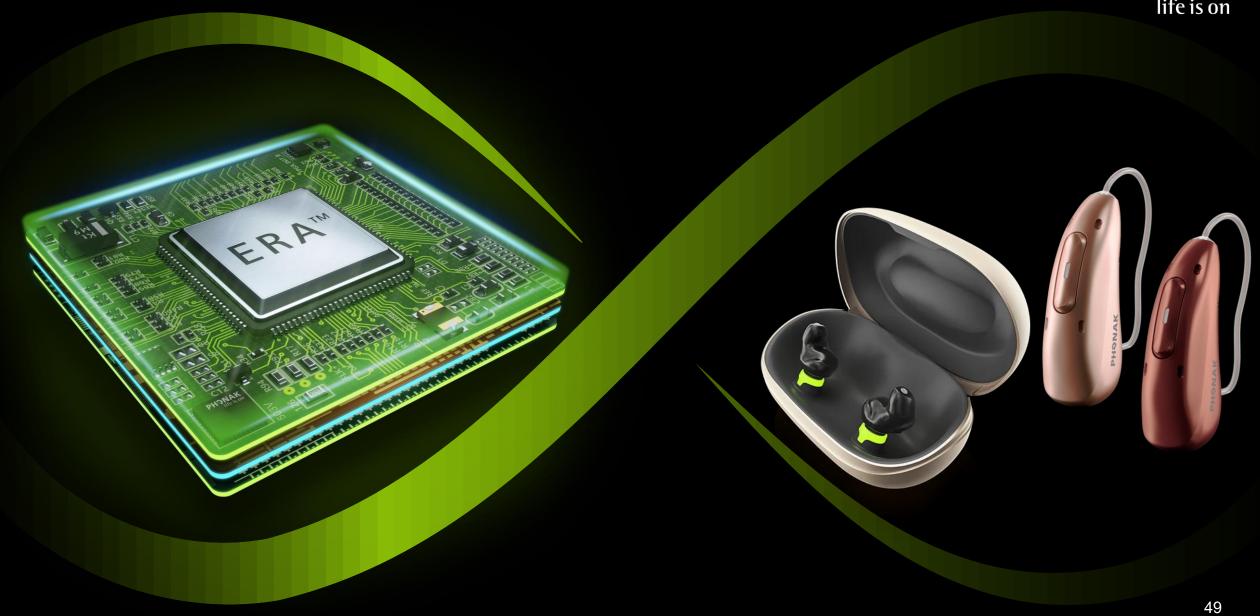


**Acoustic Optimized Vent** 



**Biometric Calibration** 







exceptional sound quality from the first moment.



Market leading connectivity takes a giant leap forward



Tested.
Reliable.
Proven. Swiss
engineering at
its best.



Personalized for you and your clients.



66

93% satisfaction from first fit (vs. key competitor)



Stable.
Fast.
Effective.



Ready for life. coating technology



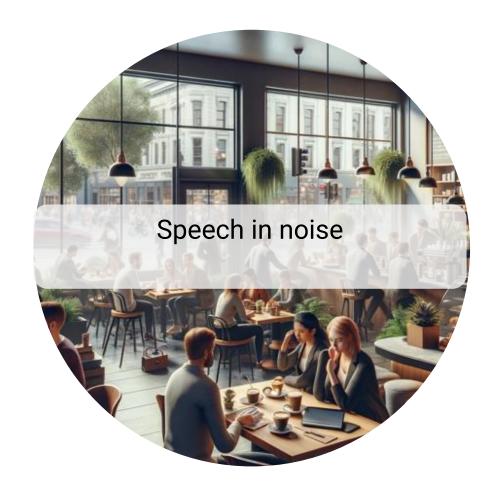
Unique. Just like you. directionality



# The most important consumer need

"Speech clarity in background noise, hearing in challenging environments, like restaurants - this is where people still struggle most."

US customer



### Areas of innovation which drive true value for consumers



Enjoy the delight of hearing and live a life without limitations

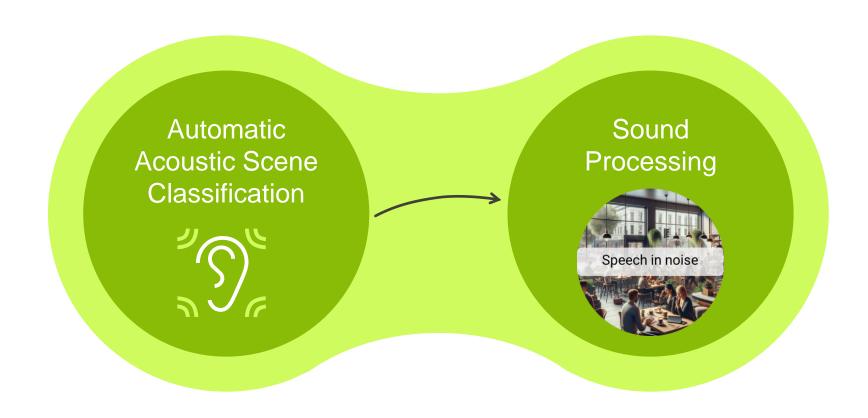
Hearing performance

Ease of use



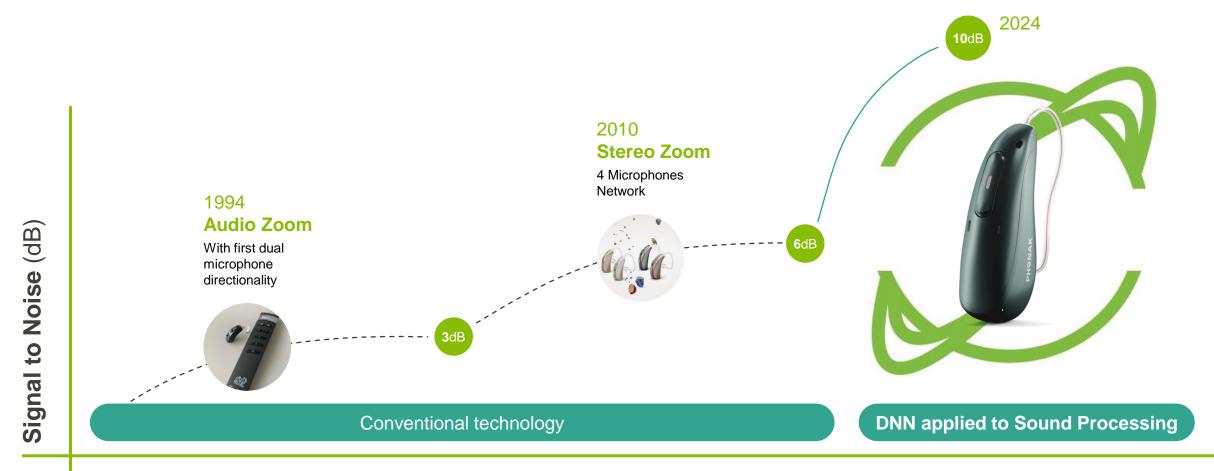


# The role of AI and DNN in our pursuit of the most important user need



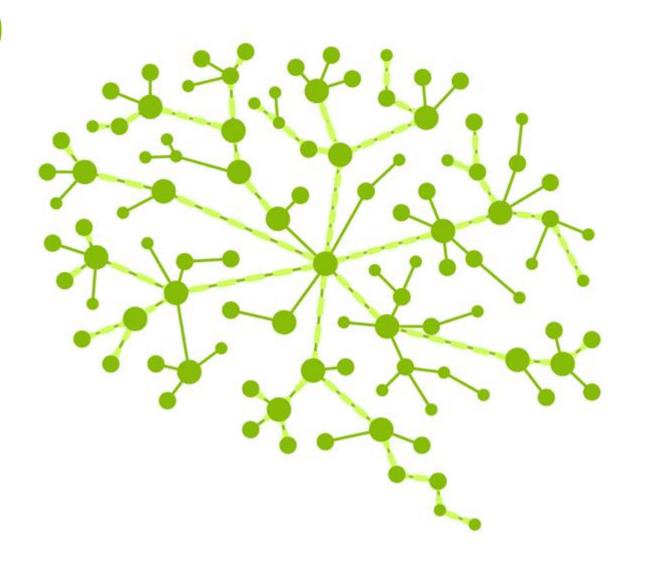


# Step change on our pursuit of the #1 consumer need



Time





**10**x

**Neural Connections** 

**21**x

**Memory Capacity** 

**4**x

Power Efficiency

**53**X

**Processing Power** 



Introducing **DEEPSONIC** chip

Exclusively available in Audéo Sphere.

A dedicated real-time Al/Deep Neural Network (Al/DNN) DEEPSONIC chip

4.5 M Neural connections

- 53x more processing power
- Trained with 22 million sound samples
- 7'700 Million operations per second

**Spheric Speech Clarity –** expands the access to speech to any direction.

Significantly reduced listening effort in a challenging environment with Spheric Speech Clarity.

56





**Speech Clarity** 

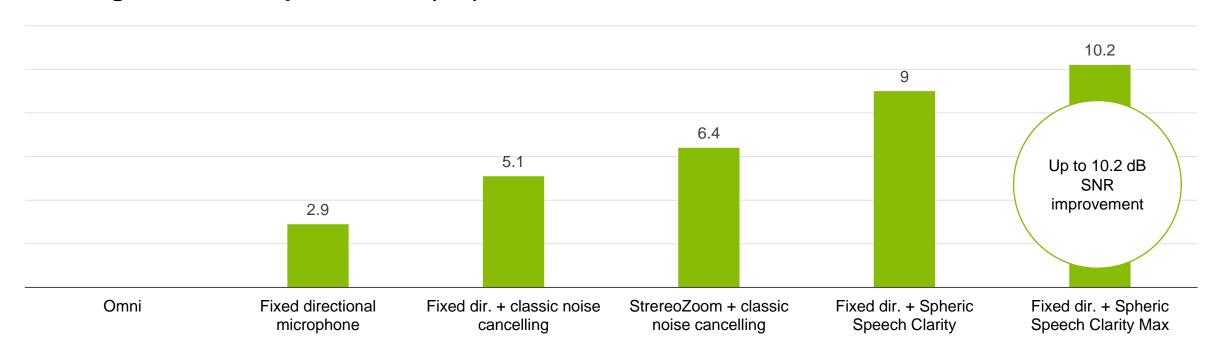
10dB SNR!

2-3 more likely to understand



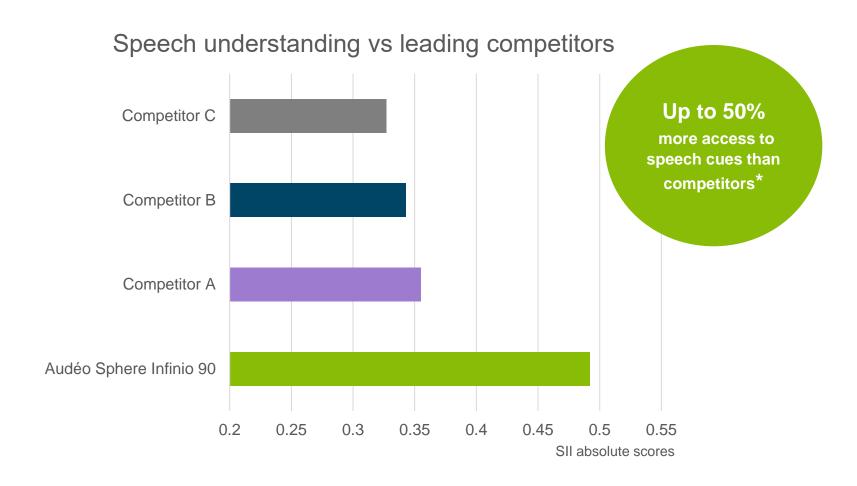
## Progression of technology advancements

### SII-weighted SNR improvement (dB)

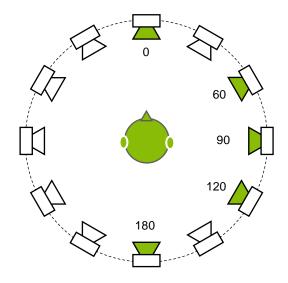




# Audéo Sphere Infinio is a step change in speech intelligibility



Audéo Sphere Infinio provides access to speech cues from any direction



<sup>\*</sup> Raufer, S., Kohlhauer, P., Jehle, F., Kühnel, V., Preuss, M., Hobi, S. (2024). Spheric Speech Clarity proven to outperform three key competitors for clear speech in noise. Phonak Field Study News available at <a href="https://www.phonak.com/evidence">https://www.phonak.com/evidence</a> (according to SII (ANSI S3.5, 1997))



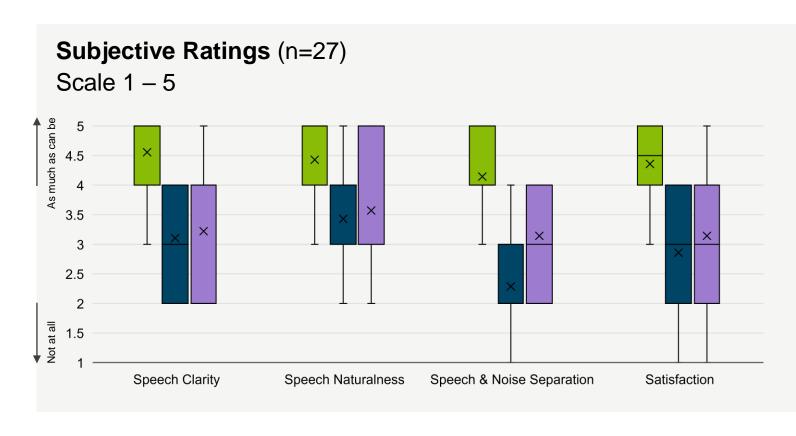
# Sphere Infinio rated higher on subjective ratings

### Subjects listened to simulated

2-person conversation

Rated for Sphere Infinio and two competitors:

- Speech clarity
- **Speech Naturalness**
- Speech and noise separation
- Overall satisfaction











# Clinical study benefits with Spheric Speech Clarity



More likely to understanding every word, from any direction, compared to two leading competitors.





More likely to understand speech from any direction with Spheric Speech Clarity\*

Compared to without

<sup>\*</sup> Wright, A., et al "Spheric Speech Clarity applies DNN signal processing to significantly improve speech understanding from any direction and reduce the listening effort."

Phonak Field Study News in preparation expected August 2024



# Infinio



93% consumers preferred APD 3.0 compared to leading competitor device

45% reduced listening effort and 21% less fatigue



Uninterrupted handsfree calls and streaming across up to 2x the distance

Auracast<sup>™</sup> and Bluetooth LE Audio ready for todays and tomorrow's device



Tested. Reliable.
Proven. Swiss
engineering at its best.

10,000 hours of testing, over 135 tests.



Personalization for your clients with 1600 data points and up to 2dB more SNR for Infinio Virto



Unprecedented 10dB SNR improvement with Audéo Sphere

2x more likely to understand every word from any direction

Up to 36.7% increase in speech understanding compared to two leading competitor devices





Exceptional sound quality from the first moment.

Connectivity you can count on.

Tested.
Reliable.
Proven. Swiss
engineering at
its best.

Personalized for you and your clients.

Clear speech from any direction with Spheric Speech Clarity.













# Spectacular launch of our new Infinio portfolio and continue to raise awareness about hearing health

- Introduction of the new Infinio portfolio to 1'000 customers during our event in Las Vegas, USA
- Exclusive introduction of the portfolio to 20+ industry journalists and a current reach of 100+ Million and overwhelmingly positive sentiment
- Launch broadcasted live to 40+ media stations
- 12x higher reach and 2x engagement in social media and 5x website traffic versus earlier launches
- "Al is the "technological ingenuity" in Sonova's double launch of flagship Phonak Infinio hearing aids" (Peter WIX, Audiology Worldnews)

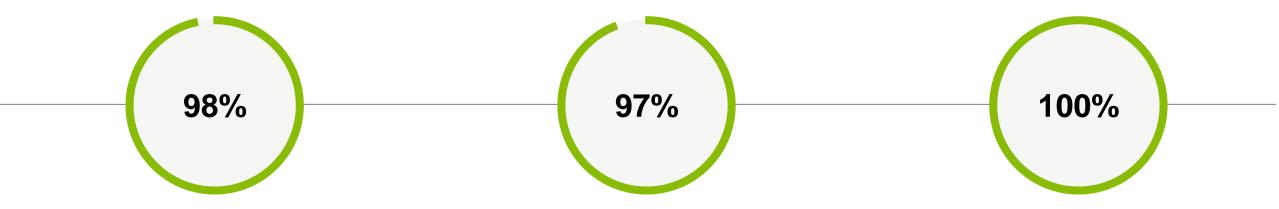








### Customer Feedback from Launch Event at the Sphere in Las Vegas



of HCPs think Phonak Infinio is going to change the lives of their patients.

of the HCPs think Phonak Audéo Sphere has a **strong competitive advantage** over all other hearing aids in the market. of HCPs view Phonak Infinio represents a **significant leap forward** in innovation





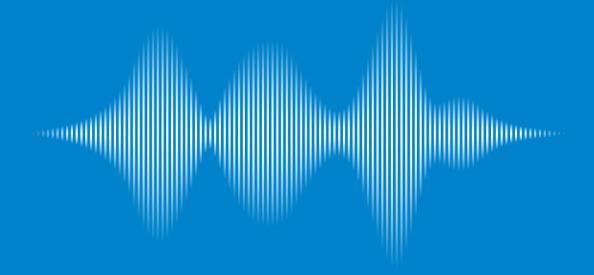
Audéo Sphere Audéo R CROS Virto R Virto Titanium Virto 10

Broadest offering of products at launch to address variety of consumer needs



# Broaden consumer access Achieving AC excellence in Germany –A blueprint for global success

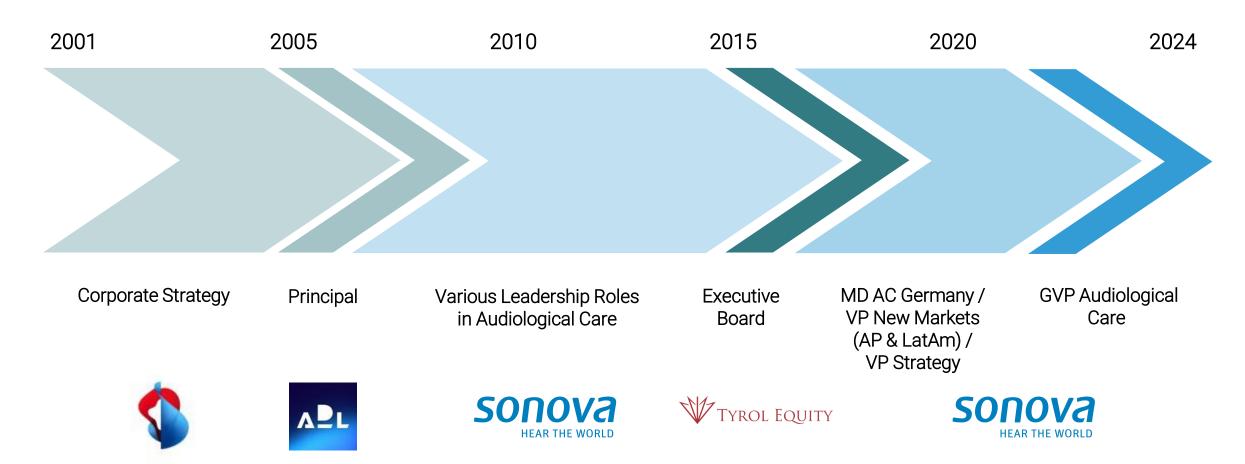
Oliver Lux, GVP Audiological Care



### Oliver Lux



Global Vice President Audiological Care



► Long track record with Sonova – Deep commercial AC expertise with focus on consumer needs

# Audiological Care business



Over 3,700 points of sales with ~10,500 highly skilled employees and >6,000 HCPs

### Global presence in 20 markets

Sonova Audiological Care presence



- Global coverage through one of the largest store networks
- Best-in-class service and expertise with one of the most technologically-advanced solutions
- Serving customers through an omni-channel journey in clinics and digitally

#### Growing platform with strong local brands



- Targeted expansion of network through greenfield openings and M&A
- Strong local brands, increasingly harmonized

Global network with continued expansion strategy

# Hearing care trends



What are the big trends in the hearing care industry?

#### Customers

Demographics growing number of people with hearing loss Wellbeing and active lifestyle gaining importance



Engaged audiologists crucial to drive growth

Need to **train** new and **retain** existing **audiologists** 

HCP's

### Hearing care market

Differentiation possible through more medical offering

Cost effective lead generation becoming more important in competitive field

Retail brand awareness increasing in its importance

Growing consumer base with hearing loss, audiologist scarcity and professionalizing retail capabilities

# Audiological Care strategy



3 pillars to unlock value and create a global, most-trusted brand

#### Pinnacle audiology

Provide the best personalized audiology solutions for our customers



#### Provide easy and convenient access

Customers all-day round accessibility to choosing when, where, by whom and how they receive our services

SonovaX - Create efficiencies

Continuous process and structural

allow for investments into growth

improvements to increase profitability and

**Enablers** 

Data Readiness

Employer of Choice

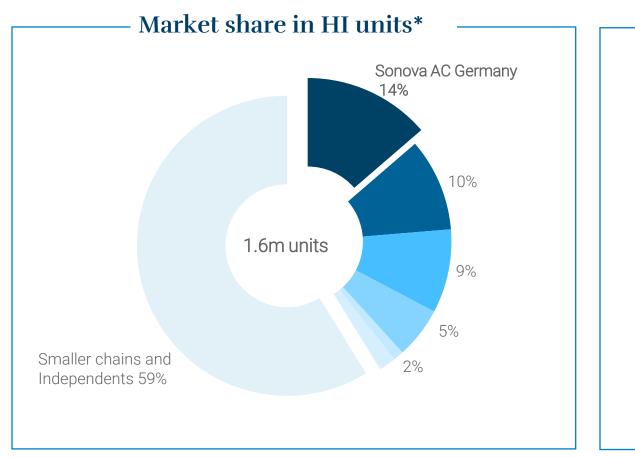
Social Responsibility and ESG

► Our AC strategy focused on driving market share gains and profitability growth

# Germany –A must-win market for Sonova



Market share distribution and competitive environment





► Sonova has gained leadership position in last 5 years in this highly competitive market

<sup>\*</sup> Total market size based on BVHI sell-in units, volume shares are based on own estimates, April 2024.

# **GEERS** - The power of branding



#### Rising to market leader

#### **Brand consolidation**

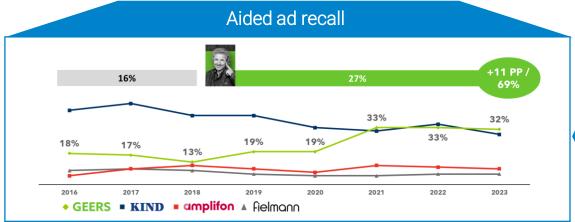
- Multiple acquisitions led to AC Germany operating under 17 different brands
- Merged to leverage one Brand
- GEERS Brand chosen due to scale and track record



#### Impact

- Economies of scope and scale
   (ability to invest, i.e. ambassador, TV)
- Customer reach
- Brand awareness





Source: Markencontrolling Gruppe Nymphenburg Consult AG: Brand Funnel KPI

# Aided brand awareness 47% 49% 46% 52% 58% 73% 75% 2016 2017 2018 47% 65% +18 PP / 38%

Source: Markencontrolling Gruppe Nymphenburg Consult AG: Brand Funnel KPI

► From 17 brands to one – Generating economies of scope and scale

# Digital lead generation



Dedicated in-house digital lead generation, qualification & conversion capability as part of the global omnichannel proposition

Lead Generation Factory – Digital Center of Excellence in Berlin

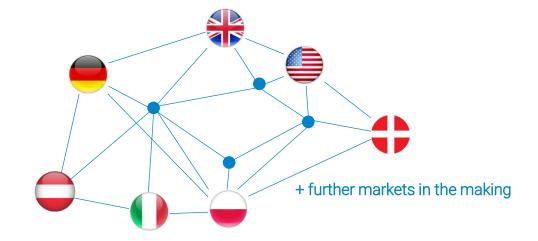


#### Mission

- In-house digital platform for online lead generation, qualification and conversion
- Continuous improvement of cost per lead, conversion rates and customer lifetime value
- Building up lead database and further enhance digital capabilities



(Countries served so far)



► International expansion starting from German Hub supporting markets to accelerate lead generation

# In-store excellence - Standardized store concept and design



Enabling the best hearing experience



- In-store sales process completely redesigned
- Unique selling proposition
- Customers gaining direct access and enjoy pinnacle Audiology



#### New customer journey success:

#### Customer

- Transparent customer journey
- + Less appointments
- + Less time invested
- + Emotional and personalized experience



#### Stigma removed / lowered

#### Hearing Care Professional

- Standardized workflow / replicability
- + Time savings / + more customers served per day
- + Fewer explanations / consistent results
- Job satisfaction



#### Unique selling proposition

New store concept & design as key enabler for pinnacle audiology – «the best hearing experience»

# **GEERS** Academy

**SONOVA**HEAR THE WORLD

Gaining the skills and professional qualification in Audiology

#### **Career Development**

- 120 Trainees & 70 Meister HCP per year (# growing steadily YOY)
- 50 Hearing care advisors
- Development paths for specialists and management careers

#### **Competence Development**

- Over 80 different courses at GEERS Academy >1,800 employees trained in FY 2023/24
- Expansion of training portfolios in 'Audiology', 'Sales Academy' and 'Leadership'
- Further access with 'LinkedIn Learning'



#### Talent Management

- Frequent feedback culture
- Early talent identification
- Targeted development plans internationally

#### **Leadership Development**

- Development programs for shop and district managers
- Leadership principles

► Train, enable and retain our audiologists – More than 500 HCP's trained in FY2023/24 globally

# Employee engagement

**SONOVA** 

Driven by knowledge and passion













► High employee satisfaction and engagement key factor to gain customer loyalty and HCP availability

# Priorities we set to attain market leadership



Key priorities that helped us generate value in Germany



#### Excellence in governance and leadership

- ✓ Sonova X (i.e. Standard work and Daily management)
- ✓ Focus on big impact initiatives



- ✓ Brand and customer reach
- ✓ In-store excellence (store concept) and customer lifetime value
- ✓ Consumer Access (incl. funnel management and A&P improvement)







- ✓ Network Expansion (bolt-ons & greenfield)
- ✓ Omni-channel customer journey & in-store execution
- ✓ Product and Pricing

#### The best team wins

- ✓ GEERS Academy
- ✓ Strong improvements in employee retention (r)VTO
- ✓ Employee Engagement

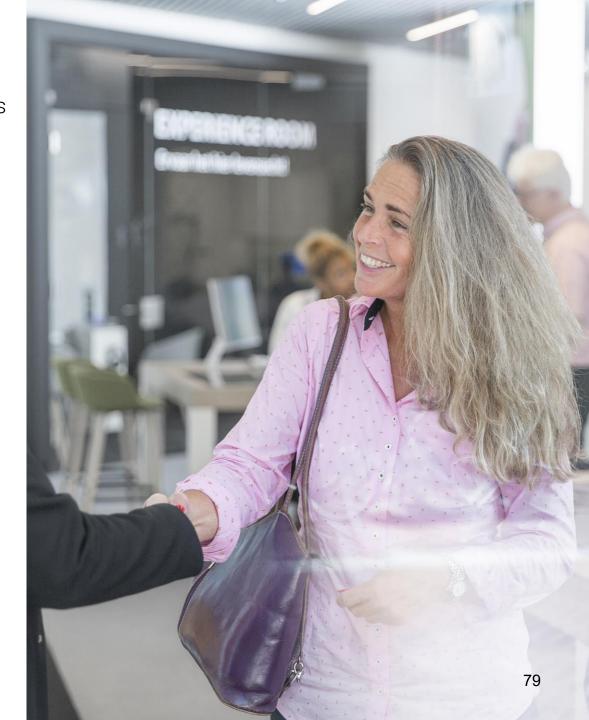


► Focus on big levers, ensure consistent execution and continuously improve along the journey

# Key Takeaways

Continued improvement across the entire Audiological Care business

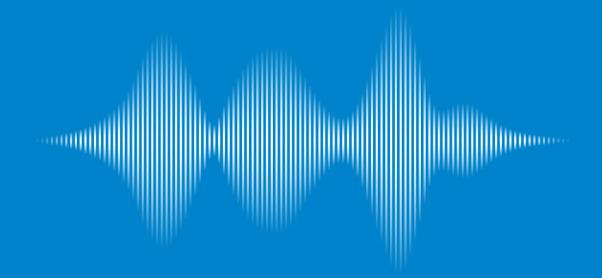
- Build a global business and harmonize brands and positioning
- Engage our employees and attract, train and retain the best audiologists
- Provide pinnacle audiology in innovative store concepts with a superior customer experience
- Leverage data to generate leads and continuously improve our service
- Increase productivity and profitability, applying our Sonova X principles
- Further strengthen organic growth supported by accretive M&A
- Driving market share gains and profitable growth





# Sonova eXcellence Unlocking hidden value through Sonova X

Arnd Kaldowski, Chief Executive Officer Ludger Althoff, GVP Operations Lilika Beck, GVP Consumer Hearing



## Introduction

Unlocking hidden value through Sonova X

- Process improvements offer a broad range of opportunities for value creation, like
  - Customer satisfaction (e.g. through reliability)
  - Sales growth (e.g. through lead conversion)
  - Efficiency (e.g. labor productivity)
- Our excellence system includes process tools, effective KPI & action reviews all systematically deployed
- Our key success factors are high engagement on all levels, dedicated tool experts and broad organizational management
- The Sonova eXcellence system was introduced in 2019 and is growing ever since in scope and impact
- Ultimately, we utilize Sonova X to drive progress in customer satisfaction, our P&L and our balance sheet



# The Sonova eXcellence system



Sonova's structured approach to generate value through process improvements

Systematic approach & tool box

Alignment and optimization

Continuous performance improvement



Common language, standardization and continuous improvement of processes, tools & measurements

- Clarity and alignment for the employee
- Reduction of process waste
- Efficiency in resource deployment



Excellence = Creating defendable competitive advantage

#### Examples:

- Customer satisfaction
- Market share gains
- Higher engagement
- Higher productivity
- Lower use of capital (inventory)

► Continuously improving = Small, daily steps leading to large impact

# Sonova's continuous improvement journey



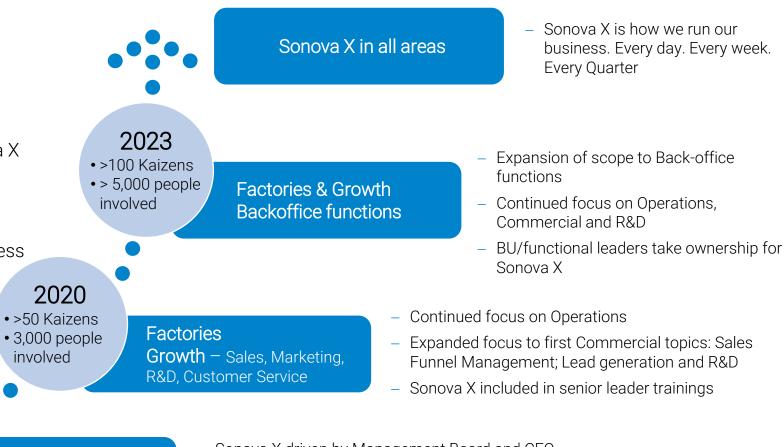
Unlocking hidden value since 2019

#### Continuous improvement team

- Championed by COO and CEO
- 40 dedicated experts on Commercial and Operational Excellence in Lean Systems
- Support driving results while building Sonova X system, culture and capabilities

#### Local P&L leaders

 Actively chose the focus areas in their business and drive improvements hands-on



- 2019 • 15-20 Kaizens
- 500 people involved

**Factories** Management Tools 1.0

involved

- Sonova X driven by Management Board and CEO
- Initial focus to get started: Operations
- Standard Lean Operations tools, e.g. Standard Work, Kaizens

# The Sonova eXcellence system

Excerpt of recent Sonova X achievements



#### Talent – key ingredient for sustainable success

- Internal job fill rate at 67%
- Voluntary attrition in stores reduced to <7%, down from >12% in FY2019/22
- +56% YoY improvement in time to hire leadership roles in FY2024/2



#### Growth – accelerating market share gains

- Time for effective customer care in pilot stores improved by more than 10% over two years
- Predictability in product launches in CH Business from average delay of 3-4 months to on / ahead of time in last 2 years
- B2C conversion rate in Advanced Bionics increased by +10% YOY in FY2024/25



Trade payables improvement by 75% in last 3 years

Continuous improvement – to drive quality and efficiency

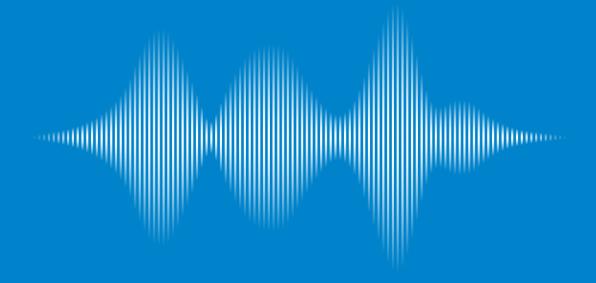
Service on time delivery from 81% (2023) to 92% (2024) (+11%)
 On Time Delivery (OTTR) from 80% (2021) to 93% (2024) (+13%)





# Sonova eXcellence Continuous improvement in operations

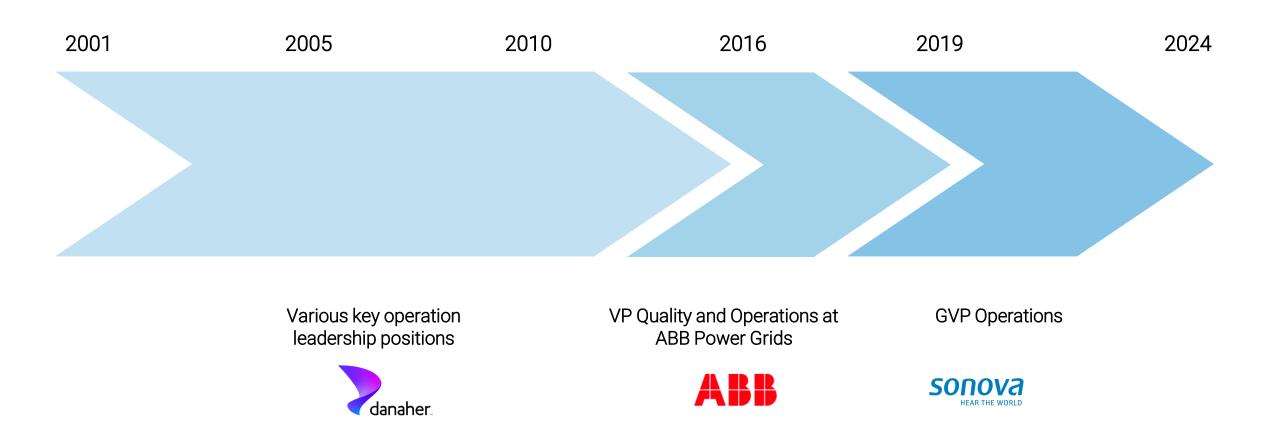
Ludger Althoff, GVP Operations



# Ludger Althoff



Global Vice President Operations



► Operations DNA – 23 years in operations leadership positions

# On time to customer request date (OTTR)



The importance of on time delivery



On Time To **CUSTOMER** Request is a delivery metric measuring the operations team ability to meet any customer requested delivery in any quantity at any point of time according to their requested date

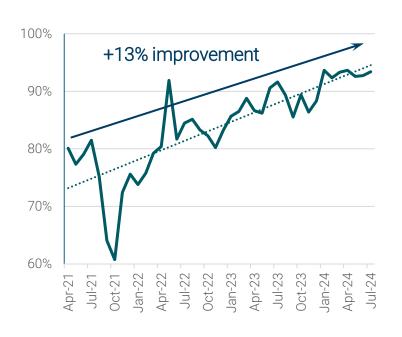
#### Relevance of timely deliveries

- On time delivery is a crucial element in the sales process for HCPs
- Delays lead to shifts in customer appointments – rescheduling to be avoided in all cases
- The goal is to enable HCPs to make best use of their time by avoiding non-value add tasks
- High service levels leading to high customer acceptance and engagement of HCPs
- High OTTR score is highly correlated to Net Promoter Score (NPS)

#### Key enablers for improvement

- Plan for every part: Inventory replenishment based on rigorous portfolio segmentation reflecting demand
- → Daily tracking of major KPIs: Define and monitor leading and lagging indicators and take immediate action in case of deviations
- Optimize replenishment: Implement delivery methos and routes based on product segmentation from plan for every part

#### On time to customer request



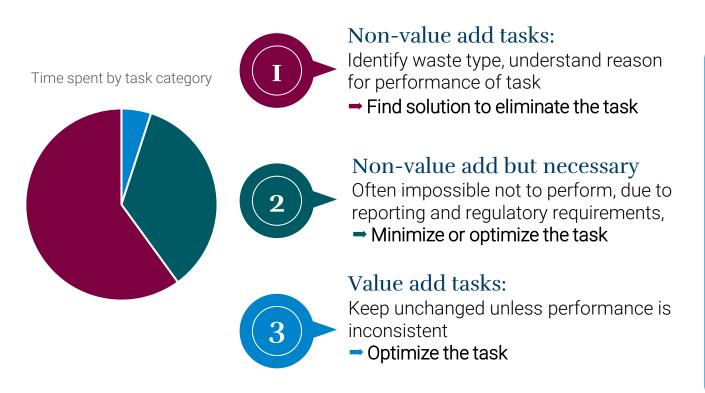
➤ Timely delivery crucial to the success of our customers – Significant improvement achieved

# Productivity improvement



Structured approach to continuously improve productivity

#### Typical value-added structures within operations



#### Key enablers for improvement

- → "Go to Gemba": Leadership to spend time where the value is created
- Engage the ones closest to the actual process: Engage with the operators closest to the process
- Leverage knowledge closest to value creation:
   Optimize processes with a fully engaged cross functional teams
- ➤ Visualize the current and future state: Create intuitive future processes visualizing the improvements

Source: Center for Lean Excellence, 2024

► Non-value add tasks dominate the landscape at most companies – The goal is to identify and avoid them

# Productivity gains at Sonova since 2019



# GENERATE STABILITY WHILE DRIVING PRODUCTIVITY

Continue direct labor productivity – add back office & inventory productivity

#### 2023/24: +14% productivity

- Wave 2A complete in factories & repair centers,
- First deployment of Sonova X in HR, Finance and IT, 100+ Kaizens completed, focus on supply chain optimization

#### 2022/23: +10% productivity

- Strengthen continuous improvement leader knowledge; empower Kaizen leaders through knowledge sharing
- Best Factory Award, 120+ Kaizens completed globally

#### 2021/22: +10% productivity

- Further expand focus areas: Environmental & safety Kaizen, customer service, inventory, warehouse/logistics.
- Strengthen Wave 2 (Standard Work, Kaizen, VSM, Pull and 5S/VM)
   80+ Kaizens completed globally

# FOUNDATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY

Management systems and direct labor productivity

#### 2020/21: +14% productivity

 Start of wave 2 + full wave 1 deployment in all factories and Repair centers – 100+ Kaizens performed

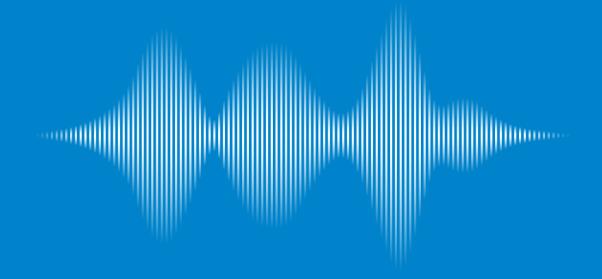
#### 2019/20: +10% productivity

- Creation of Sonova X
- Wave 1 pilot locations: US, Vietnam, Switzerland
- ► Continuous improvement measures generating more than 10% labor productivity improvement every year



# Sonova eXcellence Unlocking value through effective customer care

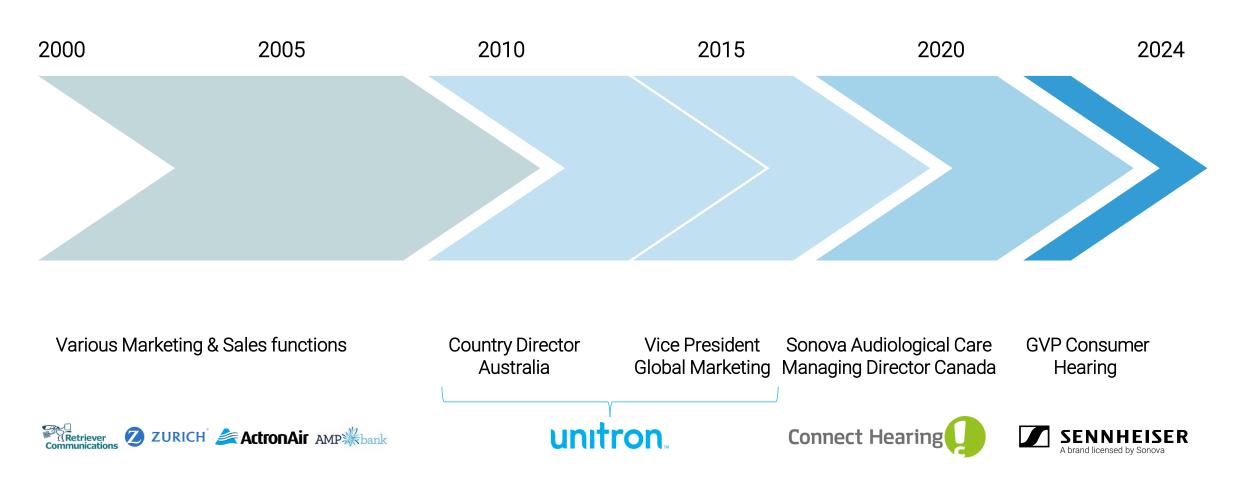
Lilika Beck, GVP Consumer Hearing



### Lilika Beck



Global Vice President Consumer Hearing



► Over fifteen years cross-functional and cross-geo experience across different Sonova businesses

## Connect Hearing in Canada

Sonova presence and current market challenges







#### Connect Hearing Canada - Facts and figures

- Part of the Sonova Group since 2018
- Over 175 POS across the country
- Among the top 3 providers of audiological care services in Canada



#### Market background

- Around 650k hearing instruments fitted annually
- Hearing aid penetration rate of around 25%
- About a 50/50 split between the private and public market
- Highly regulated industry, by region and profession
- Rapid market consolidation by key global players

#### Challenges

- Only 120 HCPs graduate annually and enter private practice, representing a 1% decline p.a.
- Highly competitive recruitment environment
- ► Declining HCP capacity in a growing market represents a major challenge for growth

# Applying Sonova X to address capacity constraints



Developing a more effective clinic calendar model using Sonova X

#### Key initiatives deployed



#### Company standardized calendar

- Kaizen completed to create new clinic calendar design improvements
- Move away from HCP led calendar to centrally guided one
- Enable remote calendar management through contact center



#### 2. Daily management

- Introduce real time data management tool with lagging and leading indicators
- Clinic staff and managers can view unused capacity and drive actions to improve



#### 3. Targeted lead generation

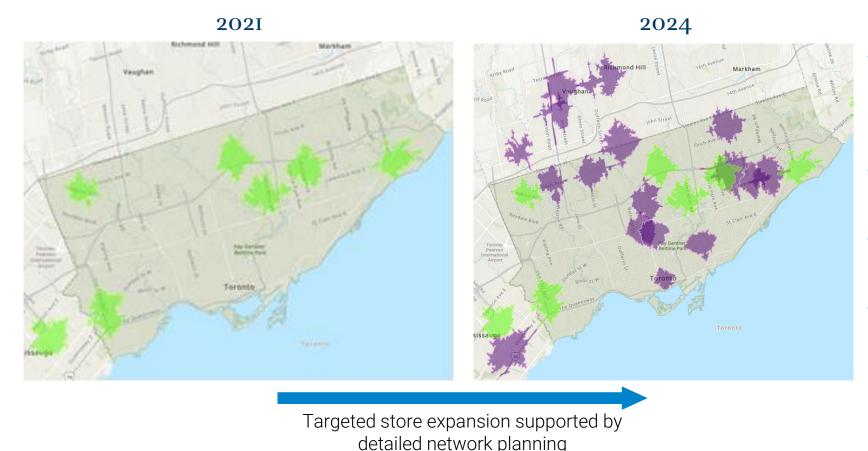
- Capacity by clinic view for marketing
- Enables agility in digital lead generation spend

Effective calendar management is a key pillar in enabling growth

# Targeted capacity expansion through M&A



Organic growth complemented with acquired capacity in growing, high value regions



- Historically we have a more prominent footprint in BC / West Coast which has a lagging market growth rate (~3%)
- Toronto, Ontario benefits from a higher market growth rate (>5%)
- Population growth: +0.93%,12% higher than national average
- ASP +5% above national average

Outcome: AC Canada has the fastest growing footprint in attractive Toronto market

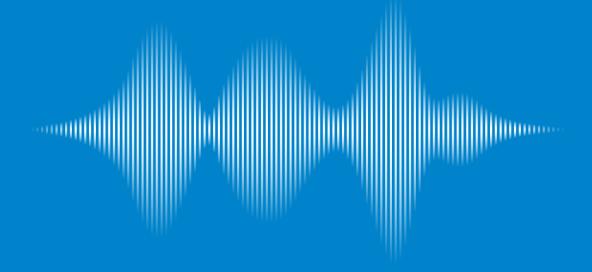
# Key achievements

- Outpaced market growth growing share to 10%
- Best in class capacity management leading to shorter appointment wait times for clients
- Improvements in Average Selling Price vs. industry average
- Low regrettable voluntary turnover of staff
- High employee engagement scores certified as Top Employer by the institution 'Great Place to Work' in Canada



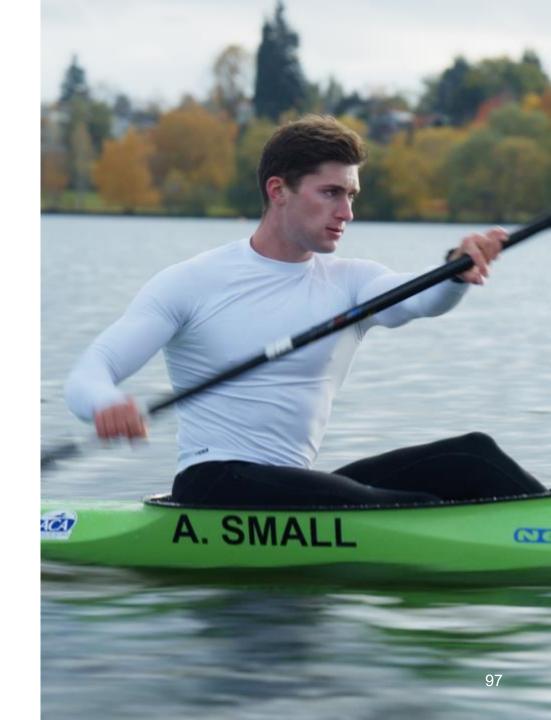


# Summary and final Q&A



## Sonova X summary

- Sonova X established at Sonova across all four businesses and all major functions
- The build-up of the system requires the right talent, the right mind-set/culture and participation of all levels throughout the company
- Significant progress made on process improvements in all businesses and functions, with significant measurable success in our core value drivers...
- ...but we still have **enormous potential** for future improvements



# Key Takeaways

- Continuing to implement our proven strategy to drive profitable growth
- Consistently delivering breakthrough innovation based on true consumer needs
- Taking the next technology leap with real-time Al sound processing, opening a new chapter in speech enhancement
- Executing our broadest and most revolutionary platform launch ever with Infinio – great initial market feedback
- Expanding consumer access and driving excellence in our Audiological Care business
- Unlocking hidden value through Sonova X across all four businesses and all major functions

