



Investor Presentation VGT 2024 Bond Issuance

28 October 2024



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Dr. Thomas Hüwener Chief Executive Officer Open Grid Europe GmbH





# Key Credit Highlights

Strong Market Position	<ul> <li>Largest Gas Transmission System Operator (TSO) in Germany with almost 100 years of operating history<sup>1</sup></li> <li>Strategically located network with 17 interconnections to European countries</li> </ul>
Stable Regulated CH₄ Business	<ul> <li>Reliable and supportive regulatory framework in Germany – for both natural gas and hydrogen</li> <li>Stable revenues and regulated returns</li> <li>Low risk CAPEX - new investments create regulated returns without delay</li> <li>Volatile costs, e.g. fuel gas, covered by regulatory account mechanism</li> </ul>
Regulated H <sub>2</sub> Business from 2025	<ul> <li>H<sub>2</sub> Core Grid application approved by BNetzA<sup>2</sup></li> <li>Initial OGE share in Core Grid accounts for investments of approximately €2bn</li> <li>Cost based regulation, cost application approved by BNetzA on a yearly basis starting 2024</li> <li>Stranded asset risk limited by state guarantees</li> </ul>
Robust Financials	<ul> <li>VGT's financials reflect stable business</li> <li>Strong EBITDA-margin, historically in the range of 40% – 57%, short-term volatility mitigated via regulatory account in the mid-term</li> <li>BBB+/Stable Rating by S&amp;P</li> </ul>

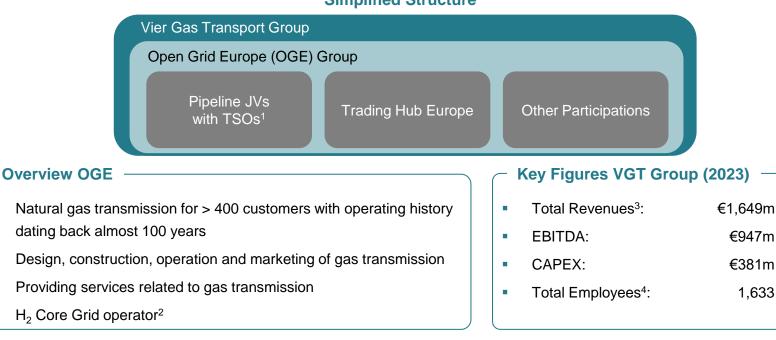
<sup>1</sup> Please see slide 7

<sup>2</sup> BNetzA: Bundesnetzagentur (Federal Network Agency)





### Vier Gas Transport at a Glance



#### Simplified Structure

<sup>1</sup> TSO: Transmission System Operator

 $^{\rm 2}$  Please see slide 12 following for more information on the  $\rm H_{2}$  Core Grid

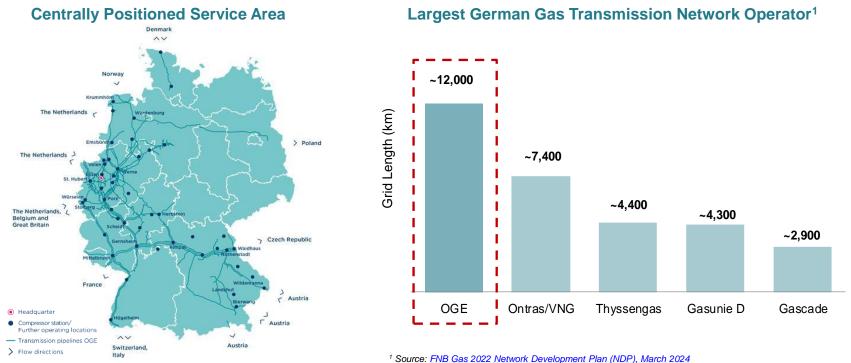
<sup>3</sup> Including change in inventories

<sup>4</sup> Employees at year end 2023 (excluding management and apprentices)





# Key Gas Transmission System Operator at the Heart of Europe

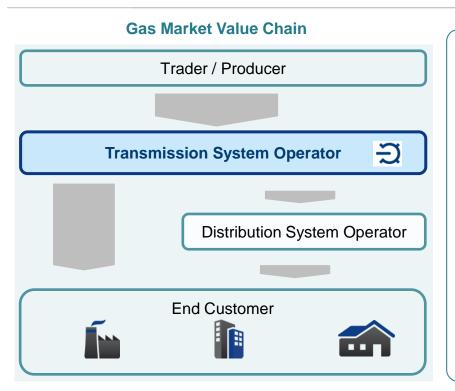


work Development I lan (NDF), March 2024





# Vital Position in German Natural Gas Market Value Chain



Key Facts

- OGE focuses on design, construction and operation of gas transmission pipelines
- OGE's customer base consists of
  - Producers and traders
  - Distribution network operators
  - > Power plants and large industrial facilities
- OGE does not trade with gas OGE offers gas transmission solutions
- Customers pay for booked capacities independent of the actual usage of the grid
- Long-term revenues are mostly determined by regulation





# Key Elements of the German Regulatory Regime for Natural Gas

#### — State of Play



Cost base

"Budget" based on **base year** costs and RAB<sup>1</sup>





#### **Regulatory period**

BNetzA approves allowed revenues for **5-year period** 

Pass-through cost items adjusted annually

**Regulatory account** to compensate over- / undershooting of allowed revenues



#### Efficiency

BNetzA to carry out **national benchmarking** with **individual efficiency factor**, inefficient costs need to be reduced over regulatory period

General productivity factor counteracts positive annual inflation adjustment



#### **New Investments**

Capital Cost Adjustment (CCA) provides direct revenue recognition for REPEX & growth investments

#### **BNetzA Initiative to Modernise Regulatory Framework from 2028**

- Ongoing discussion with industry geared towards ensuring future-proof, stable regulatory framework
- Focus topics inter alia: length of regulatory periods, WACC<sup>2</sup>-approach for capital costs, efficiency measures, optional shortening of depreciation period for natural gas assets

<sup>1</sup> RAB: Regulatory Asset Base

<sup>2</sup> WACC: Weighted Average Cost of Capital



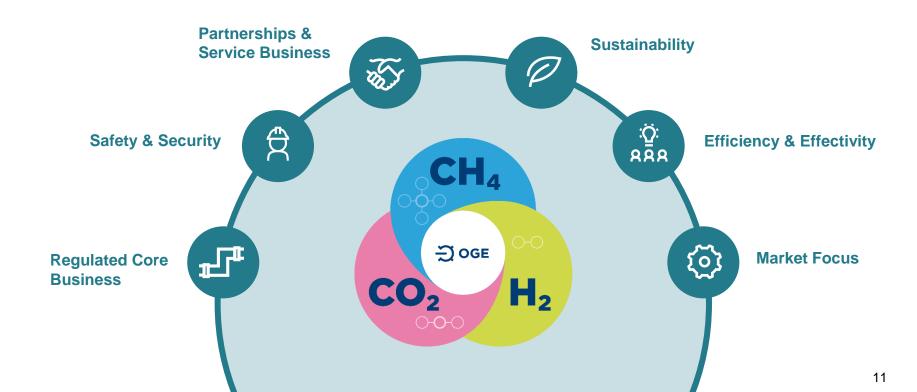








### Strategic Framework for Added Value



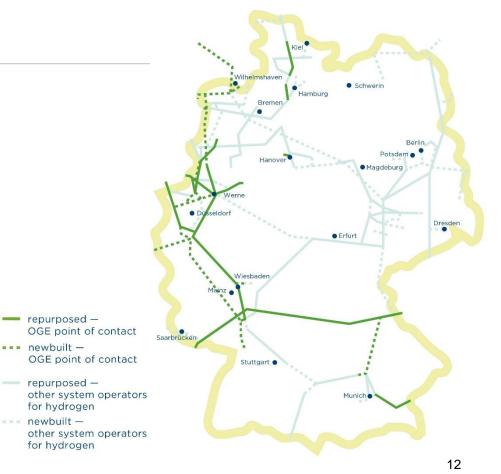


# H<sub>2</sub> Core Grid Approved by BNetzA

#### **Rationale & Key Figures**

- H<sub>2</sub> Core Grid shall enable suppliers and consumers to convert their business to H<sub>2</sub> usage
- Connects producers, harbours, power plants, consumers and storage facilities by 2032
- ~ 10.000 km, thereof roughly 60% repurposed
- ~€20bn investments, substantial OGE-share expected
- Financing concept enables TSOs to earn full revenue cap right from the start (comparable to CH<sub>4</sub>), expected to end in 2055
- Establishment of amortisation account backed by KfW / German state guarantee

# **OGE**







Full financing through a

stamp)

nationwide grid fee (postage

# Future Regulatory Regime for H<sub>2</sub> in Germany



#### 2021: First principles of regulation for H<sub>2</sub> networks established

H<sub>2</sub> NEV<sup>1</sup> set general framework for calculation of network costs financed via network charges



#### 2024: Legal and regulatory framework for financing of H<sub>2</sub> Core Grid

- H<sub>2</sub> Core Grid to be developed by German Gas-TSOs as initial H<sub>2</sub> network
- Aims to connect potential H<sub>2</sub> sources and import points with future customer segments, e.g. industry locations

#### - Cost Regulation for H2 Core Grid



**Cost-plus based regulation** with yearly cost application and approval by BNetzA

the ramp-up phase: Delta costs

and lower revenues from grid fees

temporarily offset via amortisation

Tariff is capped in the ramp-up phase of the hydrogen market and set by the BNetzA



account<sup>2</sup>

Liquidity and returns secured in



**Stranded assets risk** in case of slower or even failure of H<sub>2</sub> ramp up capped to a certain level by subsidiary state cover

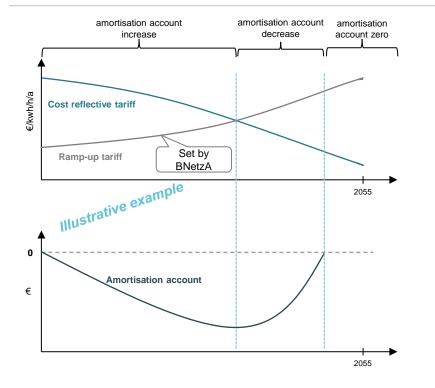
<sup>1</sup> H<sub>2</sub> NEV: Ordinance on charges for access to hydrogen networks

<sup>2</sup> Please see slide 14 for more information on the amortisation account





### **Basic Principle of Amortisation Account**



#### Mechanism

- Ramp-up: few customers → H2 tariffs set by BNetzA
   → low transport revenues and amortisation account needed
- Increasing revenue (and lower calculated tariff) over time due to rising capacity bookings and amortisation account decreases
- Point of earliest review 2038: assessment of achieved market development and future prognosis
- Final settlement 2055: final check of amortisation account balance; state aid compensation if needed (amortisation insurance)
- Application of amortisation account ends in 2055



**OGE** 

Nordic

Baltic

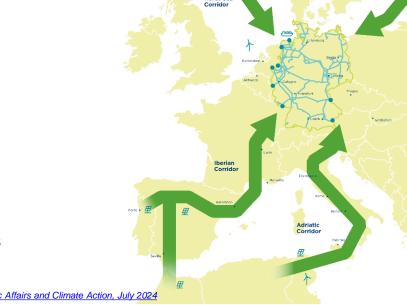
# German H<sub>2</sub>-Import Strategy

#### Strategy Underlines Germany's Need to Attract H<sub>2</sub> Imports

- Harmonise international and EU certification criteria
- Supply-side funding: H2Global, EHB<sup>1</sup>

#### **Focus Infrastructure**

- 4 Import corridors included
- Necessity of financing recognized
- Pipelines for molecular hydrogen
- Ship transportation for derivatives
  - Storage strategy by the end of 2024
- Federal strategy<sup>2</sup> focuses on pipeline imports: In line with OGE engagement in corridor projects



North Sea

<sup>1</sup> EHB: European Hydrogen Bank

<sup>2</sup> Source: Import Strategy for hydrogen and hydrogen derivatives, Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Action, July 2024

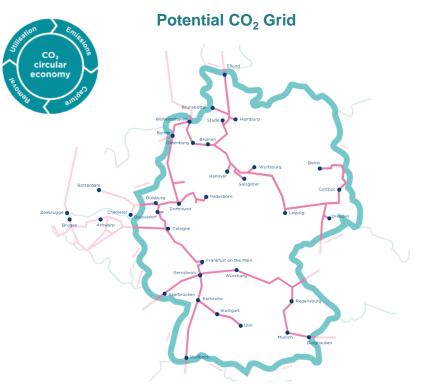


**D**OGE

# CO<sub>2</sub>Transportation Initiatives

#### — Strategic Rationale

- Potential additional business area (CO<sub>2</sub> transport via new infrastructure) with significant growth potential
- Solution for "hard to abate" industries
- Transportation of captured CO<sub>2</sub> through pipeline infrastructure for use as part of carbon capture and utilisation ("CCU") or carbon capture and storage ("CCS")
- OGE already planning CO<sub>2</sub> infrastructure with initial projects and routes
- Partnerships with various companies and organisations along the entire value chain
- Currently unregulated business, investment decisions based on risk-return assessment







# **ESG** Activities Demonstrate Commitment and Actions

ESG Strategy	ESG Targets
H <sub>2</sub> Transformation of core business	CO2 emissions - 45% by 2025 (scope 1+2) <sup>1</sup>
Reduction of Emissions and Environmental Impact	Methane emissions - 55% by 2025 <sup>1</sup>
Promotion of Health & Safety	Work accidents <= 4.0 TRIF <sub>comb</sub> <sup>2</sup> in 2024
Focus on Employees	Management inspections 550 management inspections in 2024

- ESG strategy derived from and in line with overall corporate strategy
- Emission reduction target based on pathway to achieve net-zero by 2045, in line with German climate neutrality target
- Emission reduction measures include inter alia the avoidance of methane emissions using mobile compressor stations, an increased usage of electric compressor stations as well as procurement of green electricity

<sup>1</sup> Compared to 2009

<sup>2</sup> TRIF<sub>comb</sub>: Total Recordable Injury Frequency (OGE & contractor employees)



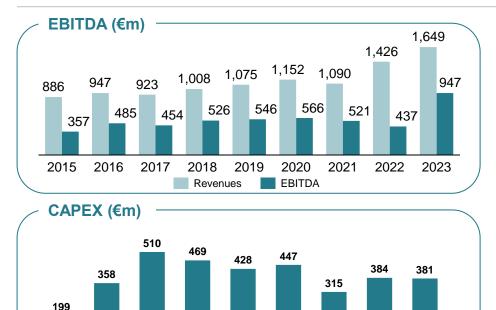








# VGT Financials Reflect Stable Business



2021

2020

2022

2023

#### Conclusions

- Exceptional EBITDA 2023: Continuing strong revenue level at lower fuel energy cost, resulting in significant excess revenues for 2023
- Volatility in revenue / fuel energy costs 2022 & 2023 mitigated via regulatory account mechanism, neutralising these effects in the mid-term
- Strong EBITDA-margin, historically in the range of 40% – 57%, drop to 31% in 2022 mainly due to high fuel energy costs
- CAPEX mainly influenced by German Network Development Plan and grid enforcements to accommodate additional LNG capacities in the German market

Note: Aggregated figures may contain rounding differences Revenue figures include change in inventories

2017

2018

2019

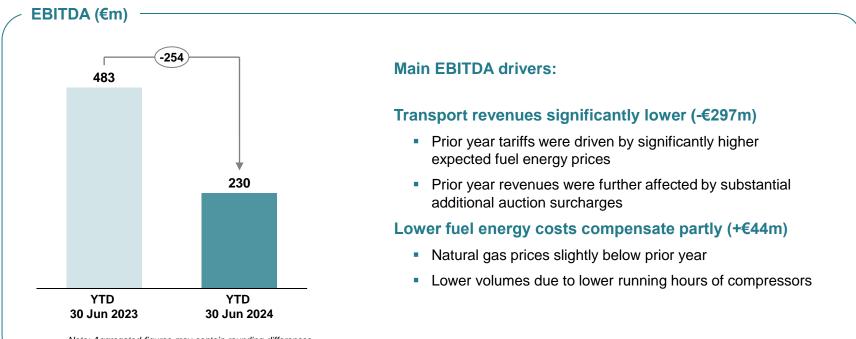
2016

2015





# EBITDA 1st Half of 2024 Significantly Below Last Year's Level

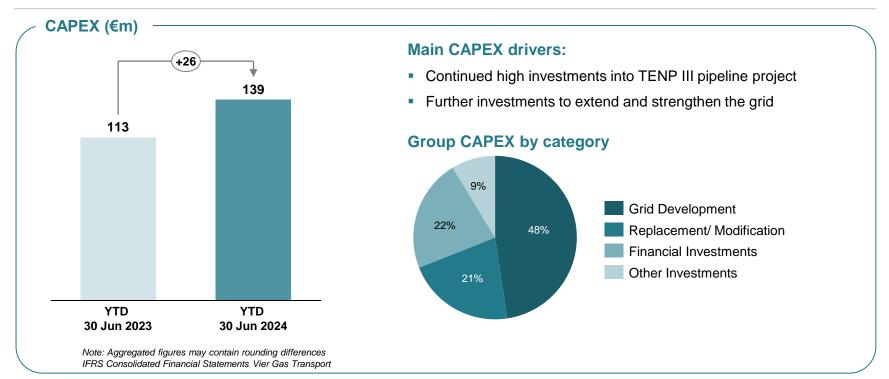


Note: Aggregated figures may contain rounding differences IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport





### CAPEX 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2024 Above Prior Year Level





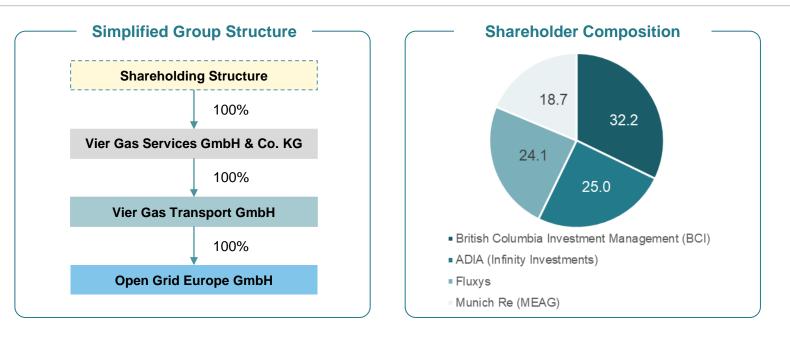








### Group Ownership Structure: Experienced Long-Term Investors







### S&P's Credit Rating 06/2024 — "BBB+ stable outlook"

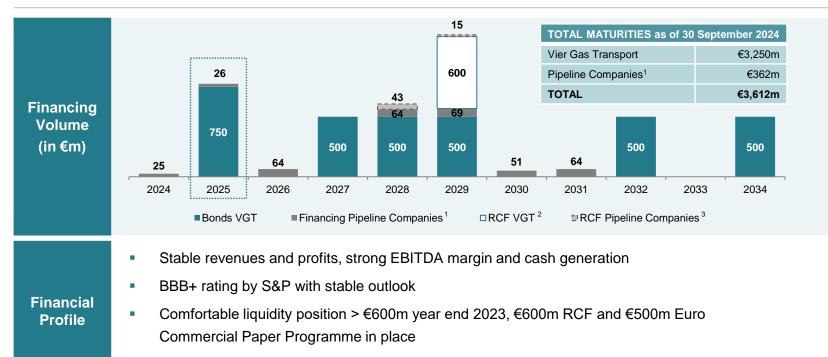
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Business Risk:	Excellent	

- "We expect transmission system operator Vier Gas Transport GmbH (VGT) will report funds from operations (FFO) to debt of 10%-13% over the coming years on a regulatory accounting basis, despite higher investments"
- "We anticipate VGT will benefit from stable regulated earnings from natural gas transmission operations, with the regulatory account mechanism mitigating volume and commodity risks over time"
- "Investments in hydrogen assets could increase from 2026 but will depend fully on regulatory developments. We expect the final determination of a regulatory framework for hydrogen will influence VGT's investment decisions, with the company prudently balancing risks and rewards."
- "VGT has in the past demonstrated proven access to debt capital markets and sound relationships with banks, **reflected in the company's diverse funding sources**. [...] VGT displays prudent risk management [...]"





### Prudent Financial Profile and Well-Balanced Maturity Structure



Intended pre-funding of €750m bond maturity June 2025

<sup>1</sup> Pro-rata share (51%) / Financings include term loans, Schuldschein loan agreements ("Schuldscheindarlehen") as well as registered bonds ("Namensschuldverschreibungen"); <sup>2</sup> € 1.5m reserved for guarantees, rest undrawn; <sup>3</sup> Pro-rata share (51%), undrawn











### **Excellent and Stable Business Profile**

Largest German Gas Transmission System Operator

Stable Regulated CH<sub>4</sub> Business

Regulated H<sub>2</sub> Business from 2025

**Robust Financial Profile** 

BBB+ Rated (S&P) German Gas Infrastructure Business





**Appendix:** 

Financial Statements 2023 & HY 2024





# VGT Group Income Statement 2023

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport

[€m]	2023	2022	Δ
Transport revenues	1,511	1,267	245
Other revenues 1	137	160	-23
Total revenues	1,649	1,426	223
Other income	62	73	-11
Cost of materials	-492	-800	308
thereof fuel energy & CO2	-124	-416	292
Personnel costs	-201	-194	-7
Other expenses	-97	-88	-9
Equity income	25	20	5
EBITDA	947	437	509
Depreciation	-224	-222	-2
EBIT	722	215	507
Net financial result <sup>2</sup>	-56	-57	1
Current taxes	-53	-66	13
Deferred taxes	-142	10	-152
Net Income	472	101	370

<sup>1</sup> incl. change in inventories

<sup>2</sup> Equity income included in EBITDA

Note: Aggregated figures may contain rounding differences





### VGT Group Balance Sheet 2023

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport

[€m] Assets			
	31 Dec. 2023	31 Dec 2022	Δ
Non-current assets			
Intangible assets	85	83	+2
Goodwill	840	840	+0
Property, plant and equipment	4,526	4,390	+136
Financial assets	194	167	+27
at equity method	73	65	+8
other financial assets	121	102	+19
Deferred tax assets	19	39	-20
Non-current receivables	202	226	-25
Total non-current assets	5,867	5,747	+120
Current assets			
Inventories	33	66	-33
Trade receivables (including advance payments made)	51	59	-8
Receivables from tax creditors	9	9	+0
Other receivables	100	681	-581
Cash & cash equivalents	619	463	+155
Total current assets	812	1,278	-466

Total	6,679	7,025	-346

Equity and Liabilitie	es		
	30 Jun 2023	31 Dec 2022	1
Equity			
Subscribed capital	0	0	+
Additional paid-in capital	926	926	+
Retained earnings	828	566	+26
Accumulated other comprehensive income	35	39	-
Total equity	1,788	1,530	+25
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	1	1	+
Other provisions	99	102	-
Financial liabilities	3,488	3,526	-3
Other non-current liabilities	68	68	+
Deferred tax liabilities	726	613	+11
Total non-current liabilities	4,382	4,310	+7
Current liabilities			
Other provisions	58	104	-4
Financial liabilities	163	808	-64
Trade payables	90	125	-3
Other liabilities	198	149	+4
Total current liabilities	508	1,185	-67
Total	6,679	7,025	-34





# VGT Group Cash Flow Statement 2023

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport

[€m]	2023	2022	Δ
Net income	472	101	370
Depreciation and amortisation	224	222	2
Changes in deferred taxes	142	-10	151
Other	90	136	-46
Operating Cash Flow	928	450	478
Investments tangible & intangible assets	-368	-343	-25
Financial investments*	504	-579	1084
Investing Cash Flow	136	-923	1059
Financing Cash Flow	-909	821	-1729
Total Cash Flow of the period	155	348	-193
Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period	463	115	348
Cash and cash equivalents end of period	619	463	155

\* Financial investments mainly consist of short- to medium-term investments of excess cash





# VGT Group Income Statement 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2024 (€m)

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport as of 30 June 2024

	YTD 30 Jun 2024	YTD 30 Jun 2023
Transport revenues	501	798
Other revenues <sup>1</sup>	62	62
Total revenues	563	861
Other income	21	15
Cost of materials	-211	-263
thereof fuel energy & CO2	-47	-91
Personnel costs	-110	-98
Other expenses	-39	-37
Equity income	5	5
EBITDA	230	483
Depreciation	-110	-111
EBIT	120	372
Net financial result <sup>2</sup>	-23	-30
Current taxes	-45	-22
Deferred taxes	13	-86
Net Income	65	233

<sup>1</sup> incl. change in inventories

<sup>2</sup> Equity income included in EBITDA

Note: Aggregated figures may contain rounding differences





# VGT Group Balance Sheet 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2024 (€m)

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport as of 30 June 2024

Assets		
	30 Jun 2024	31 Dec 2023
Non-current assets		
Intangible assets	88	85
Goodwill	840	840
Property, plant and equipment	4,530	4,526
Financial assets	214	194
Companies accounted for using the equity method	70	73
other financial assets	145	121
Deferred tax assets	19	19
Non-current receivables	169	135
Total non-current assets	5,860	5,800
Current assets		
Inventories	25	33
Trade receivables (including advance payments made)	38	51
Income tax receivables	8	9
Other receivables	154	167
Cash & cash equivalents	515	619
Total current assets	739	879

Total	6,599	6,679

Equity and Liabilities			
	30 Jun	31 Dec	
	2024	2023	
Equity			
Subscribed capital	0	0	
Additional paid-in capital	1,126	926	
Retained earnings	709	828	
Accumulated other comprehensive income	32	35	
Total equity	1,866	1,788	
Non-current liabilities			
Provisions for pensions and similar obligations	1	1	
Other provisions	96	99	
Financial liabilities	2,761	3,488	
Other non-current liabilities	18	17	
Deferred tax liabilities	714	726	
Total non-current liabilities	3,589	4,331	
Current liabilities			
Other provisions	51	58	
Financial liabilities	921	163	
Trade payables	40	90	
Other liabilities	132	250	
Total current liabilities	1,144	560	
Total	6,599	6,679	





### VGT Group Cash Flow Statement 1<sup>st</sup> Half of 2024 (€m)

IFRS Consolidated Financial Statements Vier Gas Transport as of 30 June 2024

	YTD 30 Jun 2024	YTD 30 Jun 2023
Net income	65	233
Depreciation and amortisation / impairment charges	110	112
Changes in deferred taxes	-13	86
Other	21	40
Operating Cash Flow	183	471
Investments tangible & intangible assets	-130	-133
Financial investments	-18	542
Investing Cash Flow	-148	409
Financing Cash Flow	-139	-51
Total Cash Flow of the period	-104	829
Cash and cash equivalents beginning of period	619	463
Cash and cash equivalents end of period	515	1,292





### **Treasury Contacts & Ongoing Investor Engagement**

