

# **EXPLANATORY NOTES**

BY "TELELINK BUSINESS SERVICES GROUP" AD

as of the end of the FIRST QUARTER OF 2022 as per art. 1000<sup>1</sup>, par. 2, with regard to art. 1000<sup>1</sup>, par. 4, p. 2 and par. 5 of the POSA and art.15, with regard to art. 14, of Ordinance 2 from November 09 2021 regarding the initial and subsequent disclosure of information upon the public offering of securities and the admission of securities to trading on a regulated market (Ordinance 2)

# I GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY AND THE GROUP

# I.1 Business profile

Telelink Business Services Group AD (TBS Group, the Company, the Issuer) was established on July 12 2019 with the purpose of consolidation, foundation and management of investments in subsidiaries operating in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT), together with which it constitutes the economic "Group TBS" (the Group).

The main activity of the Company comprises the provision of administrative and financial services and services relative to the management and support of the business development, marketing and sales of Group subsidiaries. The Company itself does not carry out direct commercial activities in the field of ICT or other areas addressing end customers outside the Group.

The main activity of the Group consists of the operating activities of the subsidiaries making part thereof and comprises the sale of products and services and the implementation of complex solutions in the field of ICT, including, but not limited to:

• delivery, warranty and post-warranty support of equipment and software produced by third-party technology suppliers, and applications and services developed at the client's request;



- system integration covering system design, configuration, installation, setup and commissioning of the supplied equipment, software or integrated ICT systems, combining functionally two or more product types;
- consultancy services comprising the analysis of the situation, requirements, transformation and future development of the client's ICT systems, processes and infrastructures;
- managed services whereby the client transfers the management and responsibility for a certain ICT function or group of functions to the Group, and the latter undertakes to maintain them on a certain level.

A part of delivered managed services include the provision of equipment and software as a service presenting the client with a flexible alternative to their own investments in such assets.

As of March 31 2022, the products and services offered by the Group cover a broad range of technologies organized in 9 technology groups – Service Provider Solutions, Enterprise Connectivity, Private Cloud, Public Cloud, Modern Workplace, Computers and Peripherals, Application Services, Hyperautomation (in the process of setup from the send half of 2021) and Information Security.

To assure comparability to the classification used in the period 2020-2021, section V.1.1.1 of this Notification also provides references of the above groups to the corresponding ones applied during the above period.

# I.2 Share capital and ownership structure

The Company has a registered capital in the amount of BGN 12,500 thousand divided in 12,500,000 common shares with a nominal value of BGN 1.00 each.

In the period 2020-2021, there were three tranches of public offering of existing Company shares, pursuant to which three of the shareholders existing as such prior to the offering sold on the Bulgarian Stock Exchange (BSE) a total of 2,625,000 shares, representing 21% of the Company's registered capital.

Pursuant to share buybacks for the purposes of employee incentive programs, as of March 31 2022, the Company continued to hold 356 own shares acquired in 2020. No further share buybacks were carried out in 2021 and the first quarter of 2022.

As of March 31 2022, the persons holding over 5% of the Company's capital were Lubomir Minchev with a stake of 8,371,678 shares or 66.97% and Utilico Emerging Markets Trust PLC (UK) with a stake of 1,733,837 shares or 13.78%.

#### I.3 Governance

The Company has a two-tier board system.

As of March 31 2022, the Company's Managing Board (the MB) features five members, including:

- Ivan Zhitianov Executive Director and Chairman of the MB;
- Teodor Dobrev member of the MB;
- Orlin Rusev member of the MB;
- Nikoleta Stanailova member of the MB;
- Gojko Martinovic member of the MB.

The Company's Supervisory Borad (the SB) features three members, including:

• Hans van Houvelingen – Chairman of the Supervisory Board;



- Ivo Evgeniev member of the SB;
- Bernard Jean-Luc Moscheni member of the SB.

#### I.4 Public Information

In accordance with the requirements of art. 27 and the subsequent provisions of Ordinance 2 of the FSC, with regard to art. 100t, par. 3 of the POSA, the Company discloses regulated information to the public through a selected media service. All of the information provided to that media, is available in full and unedited form on <a href="http://www.x3news.com/">http://www.x3news.com/</a>. The required information is presented to the FSC through the unified e-Register system for the electronic presentation of information, developed and maintained by the FSC.

The above information is also available on the Company's investor web page <a href="https://www.tbs.tech/investors/">https://www.tbs.tech/investors/</a>.

Telelink Business Services Group AD has fulfilled its obligation as per art. 890 of the POSA, pursuant to which it has obtained a legal entity identification (LEI) code 894500RSIIEY6BQP9U56.

The Company's issued shares have been registered with an ISIN code: BG1100017190 and, as of the date of this Notification, are being traded on the Standard Equities Segment of the BSE under the ticker of TBS.

# II INVESTMENT PORTFOLIO

As of March 31 2022, the Company held shares in eleven subsidiaries, including:

- Telelink Business Services EAD (Bulgaria) (TBS EAD), Comutel DOO (Serbia) (Comutel), Telelink DOO Podgoritsa (Telelink Montenegro), Telelink DOO (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Telelink Bosnia), Telelink DOO (Slovenia) (Telelink Slovenia) and Telelink Albania Sh.p.k. ("Telelink Albania"), the participations in which were transferred into Company pursuant to a reorganization by means of spinoff of the Business Services activities of Telelink Bulgaria AD in August 2019;
- Telelink Business Services DOOEL (Macedonia) (TBS Macedonia), established by the Company in September 2019;
- Telelink Business Services DOO (Croatia) ("TBS Croatia), established by the Company in November 2020:
- Telelink Business Services, LLC (USA) (TBS USA), established by the Company in January 2021;
- Telelink Business Services SRL (Romania) (TBS Romania), established by the Company in November 2021:
- Telelink Business Services Germany GmbH (Germany) (TBS Germany), established by the Company in January 2022.

As of March 31 2022, the Company was the sole owner of all of the above subsidiaries and held indirect interests in two more companies controlled by TBS EAD. All directly and indirectly owned subsidiaries are governed in their respective countries of incorporation.



Subsidiary	Country of incorporation and management	Capital share held by TBS Group
(direct)		
Telelink Business Services EAD	Bulgaria	100%
Comutel DOO	Serbia	100%
Telelink DOO – Podgorica	Montenegro	100%
Telelink DOO	Bosnia and Herzegovina	100%
Telelink DOO	Slovenia	100%
Telelink Business Services DOO	Croatia	100%
Telelink Business Services DOOEL	Macedonia	100%
Telelink Albania SH.P.K.	Albania	100%
Telelink Business Services SRL	Romania	100%
Telelink Business Services Germany GmbH	Germany	100%
Telelink Business Services, LLC	USA	100%
(indirect)		(through TBS EAD)
Telelink BS Staffing EOOD	Bulgaria	100%
Green Border OOD	Bulgaria	50%

As of March 31 2022, all direct subsidiaries except for the recently established TBS Germany carried out active commercial operations.

As of March 31 2022, the indirectly owned Telelink BS Staffing EOOD, established with a view to potential cooperation with a leading financial advisory firm, was yet to deploy material business activities, while joint venture Green Border EOOD has exhausted its purpose with the completion of the project it was established for and is not expected to have a material impact on the Group's future results and financial position.

# III IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

On a meeting held on January 18 2022, the Company's MB adopted a preliminary resolution on extending the term of the suretyship agreement whereby TBS EAD has provided security in favour of Raiffeisen Bank AD Beograd, Serbia, for the due fulfillment of the obligations of Comutel.

On January 21 2022, the suretyship commitment of TBS EAD was extended with regard to an annex to the credit agreement between Comutel and Raiffeisen Bank AD Beograd, Serbia, in order to secure the due fulfillment of the respective obligations of Comutel.

On January 21 2022, Comutel and Raiffeisen Bank AD Beograd, Serbia signed an annex to Credit agreement № 265-000001624611-36, whereby the agreement's term was extended until January 31 2023.

On January 24 2022, subsidiary Telelink Business Services GmbH was entered in the Trade register of the Federal Republic of Germany as represented by Silviya Marinova. The company's capital in the amount of EUR 25,000 has been fully paid in.

On February 10 2022, the Company's MB resolved upon entering into an Overdraft Agreement with Raiffeisenbank (Bulgaria) EAD, signed on February 15 2022, with the following limits:

- Overdraft credit up to EUR 2,000,000, with a repayment term until February 28 2026;
- Contingent bank credit up to EUR 2,000,000, with a utilization term until January 28 2026.

All limits are available for utilization in BGN, EUR or USD, at respecitively applicable interest rates of RIR + 1.5%, 1m. EURIBOR + 1.5% and 1m. LIBOR + 1.5%, but not less than 1.5% (regardless of the currency of utilization).



Provided security to the agreement includes:

- pledge on receivables from accounts with the bank;
- pledge of current and future receivables from commercial agreements between TBSG AD and its subsidiairies;
- suretyship by TBS EAD.

The agreement was signed on February 15 2022.

On February 11 2022, the Company's MB resolved upon the extension of a corporate guarantee by the Company for securing the obligations of TBS Croatia under operating lease agreements with Unicredit Leasing Croatia d.o.o. On February 15 2022, the Company issued a corporate guarantee for EUR 56,554.95.

On February 14 2022, the Company published a statement by CEO Ivan Zhytiyanov on the successful completion of due diligence and the subsequent termination of the consultations with Slovenia Broadband S.a.r.l. with regard to the potential acquisition of the Company due to diverging strategic views on key areas of business development and growth. Without prejudice to the above, Mr. Zhitiyanov also stated his maintained solidarity with the selling shareholders' intention to offer a majority stake in case of further interest from strategic investors matching the Company's goals.

As of February 24 2022, the structure of subsidiary TBS Croatia has been changed by the removal of its supervisory board as a governing body.

In accordance with a preliminary resolution of the Company's MB from February 23 2022, on February 25 2022, TBS Group AD signed contracts for the provision of corporate and business development services with subsidiaries TBS EAD, Comutel, TBS Montenegro, Telelink Bosnia, Telelink Slovenia, TBS Macedonia, Telelink Albania and TBS Croatia.

On a meeting held on March 04 2022, the MB resolved to convene a general meeting of shareholders on April 11 2022.

On a meeting held on March 11 2022, the SB approved the Group's annual budget for 2022 and a policy for the motivation of stakeholders.

On March 16 2022, TBSG AD provided a corporate guarantee securing the obligations of Telelink Slovenia under Framework Credit Agreement №. 5074/2022 with Unicredit Banka Slovenia d.d. for the amount of EUR 1,500,000, as approved by the Company's MB on March 15 2022.

As of March 18 2022, the structure of subsidiary Comutel has been changed by the removal of its supervisory board as a governing body.

On March 22 2022, Telelink Slovenia signed a framework agreement for financing and guarantees with UniCredit Banka Slovenija d.d. with a limit of up to EUR 1,500 thousand, annual interest rate of 1.5% +1m. EURIBOR and a maximum term until January 19 2023.

On March 23 2022, a Cash Loan Areement was signed between TBS EAD (lender) and TBSG AD (borrower) with a limit of up to BGN 1,000 thousand subject to revolving utilization and repayment for a term of 12 months, at an interest rate of 2.25%. As of the date of this Report, the utilized amount is BGN 250 thousand. The agreement was approved in preliminary by resolution of the GMS held on September 14 2021.

On a meeting held on March 28, the MB approved the individual annual financial statements of TBSG AD.



On March 29 2022, an annex was signed to the loan agreement between TBSG AD (lender) and TBS Croatia (borrower), whereby the limit was extended to EUR 500 thousand and the term – until December 21 2022.

# IV RISKS FACED BY THE COMPANY AND THE GROUP

The risks associated with the Company and the Group's activities can be generally divided into systemic (common) and non-systemic (related specifically to their activities and the sector, in which they operate).

# IV.1 Systemic Risks

Common (systemic) risks are those that relate to all economic entities in the country and are the result of factors, which are external to the Group and cannot be influenced by the companies included in its composition. The main methods for limiting the impact of these risks are the reporting and analysis of current information and the forecasting of future developments by specific and common indicators and their impact on the activities and financial results of the Group.

#### IV.1.1 Political risk

Political risk is the possibility of a sudden change in the country's policy pursuant to a change of the government, the occurrence of internal political instability and unfavourable changes in European and/or national legislation, as a result of which the economic and investment climate and the overall environment in which local business entities operate may change adversely and investors may suffer losses.

The international political risks for Bulgaria and the Western Balkans include the challenges related to undertaken commitments to implement major structural reforms, improve social stability and the reduce inefficient expenses, in their capacity of candidate members or members of the EU, as well as to the threats of terrorist attacks in Europe, the acute destabilization of countries in the Middle East, military interventions and conflicts in the region of the former Soviet Union, the refugee waves driven by these factors and the potential instability of other key countries near the Balkans.

Other factors relevant to this risk include potential legislative changes, and particularly those affecting the economic and investment climate in the region.

# IV.1.2 Macroeconomic risk

The general macroeconomic risk is the probability of various economic factors and trends, including, but not limited to recession, trade barriers, currency changes, inflation, deflation and other factors, affecting negatively demand and purchasing power in the countries where Group companies carry out their activities, as well as in the countries where cross-border counterparties thereof operate.

Presently, the expectations of many independent market analysts and institutions continue to point out risks of slowdown in growth and even contraction of the economies of developed Western European countries, as well as in Bulgaria and Western Balkan countries, which may lead to limitations in private sector spending and remain insufficiently compensated with countercyclical measures by national and supranational authorities.

# IV.1.3 Currency risk

The systemic currency risk is the probability of changes in the currency regimes or exchange rates of foreign to the local currencies in the countries where Group companies operate affecting adversely the costs, profitability, international competitiveness and general stability of economic agents and the local and regional economy as a whole.

Presently, Bulgaria maintains a currency board system, based on a fixed Euro / Lev exchange rate. The Euro has also been adopted as a fixing base or local currency in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Slovenia.



The above factors limit substantially the systemic currency risk relevant to the Group. However, the countries in which it operates, as well as European economies as a whole remain exposed to the effects of the exchange rate dynamics of other leading global currencies, including mostly the US dollar.

#### IV.1.4 Interest risk

The Systemic interest risk relates to possible changes in the interest rate levels, established by the financial institutions in the countries where Group companies operate, as well as by international institutions and markets, affecting adversely the accessibility of financing, funding costs, investment returns and economic growth.

Currently, major financial institutions in Bulgaria, most leading global economies and the EU as a whole maintain policies of low or negative base interest rates, targeted at catalyzing financing and investing activities in the economy.

#### IV.1.5 Credit risk

Systemic credit risk is the probability lowering the credit ratings of the countries in which Group companies or key counterparties thereof operate, or other countries important to their economies, affecting adversely the accessibility and cost of debt financing, the stability and attractiveness of their economies. This risk is determined and measured by specialized international credit agencies.

#### IV.1.6 Risk of adverse changes in tax legislation and practices

Changes in tax legislation towards increasing tax rates, the adoption of new taxes or adverse changes in double tax treaties may lead to increased or unforeseen costs of the economic agents.

The tax system in Bulgaria is still evolving, which may lead to controversial tax practices. Similar risks also apply to other countries, in which Group companies operate.

# IV.1.7 Risks related to imperfections of the legal system

Although since 2007 Bulgaria has introduced a number of significant legal and constitutional reforms and most of its legislation has been harmonized with EU law, the country's legal system is still in the process of reformation. The above concern is all the more relevant to the countries of the Western Balkans, which are yet to join the EU.

Judiciary and administrative practices remain problematic and local courts are often inefficient in resolving property disputes, violations of laws and contracts, etc. Consequently, identified risks of legal infrastructure deficiencies may result in uncertainties arising from corporate conduct, supervision thereof and other matters.

# IV.2 Risks specific to the Group and the sector in which it operates

#### IV.2.1 Risks relative to the business strategy and growth

# IV.2.1.1 Inappropriate business strategy

The choice of an inappropriate business strategy, as well as a failure to adapt it in a timely manner to the changing conditions of the environment can lead to losses and missed benefits for the Group. The management of strategic risk through the constant supervision and periodic tracking of fluctuations in the market environment and key performance indicators and the interaction among all levels in the organization in order to identify potential problems and implement the appropriate measures in a timely manner are of essential importance. Although this process has been recognized as of high priority and importance, it is possible that the Group's management and employees prove limited in the implementation of the above practices due to a lack of experience, timely information or insufficiency of human resources.



#### IV.2.1.2 Insufficient management capacity and increased growth management costs

Notwithstanding the availability of managerial staff with significant experience and competence sufficient to manage the Group in its current business size and scale, targeted expansion on new markets and in new segments of existing markets will require additional management. It is part of the Group's policy to cultivate such staff by promoting employees with sufficient experience and highly esteemed aptitude to grow in hierarchy. However, the number of suitable employees is limited and some of them may not meet the expectations on a managerial level. In turn, recruiting management staff with proven track record externally, especially on developed markets, can be difficult and may entail high costs with a potentially negative impact on profitability.

#### IV.2.1.3 Insufficient capacity and increased costs for the operational assurance of growth

The Group's expansion on both existing and new markets is highly dependent on the recruitment and successful integration of additional staff, including centralized and local teams of marketing and sales specialists and resource hubs for project management, engineering and technical personnel.

Identifying and recruiting appropriate marketing and sales professionals with the aim to attract new customers can be difficult, slow, or involve additional costs, which may slow growth or reduce sales profitability. Considering the overall growth trend and increased demand for engineering, technical and project staff in the ICT sector on the Group's markets and globally, the expansion of existing and the development of new resource centres may also be slowed down or may require higher costs. The lack of experience at group companies on new markets and segments, the shortage and increased price competition for the recruitment of personnel, can also result in high staff turnover due to recruitment of unsuitable specialists or solicitation by competitors that offer levels of remuneration, which the Group cannot afford to profitability match.

All of the above factors can lead to both missed benefits due to the impossibility to win and secure the implementation of new projects, services and customers, and the erosion or loss of the Group's competitive advantages based on the quality of service, number and cost of human resources.

# IV.2.1.4 Insufficient access and increased cost of external resources and subcontractors

As far as external experts and subcontractors are also subject to increased demand on the ICT market, the risks outlined above also apply to the recruitment of such on a temporary basis to complement the Group's internal capacity.

#### IV.2.2 Risks relative to human resources and managerial staff

Besides their importance to the Group's growth, management staff and human resources are also essential to the assurance of its ongoing operations, and the Group is therefore exposed to various risks relative to the retention, increased turnover and costs of such personnel.

#### IV.2.2.1 Loss, deficit and increased costs of management staff and key personnel

The Group's operational management and business development depend to a large extent on the contribution of a limited number of individuals managing key subsidiaries and the Group as a whole, playing key roles in the administration, sales and operations and/or possessing key certifications, experience and other knowledge essential to these functions that could be difficult to replace with similarly qualified personnel. A possible withdrawal of those persons from the relevant structures or their inability to fulfil their obligations over a long period of time could have adverse effects on the operating performance depending on the time of their absence or the time needed for their substitution and the training of their substitutes, their adequate familiarization with the organization and the specifics of the business and their full functional deployment.



Possible retention measures could result in the increase of respective costs relative to their motivation through raises in base salaries, bonuses, fringe and other benefits, at the expense of the Group.

#### IV.2.2.2 Loss, deficit and increased costs of implementation staff

Considering the dynamic development and high demand for human resources in the ICT sector, the Group is exposed to the risk of high turnover and costs of retaining or replacing engineering and technical staff, marketing and sales specialists, and other personnel specialized in this field. A possible withdrawal of those persons from the relevant structures or their inability to fulfil their obligations over a long period of time could have adverse effects on the operating performance contingent on the time of their absence or the time needed for their substitution and the training of their substitutes, their adequate familiarization with the organization and the specifics of the business and their full functional deployment. Any possible retention measures could result in the increase of costs relative to their motivation through raises in base salaries, bonuses, fringe and other benefits, at the expense of the Group.

#### IV.2.3 Risks relative to the market environment and competition

# IV.2.3.1 Slowdown or unfavourable trends in demand

Notwithstanding the observed positive development and positive growth forecasts by key expert organizations in the industry for key Group markets and the ICT market as a whole, there is no guarantee that future market developments will reaffirm these expectations and will continue to be positive or that the corresponding growth in demand will not slow down significantly compared to the expected growth rates for certain periods. The demand for ICT is also dependent on trends and circumstances specific to the various business sectors and customers that determine their willingness and ability to purchase the Group's products and services, which may differ in one direction or another from the overall market trend. This may include the possibility that the Group's target customers in one or more markets may not demonstrate interest in the products and services being offered as they were expected to, or their adoption might take much longer than expected. The aforementioned factors can lead to both a slowdown in sales growth and a deterioration in operating performance due to lower prices and gross profitability, as well as delayed return on operating and investment expenditures on business development.

#### IV.2.3.2 Regulatory changes unfavourable to market demand

The Group generates a substantial part of its revenue from regulated or government policy-influenced sectors and market niches such as telecommunications, banking, distribution companies, national security, healthcare, etc. In that sense, demand for the Group's products and services, respectively its revenue and operating results, can be significantly influenced by possible adverse changes in local and supranational regulations and policies, including possible reduction or redirection to other areas of the EU and other structural funds which its current and target customers are eligible to utilize.

#### IV.2.3.3 Intense competition

The Group operates in a sector characterized by intense competition from both local and international companies. Local competitors have an established market presence in key segments, which limits the possibilities to enter or expand the Group's operations in these segments and may serve as a basis for an expansion of the position of those competitors at the expense of the Group. Large international companies have widely recognized trademarks, a leading role in the implementation of innovative solutions and widely diversified customer base and market presence, as well as large-scale organizational and financial capacity that provides them with greater possibilities to exercise and withstand competitive pressures. A possible increase in competitive pressure on the part of existing or newly emerging market players in the current segments and markets, as well as any possible adverse reaction against the entry of the Group into new



segments and markets, could result in decline in the performance and delays or failure of the planned expansion of operations.

#### IV.2.3.4 Unfair competition

As a part of competitive pressure from other market players, the Group may be exposed to various forms of unfair competition that may impair the Group's performance and limit its expansion opportunities. Such actions may include soliciting key personnel with the aim to reduce its technical and organizational capacity, implying a negative image before certain customers or on the market as a whole, covert lobbying by and for the benefit of competitors, biased use of legal and contractual mechanisms with the aim to impede or delay the execution of public procurement and other activities, making competitive bids based on unprofitable prices or a hidden decrease in the utility offered, which may result in choices on the part of the Group's counterparties that deviate from the actual cost-benefit ratio between the offerings of the Group and its competitors.

#### IV.2.4 Risks relative to public procurement

# IV.2.4.1 Delayed tendering and implementation

The implementation of projects in the public sector depends on their timely definition, the approval of budget or program financing, announcement and tendering, contracting and acceptance of performed works by the relevant governmental entities or local and central government. The failed or late implementation of any of these steps may result in discarded or delayed revenues and a corresponding deterioration in the Group's current performance or slowdown in its growth.

Factors that can lead to a delay at the aforementioned key stages include current and future changes in managerial and expert staff in the context of local and/or central elections, the appointment of temporary authorities and other factors, which can lead to delays in decision making and executive action at the contracting organizations. Delays may also arise as a result of appeals filed by competitors against tendering procedures announced or the results thereof. Regardless of their merits, considering the applicable statutory hearing terms, appeals result in more or less significant delays in tenders and the award of contracts for their implementation.

#### IV.2.4.2 Competition for public procurement

Due to the large volume and attractiveness of the public ICT market, public procurement is subject to relatively more intensive and unfair competition compared to sales to the private sector. Commonly employed instruments of unfair competition include the unscrupulous use of legal means to appeal tendering procedures or the results thereof, with competitors aiming to procure more time for their own preparation or to affect negatively the Group's financial results by delaying the project's implementation and the realization of respective revenues and profits.

#### IV.2.5 Concentration risks

#### IV.2.5.1 Adverse changes in key client relationships

By virtue of its specialization in high-grade technological solutions and professional services targeted mostly at large and medium organizations and projects, the Group is inherently exposed to a concentration risk with regard to key clients and client groups. Such counterparties with substantial portions of the Group's revenues for the past three financial years and/or with potential significance to future development include telecommunication operators, public organizations, banks, multinational clients and other private enterprises. In spite of the Group's progress towards growing revenue diversification, the potential loss, a drastic decrease in sales or a deterioration in the terms of cooperation with such clients could have an adverse effect on the



volume and results from operations in the short term, as well as a potentially negative reputational effect on the Group in perspective.

# IV.2.5.2 Adverse changes in relationships with key technological partners

Accounting for the significant importance of innovative and large-scale technologies offered by leading global vendors to the offered products and services, the Group is exposed to a concentration risk with regard to its key technological partners. Such counterparties accounting for substantial portions of the Group's purchases for the past three financial years include several leading vendors in the fields of networking, data center and office productivity solutions. Although the Group's vendor policy is flexible and open to various technological partners, a potential termination or a deterioration in key terms of such partnerships, such as requirements for the maintenance of technological specializations, levels of discounts, terms of payment, etc., could have an adverse effect on the cost and volume of operations.

# IV.2.6 Risks relative to changes in technology and technological choices

#### IV.2.6.1 Time and cost of adpating to new technologies

The ICT sector is characterized by a fast pace of technological innovation, reducing the life cycle of products and requiring a constant update of the Group's technological specializations in accordance with trends in market demand and opportunities for generating revenue from the introduction of new solutions and services. Despite the Group's consistent practices in this respect and its open approach to establishing new and extending the scope of existing technological partnerships, in some cases they may require additional time or costs for researching and establishing relationships with relevant suppliers.

#### IV.2.6.2 Loss of clients due to their transition to alternative technologies

Notwithstanding the wide range of technologies and technological partners offered by the Group and its open approach and extensive experience in establishing new partnerships with equipment and software vendors, customers may still opt to change current technologies and vendors with others with whom the Group does not have and cannot establish partnerships providing the respective competences and attractive delivery terms. Due to the presence of competitors with better positioning in respect of a technological partner and better delivery terms for their products, it is possible for the Group to not be preferred as a supplier by the client in spite of having an established partnership with the same vendor. Such circumstances could also lead to substantial decreases in revenues and operating results.

# IV.2.6.3 Delayed adoption of new technologies by the clients

The main geographical markets, in which the Group operates, are lagging behind in the adoption of many innovative ICT products and services. In spite of the market segmentation applied by the Group in accordance with the clients' technological maturity, it is possible for the target client groups to also react more conservatively than expected, delaying significantly the implementation of the Group's strategy and growth targets.

### IV.2.6.4 Delayed or unsuccessful positioning of propriatary products and services

To tap identified market opportunities in given market segments, the Group may continue to invest in the development of proprietary complex solutions and services adapted to the needs and specifics of the respective markets and client groups. Despite this adaptation, there is a risk that the new products and services will not meet the actual requirements or that they will not be adopted fast enough or at all by the Group's current and targeted clients, which could lead to a delayed, limited or negative return on the undertaken investments.



# IV.2.7 Risks relative to long-term contracts

#### IV.2.7.1 Cost of commitments for regular service and support

Many contracts signed by the Group include commitments for warranty and post-warranty servicing and maintenance of hardware, software and complex systems and infrastructures, or the provision of managed and other services against fixed one-off or subscription fees. The costs of fulfilling these commitments may exceed the amount of revenue without the Group being able to compensate additional costs at the expense of the customer or the respective primary suppliers and technological partners, having an accordingly negative impact on results from operations.

# IV.2.7.2 Early termination

Medium and long-term contracts for multiple deliveries or regular service in the form of maintenance, managed and other services can be terminated unilaterally and early at the client's initiative. While some of these contracts include provisions limiting the above risk and respective losses for the Group, such as penalties, buyout commitments etc., they can prove insufficient to cover missed benefits or the incurred additional costs. The earlier termination of such contracts could lead to a decrease in the Group's recurring revenues, which may not be compensated with new sources of revenue and may lead to an overall decrease in sales and results from operations.

#### IV.2.7.3 Specific risks relative to the provision of equipment as a service

Depending on changes in the IT policies of respective clients or other factors, the long-term contracts signed by the Group for managed services including the provision of equipment-as-a-service can be terminated unilaterally and prior to their expiry. Despite the provisions enforcing preliminary notifications and compensations for expenses incurred up to that point, a potential termination could be a factor for a decrease in the Group's recurring revenues and overall sales.

Under certain circumstances of termination, some contracts provide a possibility for respectively leased equipment to remain the property of the Group instead of being bought out by the client. This could lead to additional costs for dismantling, transportation, etc., as well as delayed or non-materializing resale of the equipment to other clients.

Some contracts provide the option to expand their scope at the client's initiative through the delivery and integration of additional equipment provided as a service based on prices or conditions identical to or subject to limited indexation compared to the initial ones. If, in the meantime, the market price of the equipment has increased, and/or there has been a significant rise in the expenses for the provision of respective services, this could lead to an uncompensated increase in the Group's expenses and an overall decrease in the profitability of similar operations.

# IV.2.8 Financial risks

#### IV.2.8.1 Currency risk

The Group operates on different markets and in currencies different from its functional currency and is accordingly exposed to transaction and translation currency risks. The main source of transaction-driven currency risk is the purchase of equipment from global technological partners denominated in US dollars and financed with credit limits in the same currency. Despite the presence of mechanisms of currency indexation in some contracts and the practice of voluntary forward hedging of larger purchases at the discretion of respective Group companies, such transactions continue to generate net results (including losses) from foreign currency operations Group subsidiaries. Accounting for the fixed exchange rates of the Bulgarian Lev and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Convertible Mark to the Euro and the adoption of the latter as the national currency



in Slovenia and Montenegro, the Group is exposed to a translation risk relative mainly to the floating Serbian Dinar, as well as to the Macedonian Denar, the Albanian Lek and the Croatian Kuna.

#### IV.2.8.2 Liquidity risk

The Group's cash flows can undergo significant momentary fluctuations as a result of various factors such as peaks in net working capital, increased investment activity, payment of dividends, etc., which may result in a given Group company's cash and cash equivalents being insufficient to meet its due liabilities. In spite of the signed financing contracts providing significant limits for funding working capital and the financing of a significant portion of investments with finance lease contracts, there is a risk that these limits may be insufficient in certain moments or periods. Such deficits may result in one or more Group companies' temporary inability to service its obligations to third parties in a timely manner with various adverse effects on its reputation and financial position.

#### IV.2.8.3 Insufficient financial capacity for the implementation of big projects

Besides their impact on the current liquidity of respective Group companies, possible instances of uncovered cash deficits may also lead to the impossibility of committing the working capital need to start new projects or implement ongoing ones, resulting in delayed revenues, penalties for delayed implementation and respective damage to the Group's reputation. In the event that it is not possible to prove sufficient financial resources in front of potential clients or in accordance with the requirements of public and private tenders for large projects, the respective company may not be able to negotiate sufficient additional financing in due time and miss the opportunities to win the respective projects and the benefits of their implementation.

#### IV.2.8.4 Credit risk

Although the Group's key accounts are well-established and solvent companies and institutions with proven payment track records, the Group remains generally exposed to the risk of significant delays or non-payment of receivables due to a variety of factors relative to internal processes, financial condition and current trends in the cash flows of those and other customers. Significant past-due receivables may affect the cash flows and immediate liquidity of one or more Group companies and its ability to service its obligations to third parties in due course with a various adverse effects on its reputation and financial condition.

#### IV.2.8.5 Asset impairment risk

Under certain circumstances (such as impairment and write-off of receivables, intangible assets, investment property, inventories, held-for-sale assets, etc.), it is possible for the Group to record substantial expenses and reductions in the book value of its assets.

#### IV.2.8.6 Interest rate risk

The Group is exposed to the risk of increase in market interest rates in connection with the use of overdraft limits, revolving credit lines in Bulgaria and Serbia based on the base interest rate (BIR) of the Bulgarian National Bank, EURIBOR and USD LIBOR indexes and the reference interest rate of a lending bank based on the variable yields on retail deposits in Bulgaria, as well as finance leases in Bulgaria and Macedonia based on the periodically updated average deposit index (ADI) of the financing bank and floating EURIBOR indexes. Due to the dynamic nature of overdraft and credit line exposures, the predominantly low or negative levels of such indexes observed in recent years and the low effective variability of BIR and EURIBOR determined by the application of fixed minimum total interest rates by financing banks, the Group considers interest rate risk as relatively insignificant and has no current hedging practices. Consequently, a potential sharp rise in market indexes could have a negative impact on its results.



#### IV.2.9 Operational risks

#### IV.2.9.1 Deviations in processes and quality of service

Group companies are exposed to the risk of losses or unforeseen costs that may arise due to incorrect or inoperative internal processes, human errors, external circumstances, administrative or accounting errors, business interruptions, fraud, unauthorized transactions and asset damages. Any failure of the risk management system to establish or correct an operational risk may have a substantial adverse effect on the Group's reputation and operating results.

#### IV.2.9.2 Inaptitude or malfunction of specific IT equipment and systems

In carrying out their principal activities, Group companies use specific IT equipment and systems, any potential malfunction, misuse or inaptitude of which would have a substantial impact on their ability to fulfil undertaken commitments to counterparties or which may result in unforeseen technical, legal and other costs affecting negatively the Group's reputation and operating results.

#### IV.2.9.3 Assuring compliance with standards and norms

Certain Group require their suppliers to ascertain the compliance of their competence and rules for the organization of processes and activities with various international quality management standards, procedures for the handling of confidential information, etc. Notwithstanding the certification of TBS EAD under a number of such standards and norms, the imposition of similar requirements on other Group companies not having the corresponding certifications, or a change in the current requirements and the inability of the Group to respond thereto on a short notice could have a negative impact on the Group's revenue and operating results.

#### IV.2.9.4 Leakage of personal and sensitive information of clients and employees

In the process of carrying out its activities, the Group stores and processes personal and sensitive data of its employees, customers and third parties. Any loss or unauthorized external and internal access and misuse of such data could have various negative consequences to the competitiveness, reputation and performance of the Group, including judicial or out-of-court proceedings and proceedings against respective subsidiaries and substantial pecuniary sanctions by the relevant authorities.

#### IV.2.10 Other risks

#### IV.2.10.1 Litigation risk

Group companies are generally exposed to the risk of litigation, including collective claims filed against them by clients, employees, shareholders, etc. by the initiation of civil actions, actions by competent authorities, administrative, enforcement and other types of judicial and extrajudicial proceedings. Some of these proceedings may be accompanied by restrictive and enforcement measures against the Group's assets and activities that could limit its ability to carry out a part or all of its activities for an indefinite period of time. Plaintiffs in similar cases against the Group may seek refund of large or undetermined amounts or other damages that could significantly deteriorate the Group's financial position. The defense costs in future court cases can be significant. Public information on such events or their negative business impact may impair the reputation of respective subsidiaries and the Group as a whole, regardless of whether or not the underlying claims and negative rulings are justified. The potential financial and other consequences of such proceedings may remain unknown for an extensive period of time.

### IV.2.10.2 Risks relative transactions with related parties

In the course of their business, Group companies carry out transactions and make commitments to each other as well as to related parties outside its membership. In spite of its endeavor to follow good practices in the implementation of such deals and the commitment to comply with the applicable provisions of the POSA and



other applicable regulations, it is possible because of ignorance, employee negligence, etc. that one or more such transactions may be concluded under conditions deviating substantially from market terms, which could have an adverse effect on the results of the Group's operations and its financial position.

#### IV.2.10.3 Cyber attacks

In addition to unauthorized access to data of the Group data and its counterparties, possible attacks against the Group and its counterparties could be targeted at or result in a malfunction or inability to use information and communication systems, including specialized IT systems for the provision of services. Although the Group specializes in information security and has advanced competences in preventing, limiting, monitoring and recovering systems and data in the aftermath of such attacks, the latter may take some time, during which the effects of these attacks may affect adversely operating results and compromise the Group's reputation.

#### IV.2.10.4 Force majeure

Like all economic agents, the Group is exposed to the general risk of natural disasters, hostilities, terrorism, political, public and other acts and events beyond its control and not subject to insurance, which could have a substantial adverse effect on the results of its activities and prospects in one or more territorial and other business domains.

# IV.3 COVID-19 coronavirus epidemic

In spite of the gradual subsiding of the latest propagation wave of COVID-19 and the tendency towards the relaxation and discontinuation of the ant-epidemic measures, the Group remains exposed to the ongoing repercussions of the epidemic, such as accelerated inflation, the extension of the production and delivery cycle of electronic components and equipment and the slowdown in the investments of some private sector industries in certain types of information and communication technologies.

At the same time, the are also ongoing significant factors counter-balancing the risks, including the acceleration of public spending on technological development and modernization and economic support of the economy as a whole, as well as a tendency of significant acceleration of private sector investments in digitalization and digital transformation.

The potential impact of the above factors on the Group's sales and financial results has been counted among the current and future factors of the economic environment in the Group's current budgets and mid-term development plans. In that sense, as of the date of this Notification, the latter are not deemed exposed to significant risks arising from a continuing development of the epidemic and/or its repercussions. Nevertheless, the Company's management will continue to monitor the situation's development on a day-to-day basis, with a view to the timely identification of actual and potential adverse effects and the undertaking of all possible measures towards the limitation of their impact in due course.

#### IV.4 Military conflict between Russia and the Ukraine

In response to military conflict between Russia and Ukraine, in February 2022 many countries introduced series of sanctions against the sovereign debt of the Russian Federation and many Russian banks, as well as personal sanctions against certain individuals. As a result of growing geopolitical tension, increased instability has also manifested on the stock and currency markets, as well as in the depreciation rate of the Ruble against the US dollar. These circumstances are expected to have a substantial impact on the activities of both Russian and Ukrainian companies in various business sectors.

The Group has no direct exposure to related parties, clients and/or suppliers from the countries involved in the conflict. Therefore, it is not deemed to be directly exposed to risks arising from the above events.



Considering the early stage and uncertainty of the inherently dynamic and unpredictable development of the conflict, the Company's management is of the opinion that, at the moment, the premises and requirements for the preparation of a reliable quantitative assessment of the potential indirect consequences of the conflict are yet to be met. Nevertheless, it remains committed to the ongoing monitoring of the situation and analysis of the possible consequences of changes in the micro and macroeconomic environment to the Group's financial position and operating results, with a view to the timely identification of potential negative factors and undertaking all possible measures towards limiting their effect.



# V PRESENTED INFORMATION ON THE GROUP'S ACTIVITIES WITH AN IMPACT ON FINANCIAL RESULTS AS OF MARCH 31 2022

Financials (BGN thousand)	(perio	d end)	change
	31.03.2022	31.03.2021	
Net sales revenue	31,543	40,855	-23%
Operating Expenses	-29,968	-35,067	-15%
Other Operating Income/(Expenses) (net)	31	45	-31%
Operating Profit	1,606	5,833	-72%
Financial Income/(Expenses) (net)	-187	-236	-21%
Income Tax Expense	-267	-641	-58%
Net Profit	1,152	4,957	-77%
Depreciation & Amortization Expenses	-755	-716	5%
Interest Income/(Expenses) (net)	-49	-47	4%
Earnings before Interest, Tax, Depreciation & Amortization (EBITDA)	2,223	6,360	-65%
One-off and Extraordinary Income/(Expenses) (net)	0	0	-
Normalized EBITDA	2,223	6,360	-65%
	31.03.2022	31.12.2021	
Total Assets	76,539	69,943	9%
Non-current Assets	17,373	15,578	12%
Current Assets	59,166	54,365	9%
Equity	18,166	17,027	7%
incl. Retained Earnings and Profit for the Year	18,581	17,429	7%
Total Liabilities	58,373	52,916	10%
Non-current Liabilities	10,915	9,636	13%
Current Liabilities	47,458	43,280	10%
Cash & Cash Equivalents	7,135	12,815	-44%
Total Financial Debt*	2,220	2,290	-3%
Net Financial Debt**	-4,915	-10,525	5,610
	31.03.2022	31.03.2021	
Net Cash Flow from Operating Activities	-4,153	-4,900	747
Net Cash Flow from Investment Activities	-1,124	-95	-1,030
Net Cash Flow from Financing Activities	-403	921	-1,324
* Incl. loans and finance lease contracts			
** Total Financial Debt - Cash & Cash Equivalents			
Ratios	(perio	d end)	change
		31.03.2021	J
Operating Margin	5.1%	14.3%	-9.2%
Net Margin	3.7%	12.1%	-8.5%
EBITDA margin	7.0%	15.6%	-8.5%
Ç		31.12.2021	
Current Ratio	1.25	1.26	-0.01
Equity / Total Assets	24%	24%	-1%
Financial Debt / Total Assets	3%	3%	0%
Non-current Assets / Total Assets	23%	22%	0%
Equity and Non-current Liabilities / Non-current Assets	1.7	1.7	0.0



# V.1 Revenue, costs and profitability

#### V.1.1 Revenues

Compared to the record level achieved in the same period of the previous year, consolidated net sales revenue for the first quarter of 2022 decreased by 23%, reaching BGN 31,543 thousand.

The main factor driver behind the registered drop was the 44%¹ lower amount of sales recorded by TBS EAD against the big projects in the Bulgarian public sector started and/or in the process of implementation during the first quarter of 2021. In spite of this trend, the company continued to realize significant revenues from both local market and foreign customers and maintained a key part in the formation of consolidated sales with a lower but nonetheless substantial share of 49%, as compared to 67% in the first quarter of 2021.

Similarly, the absence of revenues from big public projects in Macedonia, comparing to an early start in the sector in the previous year, led to a decrease in combined sales from the South-Western Balkans region (encompassing subsidiaries in Macedonia and Albania) by 81%<sup>1</sup> from the first quarter 2021. As a result, the two companies had a relatively immaterial 1% contribution to the formation of consolidated sales for the ended quarter, comparing to a share of 4% for the same period of 2021.

Compensating in part the above trends, combined sales from subsidiaries in Serbia, Montenegro, Bosnia i Herzegovina, Slovenia and Croatia (region Mid-Western Balkans) exhibited significant growth by 35%<sup>1</sup>, favoured by both continuing expansion in telecom accounts in Greece and Croatia, which started in 2021, and growing sales to traditional clients in Serbia, Slovenia and Bosnia I Herzegovina. Reflecting this positive development and the interim drop across the rest of the Group, the region took a leading part of consolidated sales for the ended quarter with a share of 50%, as compared to 29% for the same period of 2021.

V.1.1.1 Revenues by main categories of products and services

	Technology Group	Net Sales Revenue (BGN thousand)				
Product Group	2020-2021	31.3.2022	31.3.2021	change	share 31.3.22	share 31.3.21
Service Provider Solutions	Service Provider Solutions	12,244	9,310	32%	39%	23%
Enterprise Connectivity	Enterprise Connectivity	4,251	4,282	-1%	13%	10%
Private Cloud	Hybrid Cloud	9,098	15,203	-40%	29%	37%
Public Cloud	Modern Workplace	241	234	3%	1%	1%
Modern Workplace	Modern Workplace	2,537	6,517	-61%	8%	16%
Computers and Peripherals	Modern Workplace	28	3,995	-99%	0%	10%
Application Services	Application Services	1,144	87	13.2x	4%	0%
Information Security	Information Security	1,683	981	72%	5%	2%
Other	Other	317	245	29%	1%	1%
Total		31,543	40,855	-23%	100%	100%

Reciprocally to the leading part in the growth achieved in the first quarter of 2021 with the implementation of big public projects in Bulgaria and Macedonia, sales in Private Cloud (BGN 9,098 thousand) and Computers and Peripherals (BGN 28 thousand) were the main factor behind the decrease in consolidated revenues observed in the current period, showings respective drops of 40% and 99%. Another significant factor were sales in Modern Workplace (BGN 2,537), which decreased by 61% against the significantly stronger revenues from the Bulgarian education sector for the same period of the previous year. Although Private Cloud and Modern Workplace still had significant contributions to the formation of consolidated revenues, they amounted to substantially lower shares of 29% and 8% as compared to the 37% and 16% in the first quarter

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Growth in revenues from clients other than Group companies.



of 2021, while deliveries of Computers and Peripherals played an insignificant part in the product mix realized in the current period in contrast to their 10% share for the same period of the previous year.

At the same time, accelerating deliveries from the Mid-Western Balkans region contributed to the significant increase in revenues from Service Provider Solutions (BGN 12,244 thousand) by 32% as compared to the first quarter of 2021, as well as to the maintenance of stable sales in the Enterprise Connectivity group (BGN 4,251 thousand). In relative terms, the two groups boasted growing contributions 39% and 13% of consolidated sales as compared to 23% and 10% for the same period of the previous year, outlining communication technologies in general as the leading product driver of the revenue mix realized in the first quarter of 2022.

A substantially stronger start of the year was also recorded in Information Security (BGN 1,683 thousand) and Application Services (BGN 1,144 thousand) sales, growing respectively 72% and more than 13 times above the first quarter of 2021 owing to various small and medium projects, implemented mainly by TBS EAD. With shares of 5% and 4%, the two groups had still limited but much stronger contributions to consolidated sales as compared to 2% and 0.2% in the same period of the previous year.

Similarly to the first quarter of 2021, sales reported outside the above product groups (BGN 317 thousand) remained of typically marginal importance to the Group, accounting for 1% of consolidated revenues.

V.1.1.2 Revenues by geographic markets

	Net Sales Revenue (BGN thousand)				
Country/Region*	Country/Region* 31.3.2022 31.3.20		change	share 31.3.2022	share 31.3.2021
Bulgaria	14,030	26,117	-46%	44%	64%
Serbia	6,744	5,470	23%	21%	13%
Slovenia	3,604	2,836	27%	11%	7%
Bosnia and Herzegovina	2,600	2,108	23%	8%	5%
Croatia	1,290	220	486%	4%	1%
Albania	167	62	168%	1%	0%
North Macedonia	155	1,611	-90%	0%	4%
Montenegro	8	15	-44%	0%	0%
Other	2,945	2,415	22%	9%	6%
Bulgaria	14,030	26,117	-46%	44%	64%
Mid-Western Balkans	14,246	10,649	34%	45%	26%
South-Western Balkans	322	1,674	-81%	1%	4%
Other Balkan Markets	1,713	1,113	54%	5%	3%
Central & Eastern Europe	907	1,190	-24%	3%	3%
Other Markets	325	111	191%	1%	0%
Total	31,543	40,855	-23%	100%	100%

<sup>\*</sup> By receiving country.

As a main factor of the interim trend in the revenues of TBS EAD referred to in section V.1.1 above, deliveries made on the territory of Bulgaria (BGN 14,030 thousand) recorded a similar decrease by 46% from the first quarter of 2021. In spite of their substantially lower relative weight (44%, as compared to 64% for the first quarter of 2021), the Bulgarian market maintained its leading position in the country structure of consolidated sales.

Recording growth in revenues on all main constituent markets (excluding Montenegro), including but not limited to the activities in Croatia, which were gradually launched in the course of 2021, the Group realized 34% stronger combined local sales in region Mid-Western Balkans as compared to the first quarter or 2021.



With a total size of BGN 14,246 thousand, revenues from the region equaled the Bulgarian market with a share of 45% of consolidated sales, as compared to 26% for the same period of the previous year.

Significant growth was also recorded in sales to Other Balkan Markets (BGN 1,713 thousand) consisting mainly of the deliveries to clients from the Greek telecom sector launched in 2021, which accounted for 5% of consolidated revenues for the ended quarter, as compared to 3% for the same period of 2021.

Pursuant to the interim trend in revenues from the Macedonian public sector referred to in section V.1.1 above, sales to the South-Western Balkans region (BGN 322 thousand) declined by 81% against the first quarter of 2021 in spite of the moderate increase recorded in Albania, accounting for just 1% of consolidated sales for the ended quarter, as compared to 4% for the same period of the previous year.

Maintaining a share of 3% of consolidated revenues, recorded sales in Central and Western Europe for the period (BGN 907 thousand) exhibited a 24% decrease similar to total revenues and continued to consist mostly of cross-border and multinational clients serviced by TBS EAD.

For the most part, the above drop was compensated by the nearly threefold increase in sales to Other markets outside Europe (BGN 325 thousand), which continued to include mostly growing revenues from USA-based units of multinational accounts of TBS EAD. For the ended quarter, the share of these sales reached 1% of consolidated revenues, as compared to only 0.3% in the same period of 2021.

#### V.1.2 Expenses and profitability

In parallel with the slowdown in revenues, the consolidated operating expenses recorded in the first quarter of 2021 (BGN 29,968 thousand) were reduced by 15% from the sale period of the previous year. For the most part, this decrease related to the interim drop in sales revenue, leading to a reduction of both the balance sheet value of assets sold and the direct costs of provided services representing a substantial part of the cost of externally sourced services. At the same time, the Group recorded substantial growth in employed personnel and corresponding salary and social security expenses driven by both business expansion in 2021 and the prospects of continuing growth and the respective strategic initiatives for its resource assurance in 2022 and the medium run.

Reflecting the significant negative gap between the decrease in revenues and the reduction of operating expenditures, consolidated operating profit for the ended quarter (BGN 1,606 thousand) registered a significant drop by 72% against the same period of 2021, with the operating margin decreasing from 14.3% to 5.1%.

In the absence of significant changes in depreciation expenses and net non-interest finance costs, a similar trend was also observed in consolidated profit before interest, tax depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) (BGN 2,223 thousand), which registered an interim drop of 65%, with the corresponding margin decreasing from 15.6% in to 7.0% in 2021.

Registering a reduction by 21% similar to revenues against the same period 2021 owing to lower net foreign exchange differences and bank service charges, net finance costs for the ended quarter (BGN 187 thousand) remained of a typically low impact on the formation of the Group's financial results, maintaining a ratio of just 0.6% of consolidated revenues.

Consequent to the formation of the predominant part of profit before tax in the Mid-Western Balkans region, characterized by higher statutory tax rates as compered to other Group markets, the consolidated effective tax rate for the ended quarter reached 18.8%, as compared to 11.4% for the same period of 2021.



Reflecting the above factors, consolidated net profit for the period (BGN 1,152 thousand) registered a drop of 77% against the first quarter of 2021, with the net margin decreasing from 12.1% to 3.7%.

# V.2 Assets, liabilities and equity

#### V.2.1 Assets

Amounting at BGN 76,539 thousand, consolidated assets reported as of March 31 2022 exhibited an overall increase by BGN 6,596 thousand or 9% from the end of 2021.

For the most part, the above increase stemmed from current assets (BGN 59,166 thousand or 77% of the Group's total assets as of period end), which grew by BGN 4,801 thousand or 9% mostly as a result of the accumulation trade receivables and, to a lesser degree, inventories, in the context of accelerating deliveries from the Mid-Western Balkans region and, to a lesser degree, in TBS EAD.

Overall, the increase in net non-cash working capital observed as a result of the above factors was financed predominantly with the Group's own funds, consequent to which consolidated cash and cash equivalents decreased by BGN 5,680 thousand or 44%, ending the period at BGN 7,135 thousand.

Reaching a total value of BGN 17,373 thousand or 23% of total Group assets as of period end, consolidated non-current assets increased by BGN 1,795 thousand or 12% from December 31 2021 mostly as a result of growing long-term prepaid expenses, which continued to stem predominantly from equipment support commitments over 1 year in Bulgaria and the Mid-Western Balkans region.

An increase (by BGN 460 thousand or 7%) was also observed in long-term assets making part of Property, plant and equipment, which reached BGN 7,149 thousand as a result of accelerating investments in equipment provided by TBS EAD as a service to clients under long-term managed service contracts and continued to also include substantial rights of use under long-term rental and operating lease contracts on buildings and vehicles recognized as assets of the respective categories in accordance with the IFRS 16 in force since January 01 2019.

# V.2.2 Liabilities

In parallel with growth in assets, consolidated liabilities also exhibited a substantial increase by BGN 5,457 thousand or 10% from December 31 2021, ending the period at BGN 58,373 thousand.

The observed increase stemmed predominantly from current liabilities (BGN 47,458 thousand, equivalent to 62% of total assets and 81% of total liabilities as of period end), which increased by educed by BGN 4,178 thousand or 10% entirely as a result of the accumulation of trade payables in the context of accelerating deliveries to the Mid-Western Balkans region.

Remaining substantially unchanged from December 31 2021, the components of short-term financial debt reported as of March 31 2022 included outstanding loan obligations in the amount of BGN 1,748 thousand, consisting entirely of the current balance of drawn credit line funds in Serbia, and BGN 343 thousand of current obligations from finance lease contracts. Pursuant to the application of IFRS 16, the Group also continued to report substantial current liabilities from rental and operating lease contracts in the amount of BGN 1,119 thousand, which do not represent financial debt.

Reaching a total value of BGN 10,915 thousand, equivalent to 14% of total assets and 19% of total liabilities, consolidated non-current liabilities increased by BGN 1,279 thousand or 13% from December 31 2021 entirely as a result of growing long-term deferred income arising from equipment support contracts with a term of more than 1 year, in parallel with the corresponding prepayments included in consolidated assets.



Reported non-current liabilities also continued to include substantial long-term lease liabilities arising from both finance lease agreements for equipment provided as a service and other tangible assets and long-term rental and operating lease contracts. As of period end, the total balance sheet value of the non-current part of finance lease contract obligations amounted to BGN 129 thousand, and that of rental and operating lease contract obligations – to BGN 1,009 thousand, the latter of which do not represent financial debt.

#### V.2.2.1 Financial Debt

Summing the above loan (BGN 1,748 thousand) and finance lease obligations (totaling BGN 472 thousand), the consolidated financial debt of BGN 2,220 thousand measured as of March 31 2022 registered a slight decrease by 3% or BGN 70 thousand from previous year end, maintaining ratios of 3% of total assets and 4% of total liabilities identical (after rounding) to those reported as of December 31 2021.

In spite of increasing by BGN 5,610 thousand from the end of 2021 as a result of the decrease in cash and cash equivalents noted in section V.2.1, consolidated net financial debt (the difference between financial debt and cash and cash equivalents) remained negative, with cash and cash equivalents as of March 31 2022 continuing to exceed financial debt by BGN 4,915 thousand.

The lease obligations accounted under the IFRS 16 in force since January 01 2019 with regard to right-of-use assets arising from long-term rental and operating lease contracts do not represent actual credit relationships and should not be considered as a part of financial debt.

# V.2.3 Equity

In the absence of dividend distributions and substantial changes in other components of equity typical for the first quarter of the year, consolidated net assets as of March 31 2022 (BGN 18,166 thousand) registered a moderate increase by BGN 1,139 thousand or 7% corresponding almost entirely to profit for the current period.

Including the latter, the accumulated financial result from he current and previous periods reached BGN 18,581 thousand.

Except for a minimal increase in currency translation reserves, the Group's capital reserves remained unchanged from December 31 2021 and continued to include the attained legal (common) reserves of BGN 1,083 thousand, specialized currency translation and share buyback reserves in the amount of BGN (-) 531 thousand and other reserves in the amount of BGN (-) 13,467 thousand reflecting the negative effect of BGN (-) 14,127 thousand accounted according to the rules of reporting business combinations under common control upon the Company's reorganization from August 14 2019 and the cumulative positive effect of long-term share incentive plans enacted by the end of 2021.

As of period end, the Company maintained an unchanged registered share capital of BGN 12,500 thousand. The nominal value of own shares bought back in previous periods and held by the Company as of March 31 2022 amounted to BGN 356.

Given the similar growth rates in equity and total assets over the period, the Group maintained a balance sheet capitalization (equity to total assets) ratio of 24%, identical (after rounding) with the one recorded as of the end of 2021.

# VI IMPORTANT EVENTS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Information about the important events which occurred during the reporting period is presented in Appendix 4 as per Ordinance 2 to this Notification.



# VII INFORMATION ABOUT LARGE TRANSACTIONS MADE BETWEEN RELATED PARTIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Upon the presentation of consolidated results, transactions between related parties within the Group are eliminated. Transactions between TBS Group AD and related parties, including such within the Group, were presented in the notification on an individual basis.

As of March 31 2022, the Group has made the following transactions with related parties outside the Group:

Operating Activities (BGN thousand)	Sales to related parties	Purchases from related parties
Other related parties (under common control)	135	424
Total	135	424
Operating Activities (BGN thousand)	Receivables from related parties	Payables to related parties
Other related parties (under common control)	731	81
Total	731	81

# Joint operations

The interest of Group companies in joint operations is determined by the consortium agreements whereby such companies and other parties agree to unite their efforts on the basis of mutual cooperation in the form of a consortium for the purposes of implementing specific projects, with none of the parties exercising control.

The interest of Group companies in consortia in terms of revenues, costs, assets and liabilities over the period under review are presented below.

Operating Activities (BGN thousand)	Sales	Purchases
Participation in joint operations (consortia)	161	0
Operating Activities (BGN thousand)	Receivables	Payables
Participation in joint operations (consortia)	35	48

# VIIIINFORMATION ABOUT SUBSTANTIAL RECEIVABLES AND PAYABLES FOR THE REPORTING PERIOD

In addition to the information on substantial receivables and payables listed in sections III and VII of this Notification, the following transactions were made during the period January 1 - March 31 2022:

- On February 15 2022, the Company extended a corporate guarantee for the amount of EUR 56,554.95 securing the obligations of TBS Croatia with regard to an agreement for the operating lease of vehicles with Unicredit Leasing Croatia d.o.o., valid through January 20 2027;
- On March 16 2022, the Company extended a corporate guarantee for the amount of EUR 1,500,000 securing the obligations of Telelink Slovenia with regard to an agreement Unicredit Banka Slovenia d.d. for the issuance of bank guarantees, valid through January 19 2023.



# IX IMPORTANT EVENTS AFTER THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD

On April 11 2022, the general meeting of shareholders adopted the following resolutions:

- Authorizing the Company's MB to engage in dealings subject to art. 114, par. 1, item 3 of the POSA,
  i.e. agreements whereby the Company will provide corporate and business development and
  management services to its subsidiaries;
- Authorizing the Company's MB to engage in dealings subject to art. 114, par. 1, item 2 of the POSA, i.e. providing the possibility for the Company to make transactions entailing obligations of the Company towards third parties with regard to issuing guarantees for the performance of commitments by its subsidiaries.

On April 12 2022, a contract was signed between TBS EAD and Consortium Digital Backpack DZZD, whereby the subsidiary will carry out works amounting to a total of BGN 11,045,266.85 without VAT with regard to a project for the Delivery and implementation of a single electronic platform for educational services and content (SEPESC) and modules thereto" of the Ministry of Education and Science. The dealing was preapproved by the MB of TBSG Group AD on April 12 2022 on basis of a request filed by the subsidiary for signing the deal.

On April 27 2022, the MB adopted the following resolutions:

- Approval of the consolidated annual financial statements and consolidated report on the Company's activities for 2021;
- Preparation of a proposal to the General Meeting of Shareholders through the Company's SB for the distribution of net profit from 2021;
- Approval of a loan agreement between subsidiairies TBS EAD and TBS USA.

On April 28 2022, a loan agreement was signed between TBS EAD as lender and TBS USA (borrower) with a limit of USD 1,000,000, interest rate of 2.5% and a tenor until December 31 2022.

By resolutions of the SB from May 13 2022 and May 17 2022 an agenda was adopted for the forthcoming General Meeting of Shareholders scheduled for June 29 2022. The invitation and the materials for the meeting have been made available in x3news and on the Company's web site, at <a href="https://www.tbs.tech/bg/documents/general-meetings-bg/">https://www.tbs.tech/bg/documents/general-meetings-bg/</a>.

On May 25 2022, a resolution was adopted by the MB to initiate the buyback of up to 42,000 shares, starting from May 27 2022.

May 30 2022

Sofia