Lancers

Financial Results

1st Quarter of Fiscal Year 2024

LANCERS, INC. (TSE Growth: 4484)



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August 10, 2023

Highlights

Company-wide

Gross profit

YoY(1Q)

553_{million JPY} +11%

Matching Business

Gross profit

YoY(1Q)

521_{million JPY} +21%

Results for 1Q of FY2024

- Company-wide GMV, gross profit and operating loss progressed as planned, and it is expected that operating profit will be achieved in July
 - Expected progress: GMV 24% (21% YoY), gross profit 23% (20% YoY)
 - -GMV:2.76 billion JPY (+5% YoY)
 - -Gross profit: 0.55 billion JPY(+11% YoY)
 - -Operating loss:-0.05 billion JPY (-0.13 billion JPY YoY)
- Gross profit in Matching Business grew by 21% YoY, and segment profit was 140 million JPY as planned. However, we aim to improve productivity by strengthening the organizational structure for gross profit
- -Acquisition of new clients as planned due to strengthened marketing
 - -Increase in client spending due to product improvements such as Al functions
 - Expand gross profit per HC by strengthening the organizational structure and improving productivity

Topics for 1Q of FY2024

- Established "Lancers LLM Labs", a team dedicated to generative AI and Large-scale Language modeling (LLM)
- Plans to merge with MENTA Co., Ltd. in October to further improve management and business efficiency
- New release of "PILE" programming learning application using LLM technology
- New partnership with Shizuoka Pref. to support diverse work styles within the region



- 1 Company Profile
- 2 Financial Results for 1Q of FY2024
- 3 Topics for 1Q of FY2024



Company Profile

Our Mission

Empower Individuals

Our Vision

10x your business with Lancers
Be your own boss with Lancers

Company name

LANCERS, INC.

Business overview

Job Platform

Founder and CEO

Yosuke Akiyoshi

Establishment

April, 2008

Organization

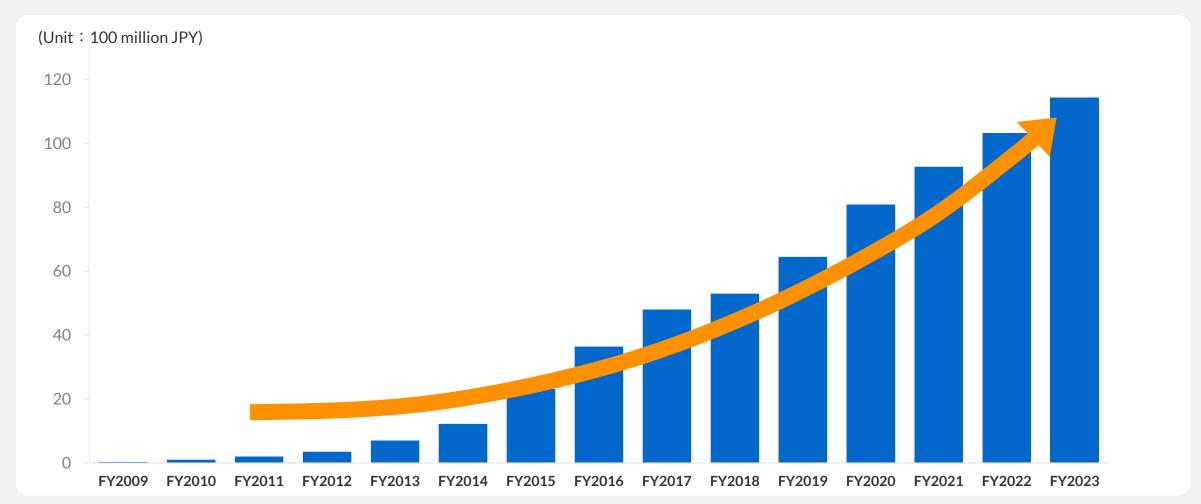
Approx. 200 employees*

*) Excluding directors and temporary workers (part-timers)



Growth History

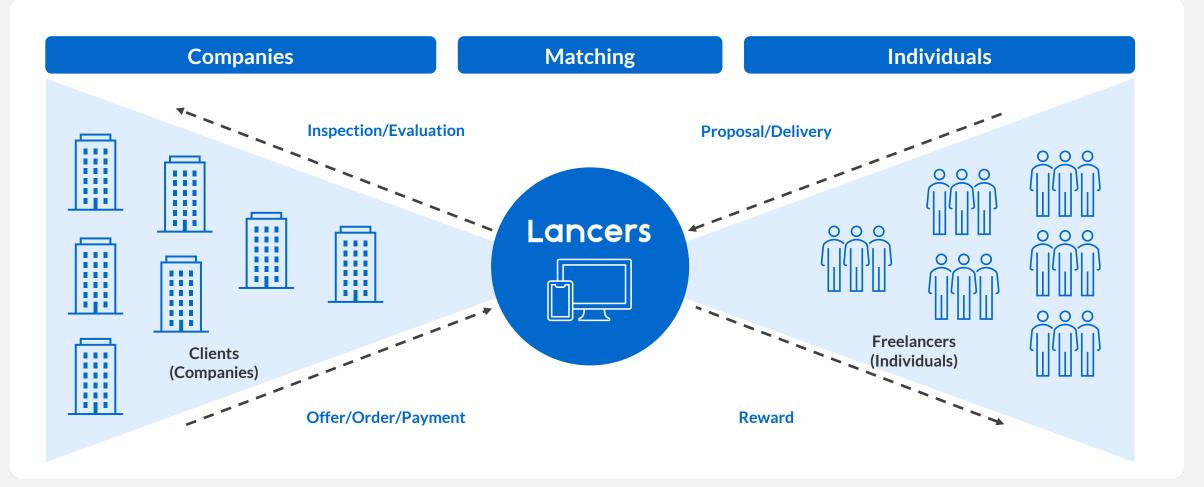
Achieving continuous GMV growth since foundation





Service Overview: Business Model

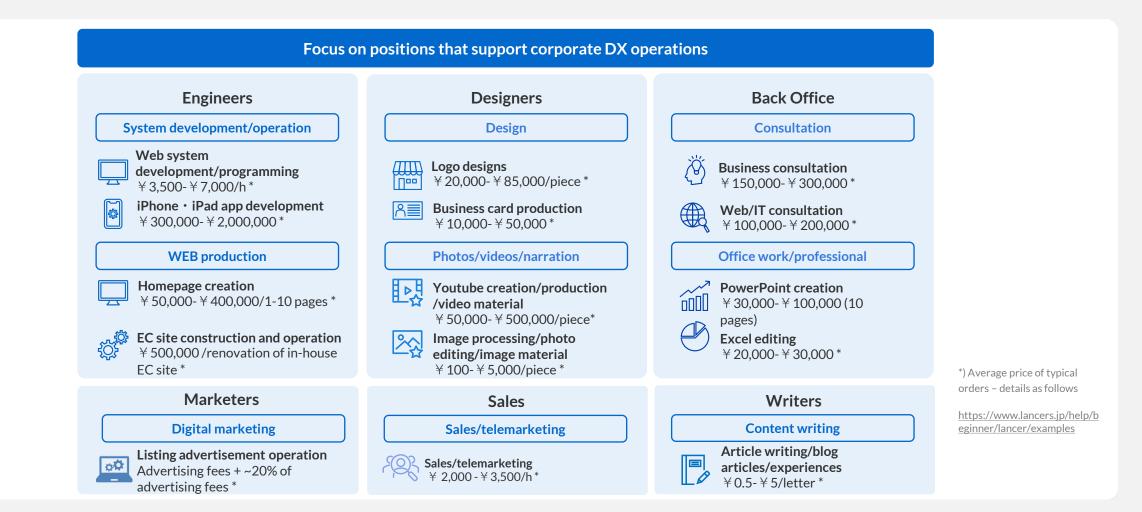
With online job platform that matches individuals and companies, We deliver excellent talents to companies, and provide new workstyles to individuals





Service Overview : Job Categories

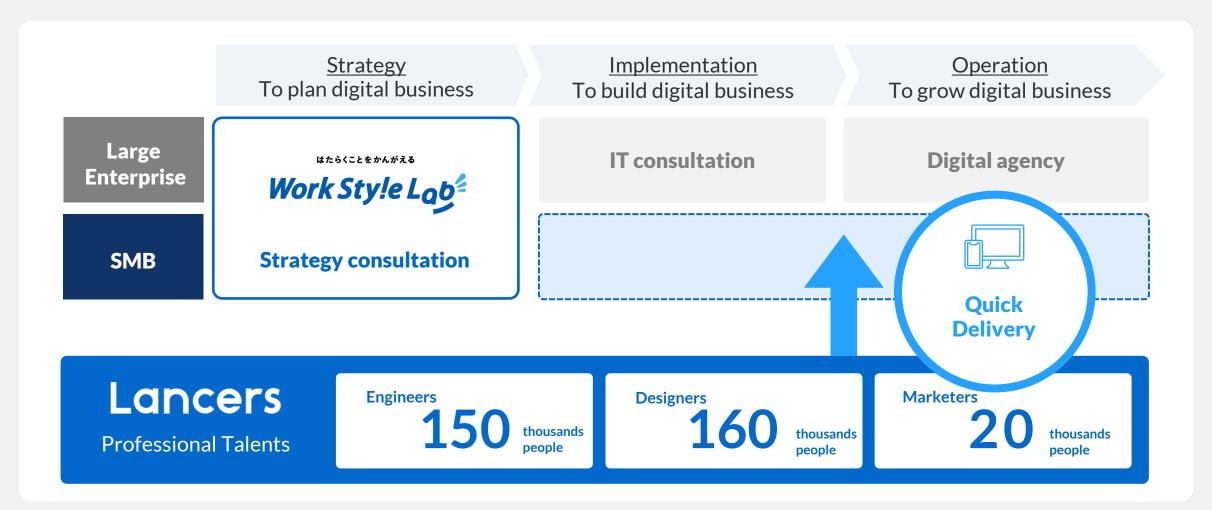
We provide various kinds of digital-oriented job opportunities, including engineers, designers, marketers etc.





Helping Clients Promote Digital Transformation

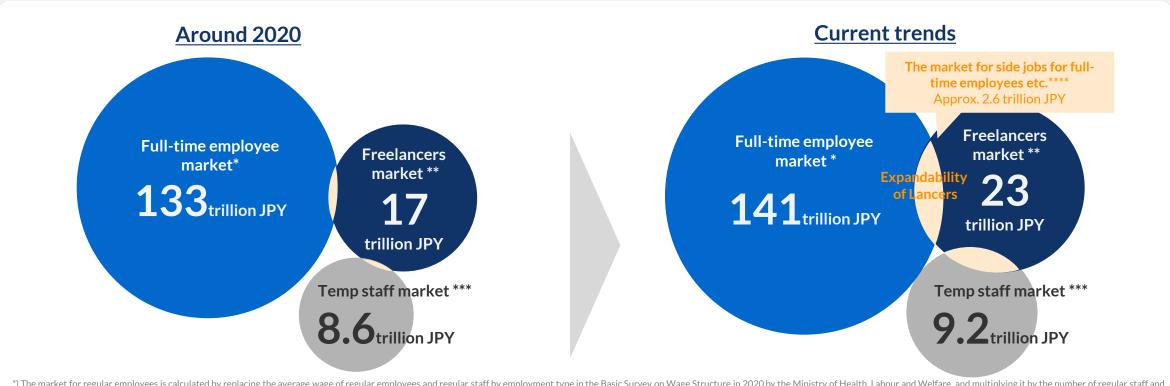
Quickly delivering professional talents to mainly SMBs, We help them plan, build and grow their digital businesses





Current Market Trends: Target Market Expansion as Individual Working Styles Become Smoother

Work styles are diversifying, and the mobility of human resources is accelerating. Our target market expands accordingly



^{*)} The market for regular employees is calculated by replacing the average wage of regular employees and regular staff by employment type in the Basic Survey on Wage Structure in 2020 by the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, and multiplying it by the number of regular staff and employees in 2020 in the average results of the 2022 Labor Force Survey (Basic Tabulation) by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (2022). Similarly, the current trend is calculated by quoting the Basic Survey on Wage Structure in 2022 and 2023 (2023) from the same survey.

^{****)} Taken from our "New Freelance Status Survey 2021-2022" and "Survey on Work Styles 2023". Calculated by multiplying the population of side job-type sukima workers by the rate of increase in the ratio of full-time employees with side jobs and by the average annual compensation of 623,000 JPY



^{**)} The freelance market in the broad sense is taken from the economic scale of freelancers in 2020 and October 2021 in the "New Freelance Survey 2021-2022" commissioned by Macromill, Inc.

^{***)} Figures for 2020 are from the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare's FY2020 Report on Worker Dispatching Business. Current trends are based on Yano Research Institute Ltd. "Survey on the Human Resources Business Market (Major 3 Categories) in Japan: (2022)," released on October 19, 2022, and temporary staffing market in FY2021 (note: based on business operator sales)

Spreading from Large Enterprises to SMEs: Companies Using Lancers' Services to Promote DX and Digitalization

DX and digitalization is being driven by the use of Lancers' services not only in large companies but also in SMEs



A client who operates 4 flower shops in Nagano Pref.



Active use of external HR 90% of design-related orders are placed to our freelancers

Issue

- Need to design flyers and create a website, but do not have the in-house resources
- Looked for resources locally, but they do not meet our requirements

Counter -plan

Searched for professional personnel through Lancers and found a match with a person who had the design and requirements we needed

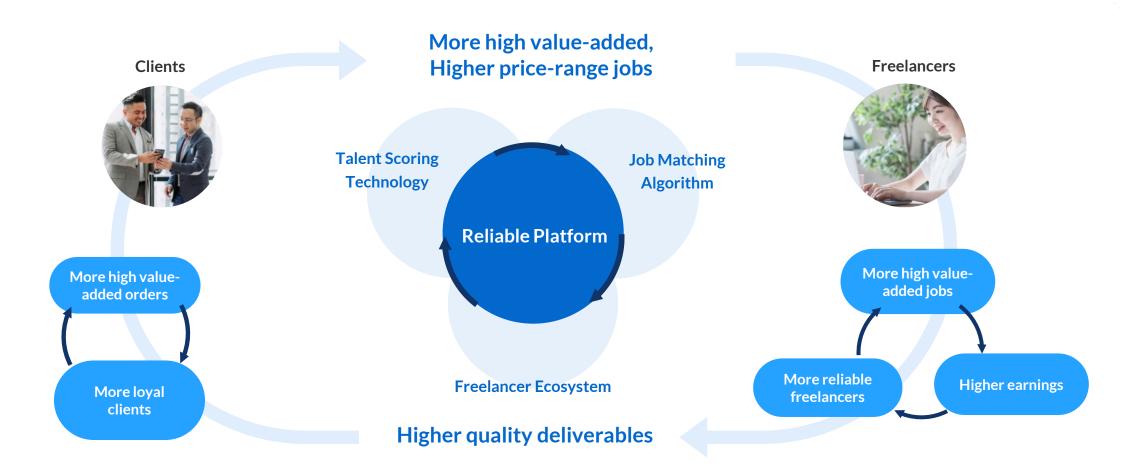
Out come

- Ongoing requests for design and production work (90% of design-related work ordered)
- By utilizing external resources, employees can focus on their core business, such as customer service, increasing productivity



Lancers' Strengths: High Value-Added Platform

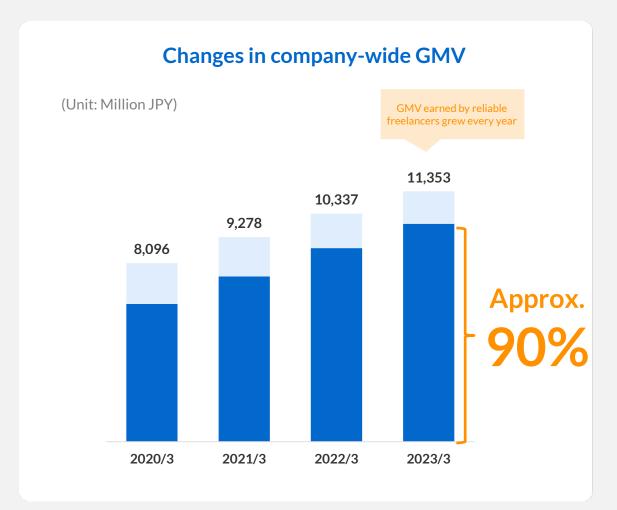
Lancers is a reliable and high-value added job platform

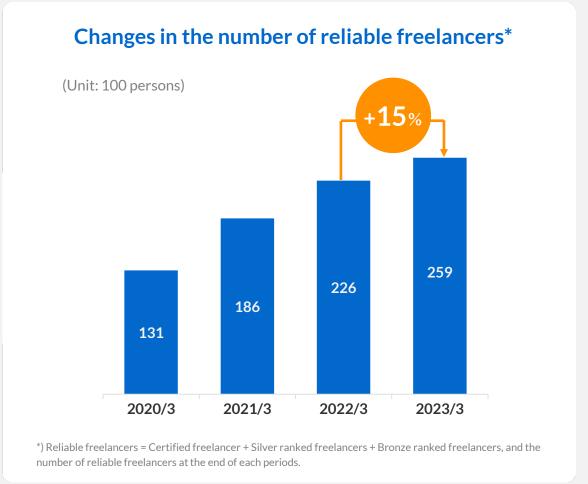




Lancers' Strengths: Database of Reliable Freelancers

Growth in No. of reliable freelancers is the source of competition. Of the company-wide GMV, the GMV earned by reliable freelancers is increasing year by year

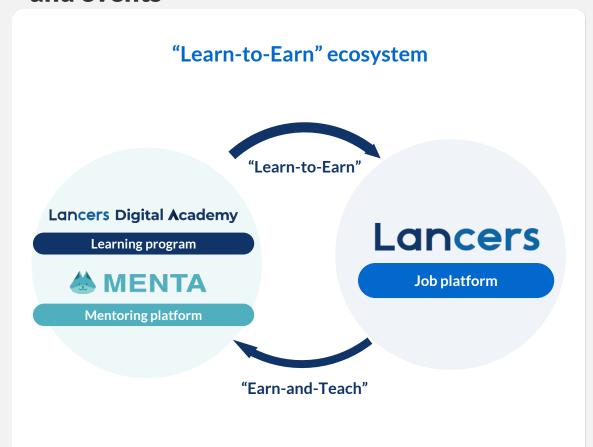






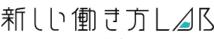
Lancers' Strengths: Human Resource Development Structure that Leads to Work

Develop human resources (\rightleftharpoons reliable freelancers) in the cycle of skill and job acquisition. Also increase the no. of reliable freelancers and keep supporting them by holding community activities and events



Organizing community activities and events





Empowered by Lancers

A nationwide collaborative community where individuals can grow together



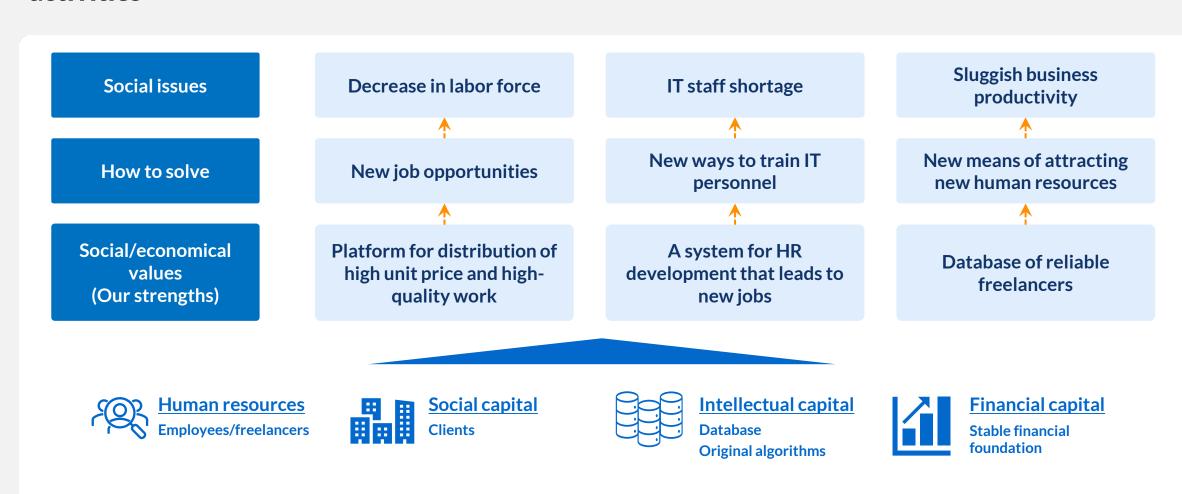


Annual celebration and rewards program for freelancers



Lancers' Value Creation Story

Aim to solve social issues and create values through our company's strengths and business activities





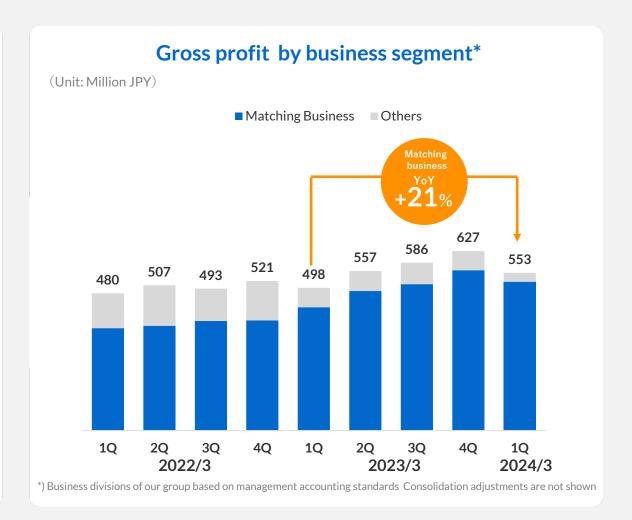
- 1 Company Profile
- 2 Financial Results for 1Q of FY2024
- 3 Topics for 1Q of FY2024



Performance Summary

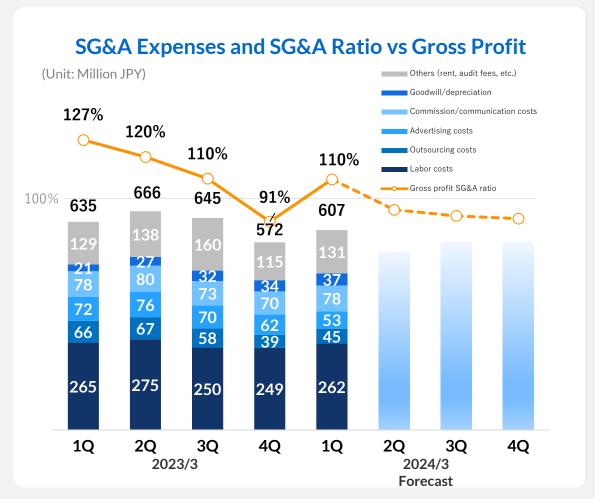
Company-wide GMV, gross profit, and operating loss are progressing as planned, and it is expected that operating income will be achieved in July

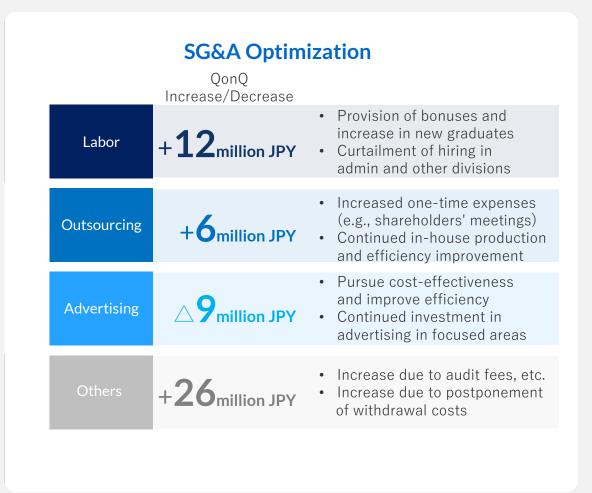
	Financial perfo	ormance (1Q) Matching business YoY	%progress against forecast
GMV	2,764 million JPY	+13%	24%
Net Sales	1,113 million JPY	+26%	23%
Gross profit	553 million JPY	+21%	23%
Operating income	△54 million JPY		



SG&A Expenses

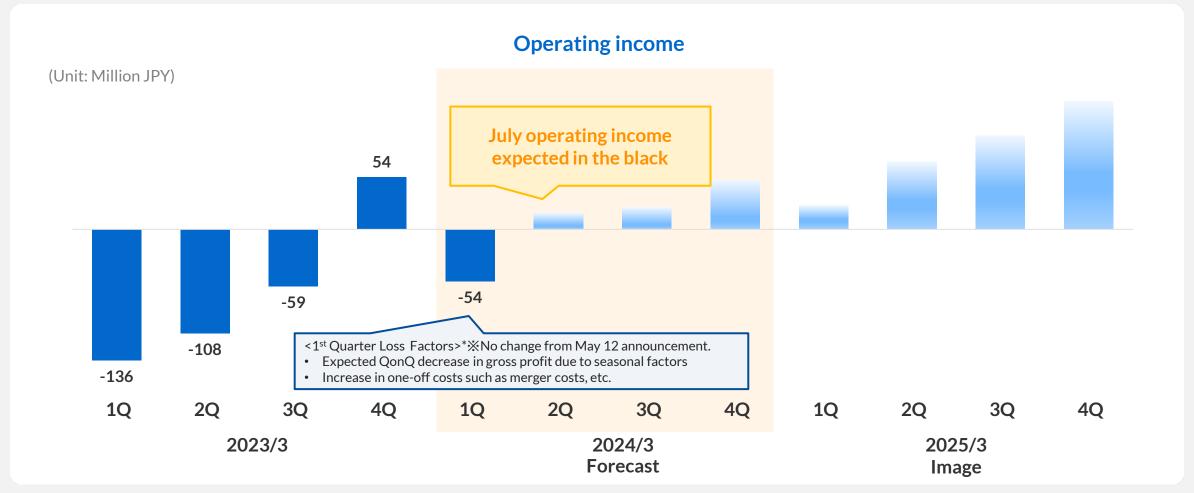
SG&A expenses increased in 1Q due to one-time expenses and postponement of the start of the fiscal year. Productivity improvement measures are still on, expected to be profitable from 2Q onward





Operating Income

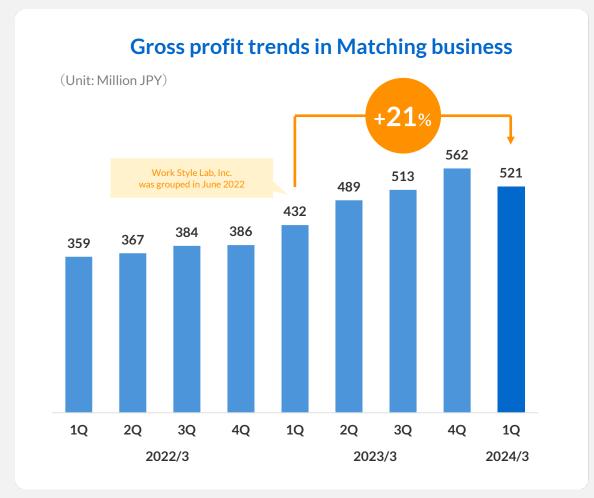
Progress was in line with the plan despite a temporary loss in 1Q as announced in full-year results. We are on track to achieve constant profitability from 2Q onward

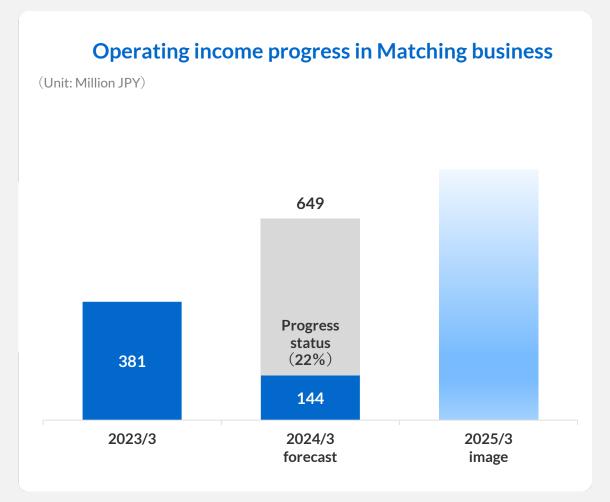




Matching Business

Gross profit grew by 21% YoY, and operating income was in line with the plan at 140 million JPY. We aim to improve productivity by strengthening the organizational structure to further increase gross profit



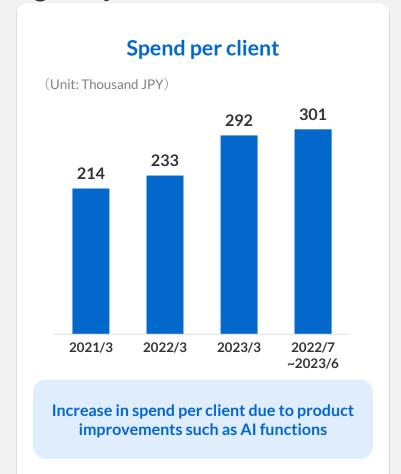


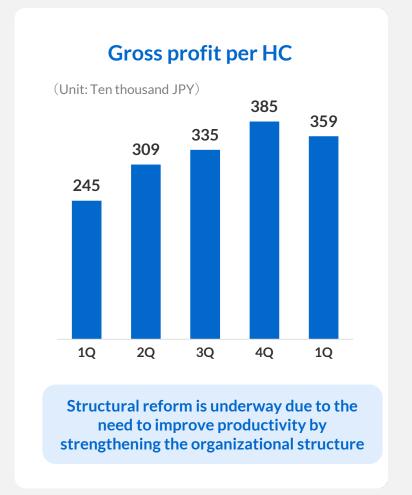


Progress of Matching Business

New client acquisitions were in line with plans due to strengthened marketing. Growth in spend per client due to product improvement. Productivity improvement by strengthening the organizational structure is necessary to increase gross profit in the future







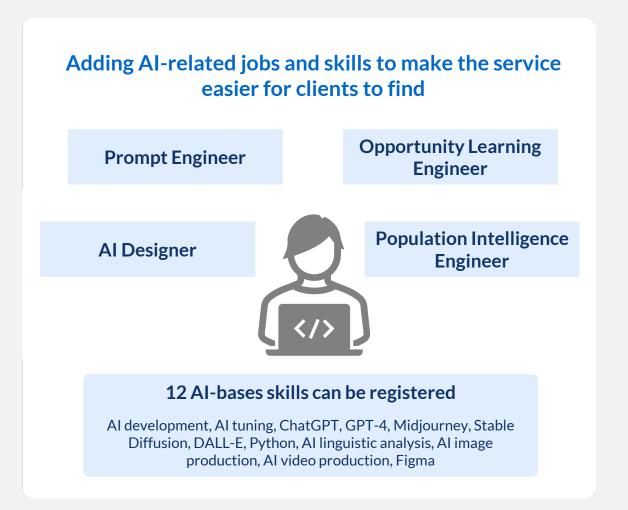


Product Updates

Promote client use through product improvements, such as the addition of AI functions and AI-related job titles and skills

Al enables corrective review of proposals and more appropriate proposals to clients







Financial Results in 1Q of FY2024 (Consolidated)

Company-wide GMV, gross profit, and operating loss are progressing as planned. Disciplined investment and productivity improvement measures are ongoing, and operating income is forecasted to be in the black in July. We are on track to achieve constant profitability from 2Q onward

	FY Ending March 31, 2024 (1Q)	FY Ending March 31, 2023 (Previous 1Q)		FY Ending March 31, 2024 (Forecast)	
(Unit: Million JPY)	Actual	Actual	% YoY	Forecast	% Progress
GMV*	2,764	2,643	+4.6%	11,567	23.9%
Net sales	1,113	1,047	+6.3%	4,812	23.1%
Gross profit	553	498	+11.0%	2,379	23.3%
SG&A	607	635	△4.4%	2,339	26.0%
Operating income/loss	△54	△136	-	40	-
Ordinary income/loss	△54	△134	-	40	-
Net income/loss	△55	△136	-	38	-

^{*)} Based on in-house management materials and is not an audited number.



Balance Sheet for 1Q of FY2024 (Consolidated)

1.2 billion JPY secured as bank loans, enabling to maintain a sufficient level of funds for business operations

	1Q of FY Ending March 31, 2024	FY Ending N (Previo	March 31, 2023 ous)
(Unit: Million JPY)	Actual	Actual	change
Current assets	2,122	2,216	△93
Cash and deposits*	1,347	1,295	+51
Non-current assets	842	857	△15
Goodwill	394	406	△12
Total assets	2,965	3,073	△108
Current liabilities	1,712	1,755	△43
Customer deposits	741	736	+5
Non-current liabilities	343	360	△17
Net assets	909	957	△47
Total liabilities/net assets	2,965	3,073	△108



- 1 Company Profile
- 2 Financial Results for 1Q of FY2024
- 3 Topics for 1Q of FY2024



New Team Formed to Accelerate Working x AI Initiatives

Established "Lancers LLM Labs", a team dedicated to generative AI and Large-scale Language Modeling (LLM), to develop new products and improve internal productivity



Shingo Irie appointed as VP of Generative AI



< Profile >

- Founder of MENTA Co., Ltd.
- Joined Lancers Group in October 2020
- Resigned as Head of MENTA business due to taking on the responsibility of "Lancers LLM Labs"

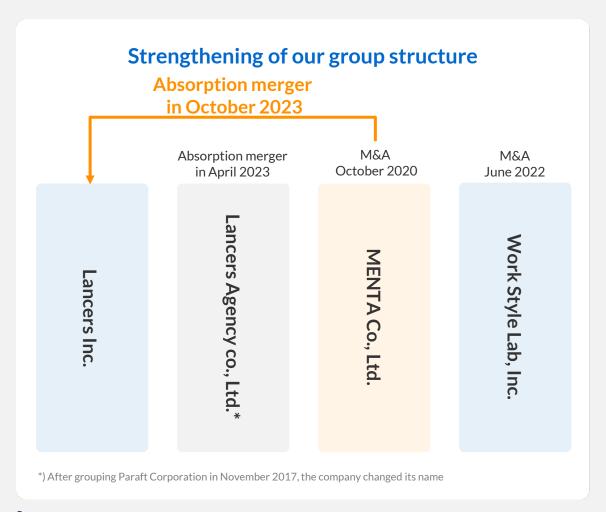
Activities of Lancers LLM Labs

- · LLM implementation and verification for Lancers related services
- Proposal of operational improvements to existing businesses to increase productivity
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ Development and examination of new products utilizing LLM
- · Provision of information on Working x AI, LLM



MENTA Co., Ltd. to be merged in October 2023

Further business and management efficiency improvements will be initiated in conjunction with MENTA's reorganization



Details of the merger

Purposes

- Integrate into the headquarters in line with organizational changes to improve business efficiency
- Review management resources, including admin costs, to improve management efficiency

Overview

- Dissolved company: MENTA Co., Ltd.
- Effective date: October 1, 2023
- Impact on financial results: Minor impact as the company is a consolidated subsidiary



Released New Product Using LLM Technology

New release of PILE, a programming learning application, as an initiative of Lancers LLM Labs, a team specializing in generative AI. Improving the speed of development by technology





Features of PILE, a programming learning application with LLM technology

1

App for learning anytime, anywhere

Learn programming skills on your smartphone

2

Content with short-time skimming

Loop learning in 5-10 min with explanations, 3-choice questions, and fill-in-the-blanks questions

3

Courses with high needs such as generative AI

13 skills from introduction to HTML/CSS to programming in ChatGPT available



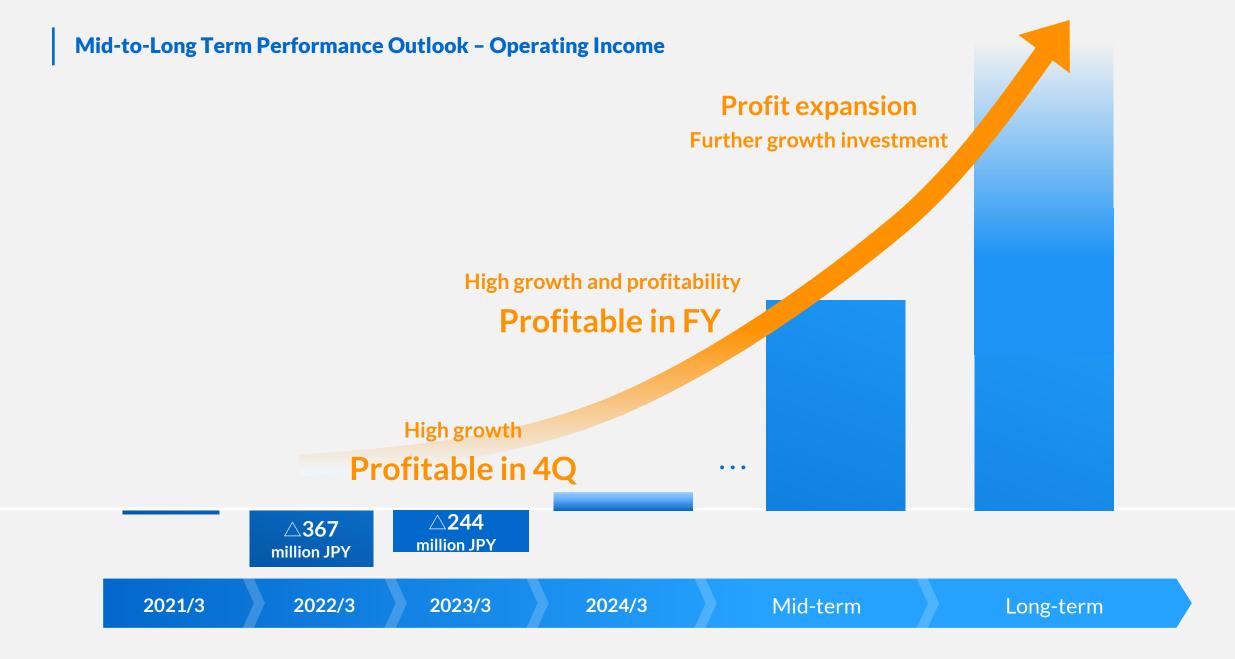
Working with New Municipalities

New partnership with Shizuoka Pref. to support diverse work styles within the region. Collaboration with local governments will continue to be strengthened

Shizuoka Pref. and Lancers collaborate to support diverse work styles Shizuoka Pref. Local companies and stores in prefecture with demand for human resources Request Establishment of "Shizu-Work" to batch jobs in and out of the region Posting of local and international projects linked to "Lancers" Lancers (including projects from our partner companies) Register Workers seeking diverse work styles



















Empower Individuals

Through the power of technology, Lancers empowers all individuals to live their own lives

- with less friction, more freedom, and more shining moments.

We contribute to make a better and sustainable society by innovating workstyle and lifestyle of individuals.











APPENDIX



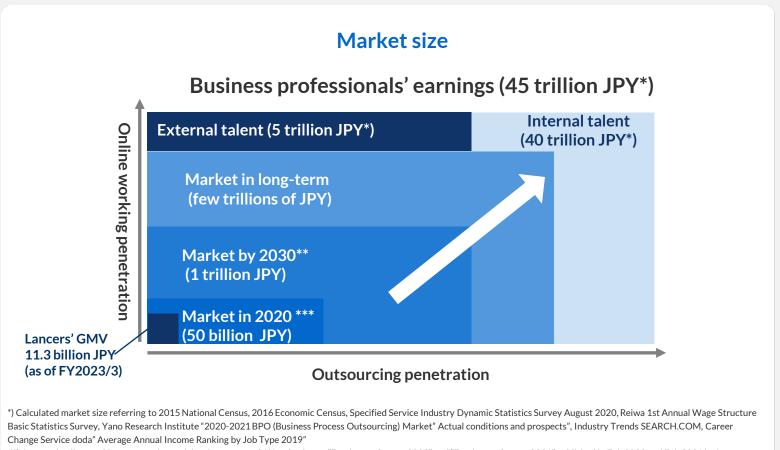
1 Details of Our Services

- 2 Details of Our Performance
- 3 Mid-Term Business Policy
- 4 Sustainability Initiatives and Others



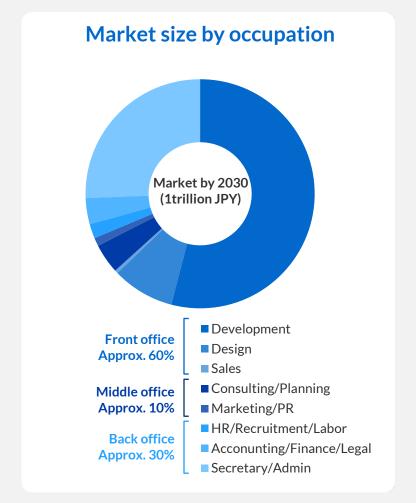
Market Potential

Market is expected to expand to 1 trillion JPY around 2030, as online work and job outsourcing becoming much more popular in the future



^{**)} Assumed online working penetration weighted average as 31%, referring to "Freelancer Survey 2020" and "Freelancer Survey 2021" published in Feb 2020 and Feb 2021 by Lancers.

***) Estimated from IR disclosure of other companies in the same industry





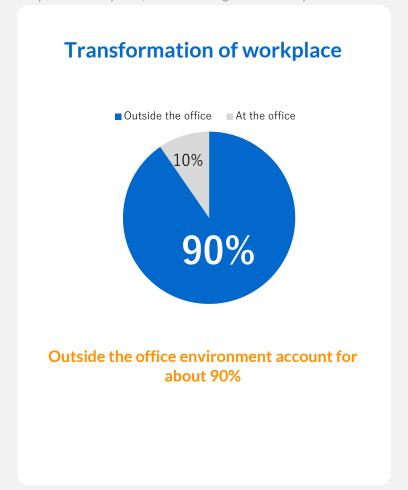
Reference: Degree of Willingness of Full-Time Employees to Take on a Second Job*

Flexible working options increase as people take on second jobs while working full-time, and the spread of online work allows for greater flexibility in where they work, increasing the mobility of HR

*) It was adapted from our survey of 209 Lancers registrants (individuals registered as order takers) conducted between 30 January and 5 February 2023, entitled 'Working Methods Survey 2023'.



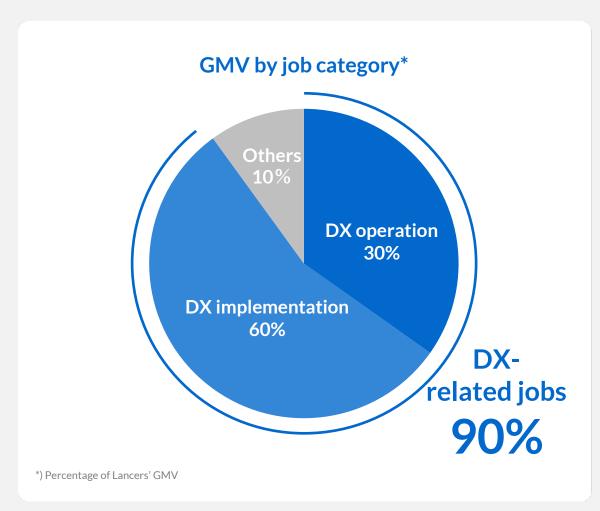


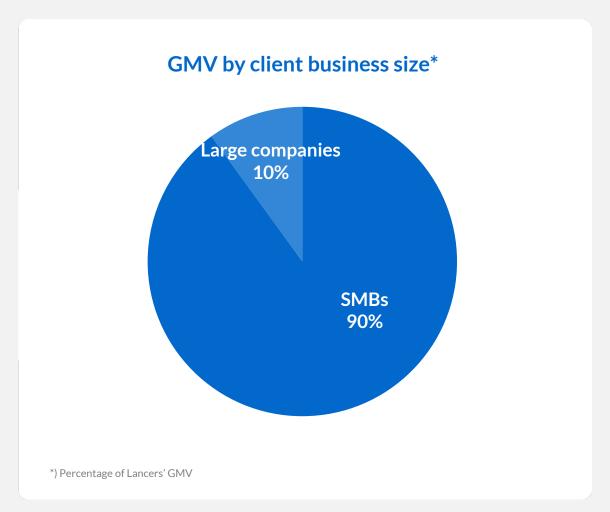




Target Customer and Their Needs

Lancers' main customers are SMBs, most of whose business needs are DX-related







Changes in Business Segments

Judging that it is important to consolidate and effectively utilize multiple services, consolidated them into a single matching business

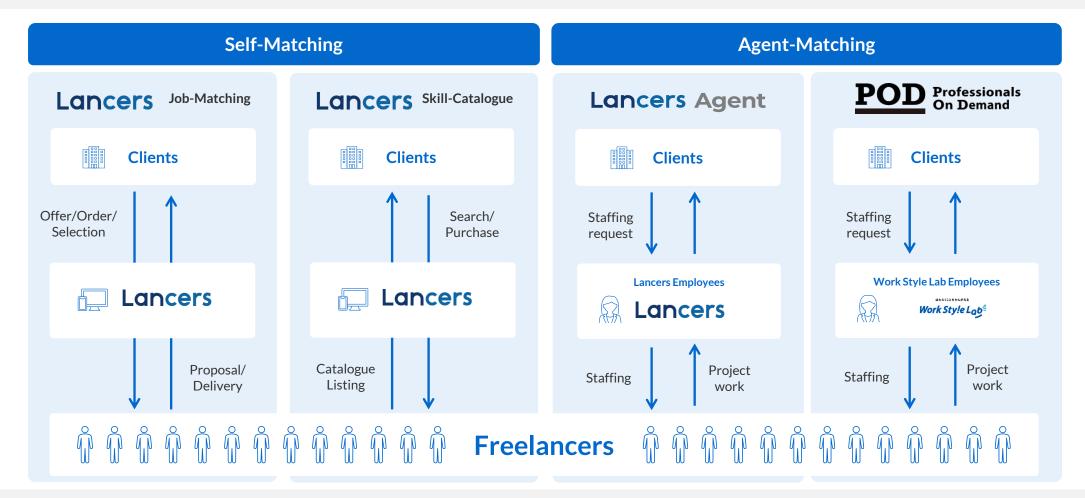
Before change (FY2023)		
Business segment	Main services	
Marketplace business	Lancers **It includes customer transfers from withdrawn businesses.	
Agent business	POD Professionals On Demand	

After change (FY2024)	
Business segment	Main services
Matching business	Lancers Agent POD Professionals On Demand



Service Details

Although we integrated into a single matching business, there are 2 methods of matching: self and agent. Multiple service windows available depending on client needs

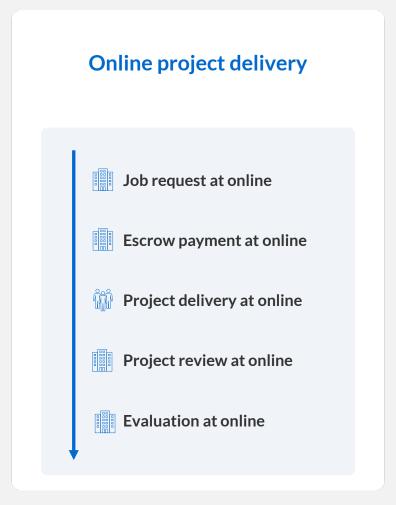


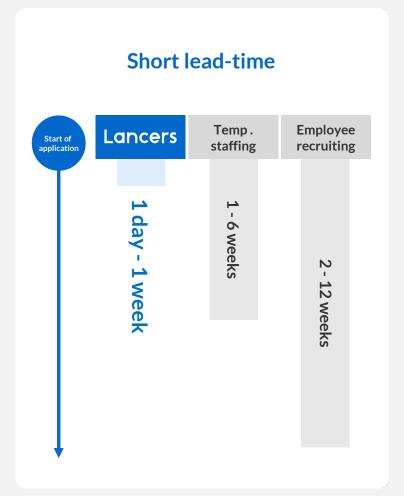


Differences from Traditional Staffing Services

Provide online job platform matching professional talents, with much shorter lead-time than traditional staffing services







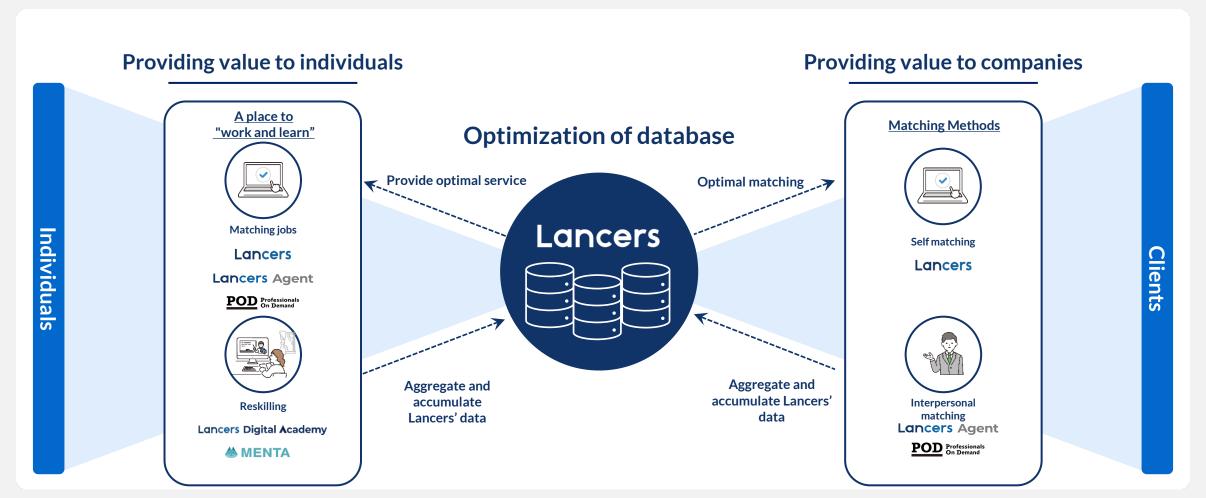


- **1** Details of Our Services
- 2 Details of Our Performance
- **3 Mid-Term Business Policy**
- 4 Sustainability Initiatives and Others



Policy for the Current Term: Towards an Optimized Matching Platform

More coordination between services and optimization of databases to increase matching efficiency





Business Policy and Main Strategies

Accelerating growth and expanding profitability through measures to better link services and improve productivity

Business policy in the year ending 31 March 2024

Business policies

• By integrating into a single matching business and strengthening the linkages between services, we aim to increase management and business efficiency and further expand our growth and profitability in the next fiscal year and beyond

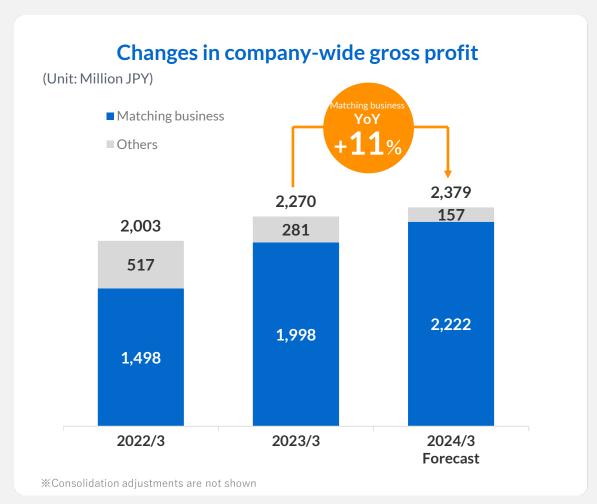
Main strategies

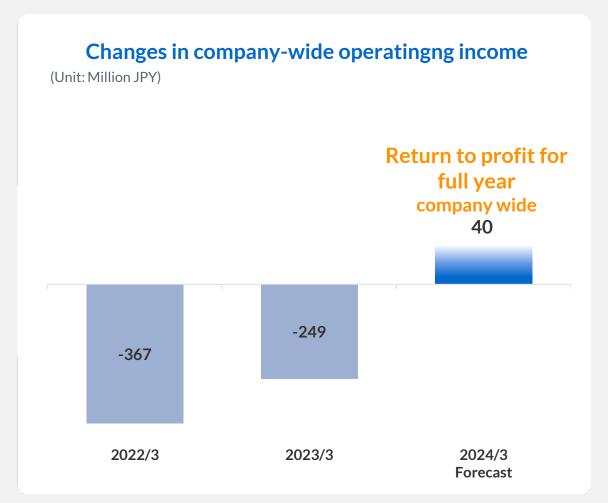
- Expanding the number of new clients by strengthening marketing
- Product improvements to update customer experience and increase the amount spent by clients
- Strengthening the organizational structure to improve productivity and increase gross profit per HC



Company-Wide Gross Profit and Operating income Trends

Gross profit in Matching business is +11% YoY, while company-wide operating income is targeted at 0.04 billion JPY

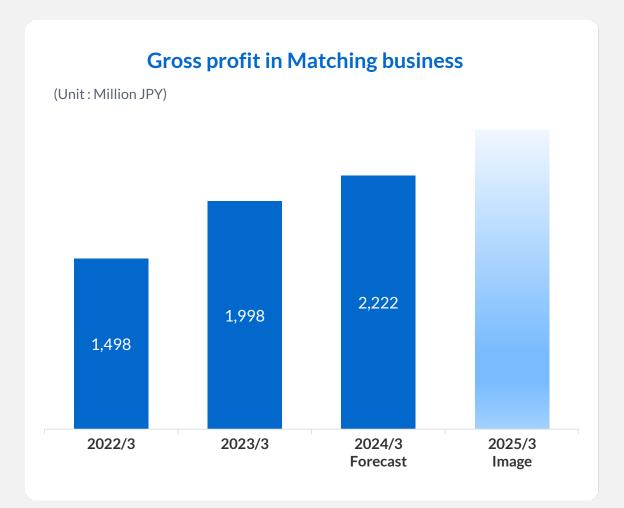


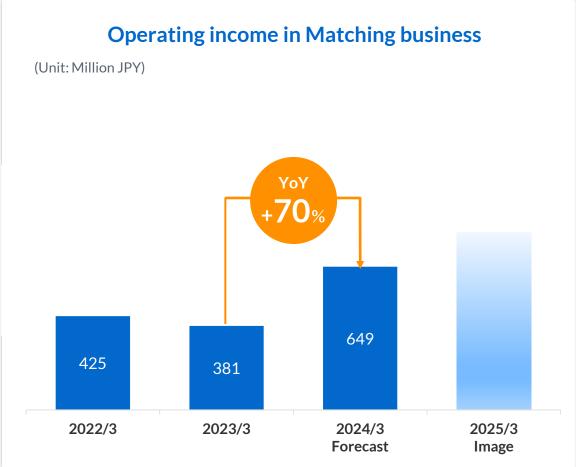




Gross Profit and Operating income of Matching Business

Aiming to accelerate growth by strengthening the linkages between services and to achieve operating income of 649 million JPY, a significant improvement in profitability of +70% YoY







Forecast for FY Ending March 31, 2024

Gross profit grew by 5% YoY, considering the impact of business withdrawals and recessionary risks. Productivity improvement initiatives will continue, with profitability expected to return to the black for the full year

(Unit: Million JPY)	FY ending March 31, 2023 (previous period)	FY ending March 31, 2024 (forecast)	YoY
GMV*	11,353	11,567	+1.9%
Net sales	4,808	4,812	+0.1%
Gross profit	2,270	2,379	+4.8%
SG&A	2,519	2,339	△7.2%
Operating income/loss	△249	40	+290
Ordinary income/loss	△244	40	+285
Net income/loss	△238	38	+276

 $[\]ensuremath{^*}\xspace$) Based on in-house management materials and is not an audited number.



Full-Year Forecasts for FY Ending March 31, 2023, by Segment*

By integrating into matching business and aims to increase management and business efficiency and expand growth and profitability

*) Based on management accounting standards.

FY ending March	31,	2024	(forecast)
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(Unit: Million JPY)	GMV* (YoY)	Gross profit (YoY)	Take rate (YoY)	Operating income
Matching business	11,207 +7.8%	2,222 +11.2%	19.8% +0.6pt	649
Others**	359	157	-	△34
shared cost***	0	0	-	△573
Company-wide total	11,567 +1.9%	2,379 +4.8%	20.6% +0.6pt	40

^{*)} Based on in-house management materials and is not an audited number.

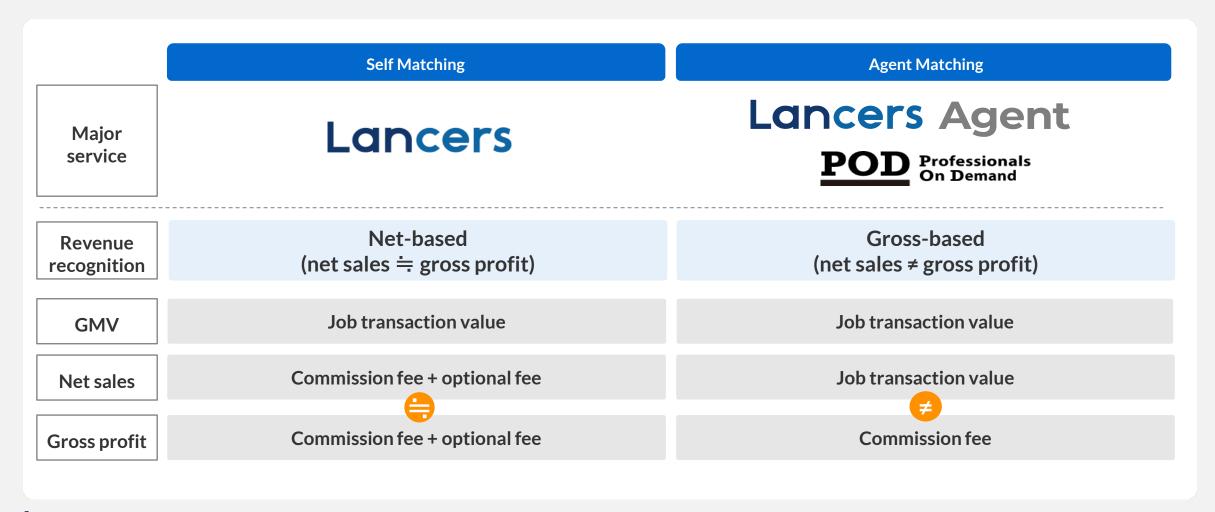
^{***)} Includes corporate expenses (corporate, development, consolidation adjustments, etc.). Expenses directly related to business segments are not included as they are considered business expenses.



^{**)} Includes other gross merchandise value ,gross profit, etc., based on managerial accounting standards.

Revenue Recognition for Each Segment

Using different revenue recognition standards for 2 business segments





			FY2021		FY2022		FY2023				FY2024			
	(Unit: Million JPY)	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	1Q
GMV	Matching business	1,760	1,851	1,950	2,057	2,070	2,122	2,208	2,288	2,381	2,599	2,669	2,746	2,686
	Others	298	367	461	531	418	443	373	411	262	234	228	231	78
	Consolidation Adjustments*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross profit	Matching business	309	320	338	359	359	367	384	386	432	489	513	562	521
	Others	118	145	152	184	122	142	113	138	68	70	75	67	32
	Consolidation Adjustments*	0	-1	-1	-1	-1	-3	-4	-4	-2	-2	-2	-2	0
Segment income	Matching business	126	124	155	179	151	123	99	51	58	25	99	197	144
	Others	-11	12	0	18	-10	10	-17	12	-23	-12	3	-5	-26
	Shared Costs and Consolidation Adjustments*	-130	-136	-155	-147	-181	-204	-203	-198	-171	-122	-162	-137	-171

^{*)}Includes company-wide expenses (corporate/development, etc.), consolidated adjustments, etc. in our management accounting standards. Expenses directly linked to business segments are not included because they are considered as business expenses



Financial Results by Segment* for 1Q of FY2024 (Single Quarter)

Against forecast, GMV, gross profit, ad operating income progressed as planned

*) Based on management accounting standards

	of	1Q(single quarter FY Ending March 31		FY Ending March 31, 2024 (Forecast)				
(Unit: Million JPY)	GMV* (YoY)	Gross profit (YoY)	Operating/ Segment income	GMV %Progress	Gross profit %Progress	Operating/ Segment Income %Progress		
Matching business	2,686 +12.8%	521 +20.7%	144	24.0%	23.5%	22.2%		
Others**	78	32	△26	-	-	-		
shared cost***	0	0	△171	-	-	-		
Company-wide total	2,764 +4.6%	553 +11.0%	△54	23.9%	23.3%	-		

^{*)} Based on in-house management materials and is not an audited number

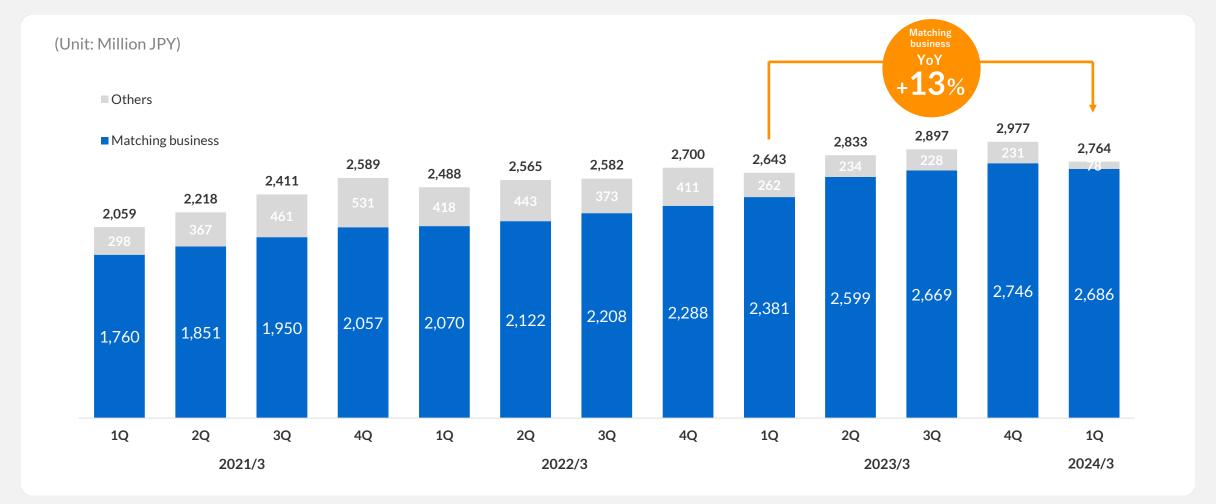
^{***)} Includes corporate expenses (corporate, development, consolidation adjustments, etc.). Expenses directly related to business segments are not included as they are considered business expenses



^{**)} Includes other gross merchandise value ,gross profit, etc., based on managerial accounting standards

Gross Merchandise Value (Consolidated)

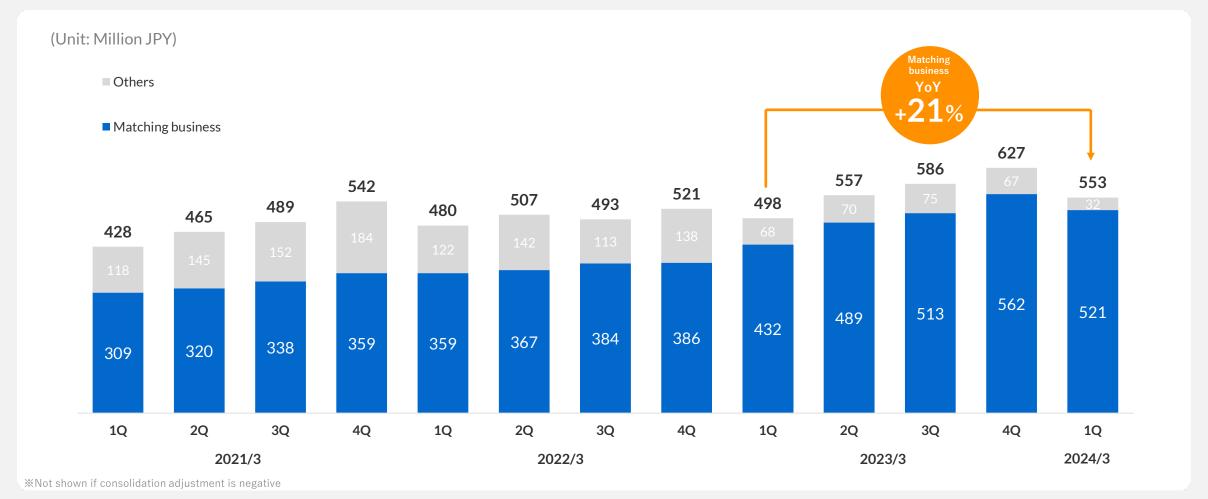
GMV of Matching business grew by 13% YoY





Gross Profit (Consolidated)

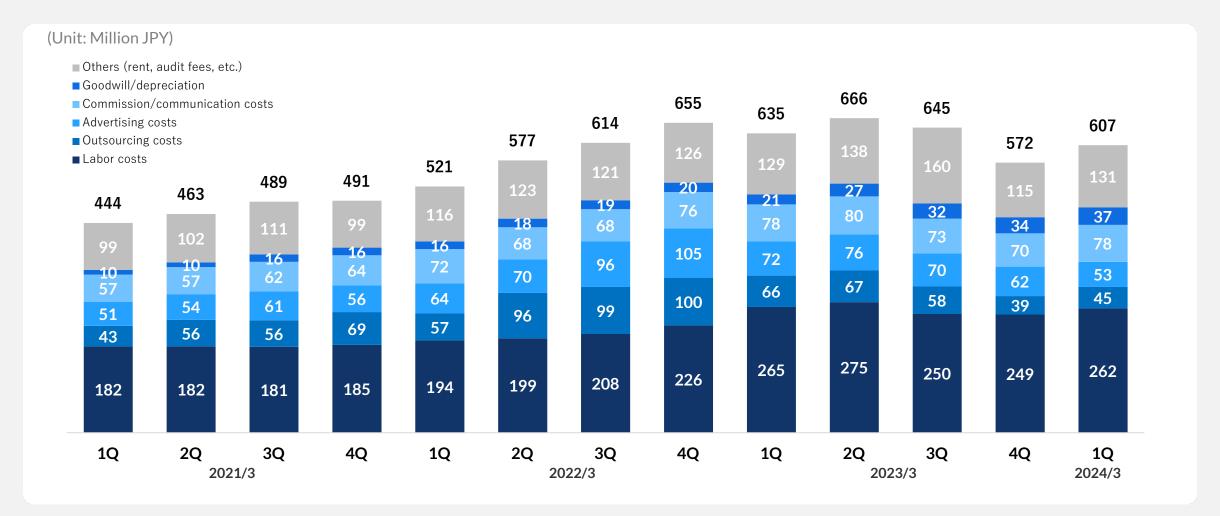
Gross profit of Matching business increased by 21% YoY.





SG&A Expenses (Consolidated)

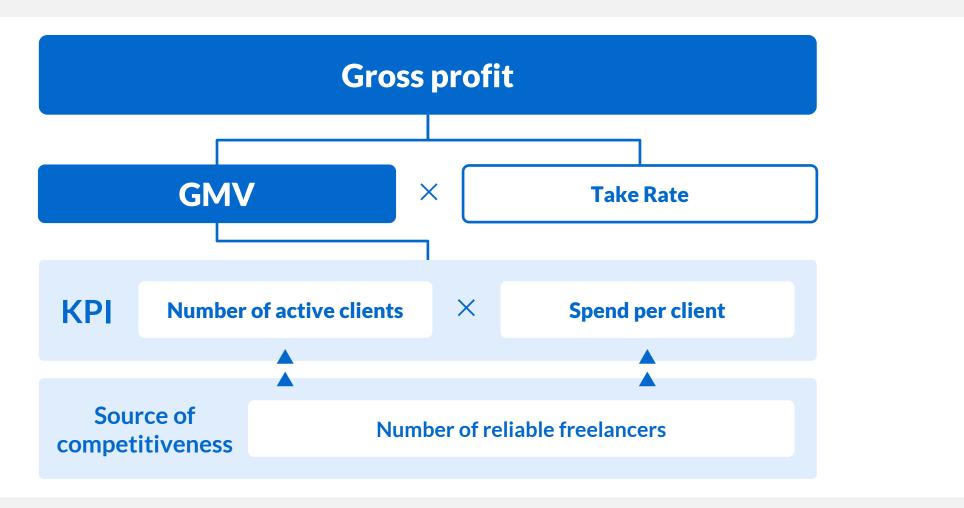
Finished at 607 million yen due to one-time costs and timing delays





KPI Structure

Gross profit and GMV are the most important metrics, with its growth coming from active clients and its continuous spend





- **1** Details of Our Services
- 2 Details of Our Performance
- **3 Mid-Term Business Policy**
- 4 Sustainability Initiatives and Others



Mid-Term Business Policy

Although this is the final year, there is no change to the profit growth policy of achieving high growth and profitability and constant profitability

Mid-Term Business Policy(~3/2024)*

Accelerating growth in Matching business **Business segments to be renamed

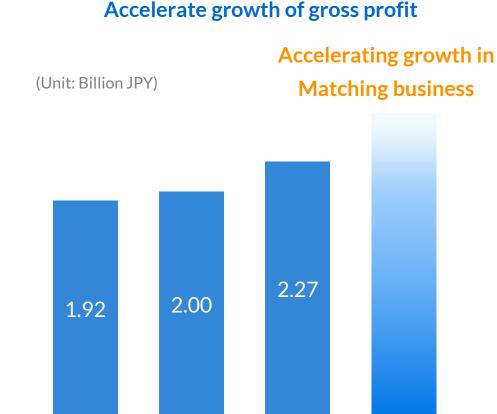
Become a high growth and high profitability platform.

Return to profitability in 3 years while continuing investment

*) The target of 3-3.5 billion yen in company-wide gross profit for FY2024/3 was withdrawn at the announcement of the 3Q results for FY2022/3 on 12 February 2023, in view of the current situation.



Mid-Term Business Plan: Overview



2023/3

2024/3*

2022/3

Improve profits by restructuring peripheral businesses

- Increase profits by regrowth of tech Agent business
- Improve profitability by restructuring Managed service business
- → Strengthening of management and business efficiency and completion of business withdrawal by consolidating into Matching business

Expand business by building ecosystem for individuals

- Provide individuals opportunities to gain more earnings beyond existing job PF
- Provide value-add services to individuals such as education etc.
- → Strengthening human resource development services such as the Lancers Digital Academy and MENTA

Increase client LTV through platform evolution

- Provide various types of job matching mechanisms
- Promote continuous PF usage by strengthening customer success
- → Take-rate changes due to increased added value of products

Acquire new clients by category expansion

- Enable to explore more niche categories meeting market demand
- Launch new job categories with high market demands
- → Entering high value-added consulting areas and launching new categories such as the area of generative AI



2021/3

^{*)} The target of 3-3.5 billion yen in company-wide gross profit for FY2024/3 was withdrawn in view of the current situation.

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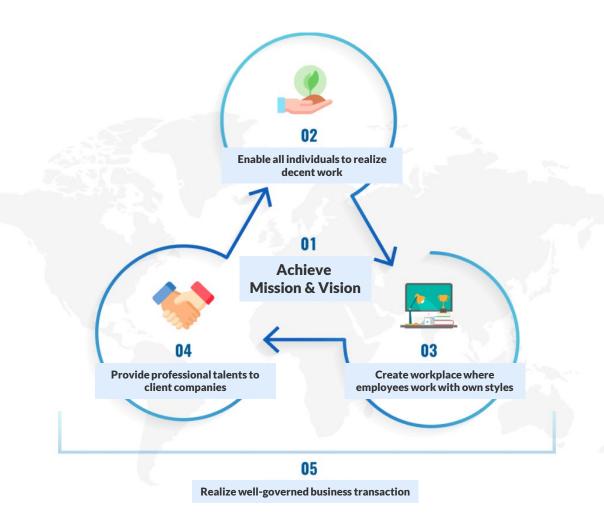


Sustainability

Build a sustainable and diversified society by providing new workstyles

While valuing the relationships between individuals and client companies, we fulfill our responsibilities as a business innovator for workstyle of the next era, to contribute to build a well-developing and sustainable society.

We are committed to solve 5 important SDGs materiality issues including "decent work and economic growth", by achieving our group mission & vision to create new workstyles and own workstyles for all individuals.



See more details in https://www.lancers.co.jp/sustainability/



"Lancer of the Year"

In March, "Lancer of the Year," a festival to honor freelancers, was held for the ninth time this year. We also introduced new ways of working, such as new graduate freelancers

PROFESSIONAL WINNERS





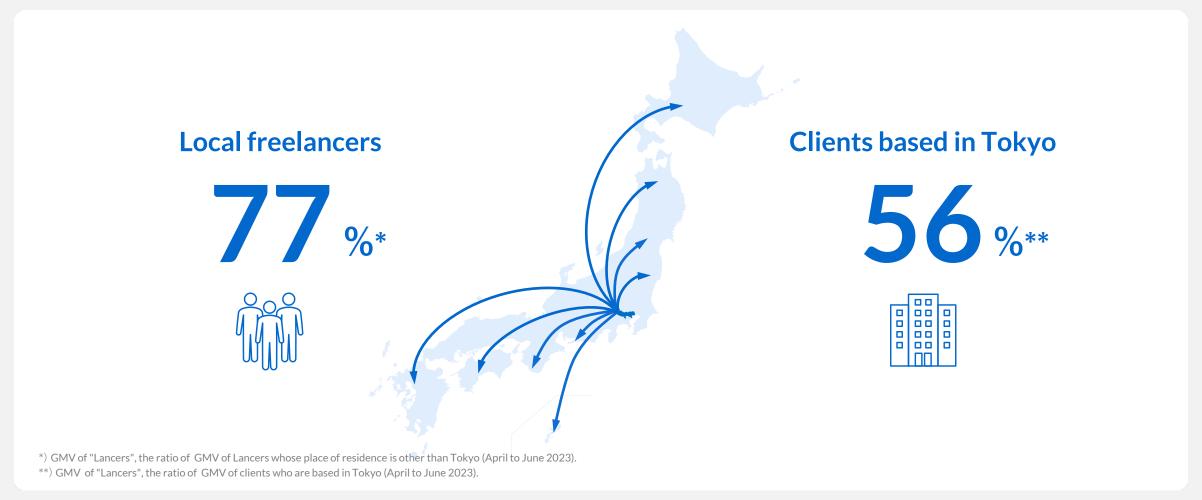
ROOKIE WINNERS





Innovating New Workstyle in Japan

Creating online job opportunities for local freelancers, We solve one of the biggest issues in Japan – to build sustainable local society





Important Business Risks (1/2)

Identify major risks which might have a significant impact on business execution and operation, taking right measures to address those risks

Major business risks	Possibility/ duration	Impact on business execution	Examples of risk scenario	Major counter-actions
Significant events regarding the going concern assumption	Low/short-term	 Impact on business operations 	 Possibility of financial deterioration in the event of an operating loss instead of the planned operating surplus for FY2024 Possibility of financial deterioration and inability to secure sufficient working capital 	 Establish a structure of constant profitability through selection and concentration of business, improvement of profitability of 2 main businesses, and further optimization of SG&A expenses Secure stable and flexible funds by concluding overdraft agreements with major banks and commitment line agreements
Changes in competitive landscape	Mid/ Short-term	 Decrease in market share Decrease in profitability 	 More intensive competitive landscape, less competitive advantage in the market Possible fundamental & structural changes in business model 	 Building services that pursue appropriate usability, with enhanced customer support functions Developing businesses that truly meet the success of users in the long-term
Changes in government laws and regulations	Low/ Long-term	 Impact on business operations 	 Less growth in freelancer population and side- job workers than expected, due to possible changes in government policies and market trend accordingly 	Reduce business risks by gathering information on labour-related laws and regulations



Important Business Risks (2/2)

Identify major risks which might have a significant impact on business execution and operation, taking right measures to address those risks

Major business risks	Possibility/ duration	Impact on business execution	Examples of risk scenarios	Major counter-actions
Information security	Low/ Occasionally	Outflow of customersDamage on brand equity	Damage in brand social credibility due to leakage of personal or confidential information, caused by unauthorized access from outside or defects in internal management systems	 Establishing information security policies and strictly managing personal and confidential information Establishing security-related rules and manuals and providing in-house training for directors and employees Obtaining and renewing the privacy mark system certification from JIPDEC
System failure	Low/ Occasionally	Outflow of customersDamage on brand image	 Possible server outages and loss of stored data due to unexpected events – such as natural disasters, rapid traffic increase, software malfunctions, unauthorized access, computer virus infections etc. 	Ensuring a security system to prevent unauthorized external access and saving service data in the cloud
Acquisition and retention of employees	Mid/ Med-term	Loss of competitivenessImpact on business operations	 Our business performance may be affected if well-trained employees cannot be sufficiently secured or if such talents cannot be adequately retained 	 Acquiring highly motivated excellent talents who fully understand our mission and vision Implementing measures to develop internal talents – such as personnel system aligning with business strategy
Uncertainty of new businesses	Low/ Long-term	Impact on inorganic growth	New business may not proceed as planned and investment may not be returned if unexpected situations may happen	 Building multiple business plans & scenarios carefully analysing market situation Strengthening monitoring system to minimize the impact on our business performance.



Disclaimer

Handling of this document

This document contains statements regarding expectations and prospects. These descriptions are only based on the information at the time this document was created. Moreover, these statements do not guarantee future results, but involve risks and uncertainties. Please note that actual results may differ significantly from future expectations due to changes in the social environment and other factors.

Factors that affect the above actual results may include, but are not limited to, domestic and international economic conditions and related industry trends of our company.

The information contained in this document regarding other companies is be quoted from public information, and we have not verified and do not guarantee the truth, accuracy. Appropriateness or completeness of such information.

Disclosure policy

We will disclose the latest content, including the progress of the materials in the "Business Plan and Growth Potential Matters" in the full-year financial results. We also plan to disclose the progress of management indicators (financial figures and KPI figures) quarterly.



Lancers

