



# Final results for the year ended 31 March 2024

5 June 2024



Anna Bielby, Chief Executive  
Keith Winstanley, Chief Financial Officer



# Compelling investment case

## Key differentiators

### Specialist rental model

- Specialist assets, markets and delivery
- Market leading positions in niche sectors
- Young, well-maintained fleet
- Disciplined asset management

### Diverse & resilient revenue streams

- Growth and risk mitigation from exposure to different markets and geographies

### Exciting growth prospects

- Aligned to markets with growth potential
- Opportunity to improve cross divisional working
- Refreshed corporate development plan

## Financial profile

### Continued strong returns

- Target ROACE of 15%
- Strong margins

### Balance sheet strength

- Disciplined capital allocation
- Cash generative, refinance complete

### Progressive dividend

- 30-year uninterrupted dividend track record
- Long-term view



## Underpinned by our strategy

Delivering Growth

Operational Excellence

People

Digital

ESG

# FY24 highlights

- Solid overall performance, with revenue of £368.7m and adjusted profit of £39.7m
- Strong Infrastructure demand from rail, transmission and water sectors. Construction more challenging, leading to non cash impairment of £28m in Brandon Hire Station
- £63m fleet capex in the year, continued transition towards greener solutions
- Strong ROACE, slightly above prior year at 14.5%, demonstrating earnings quality
- Robust balance sheet with continued reduction in net debt. RCF refinance complete
- Proposed final dividend increased by 4% to 27.5p per share, resulting in full year dividend of 39p per share

# FY24 – a year of change for Vp

## Refreshed people

- New Group leadership and formation of Executive Committee
- Fresh talent and expertise added
- Simplified management structure
- New management team in Brandon Hire Station

## Refreshed strategy – building on our successful history

- Exploiting opportunities to work together better as a Group
- New digital roadmap – driving simplicity and consistency
- Clear corporate development strategy, underpinned by capital allocation policy

## Well positioned for the future

# Financial review

Keith Winstanley

# Financial highlights

	FY24 (£m)	FY23 (£m)
Revenue	<b>368.7</b>	371.5
EBITDA	<b>91.0</b>	92.9
Depreciation	<b>(45.0)</b>	(46.9)
Interest	<b>(6.4)</b>	(5.6)
PBTAE	<b>39.7</b>	40.5
Net margin	<b>10.8%</b>	10.9%
Exceptional items	<b>5.8</b>	5.0
Impairment of intangible assets	<b>28.1</b>	-
Return on average capital employed	<b>14.5%</b>	14.4%

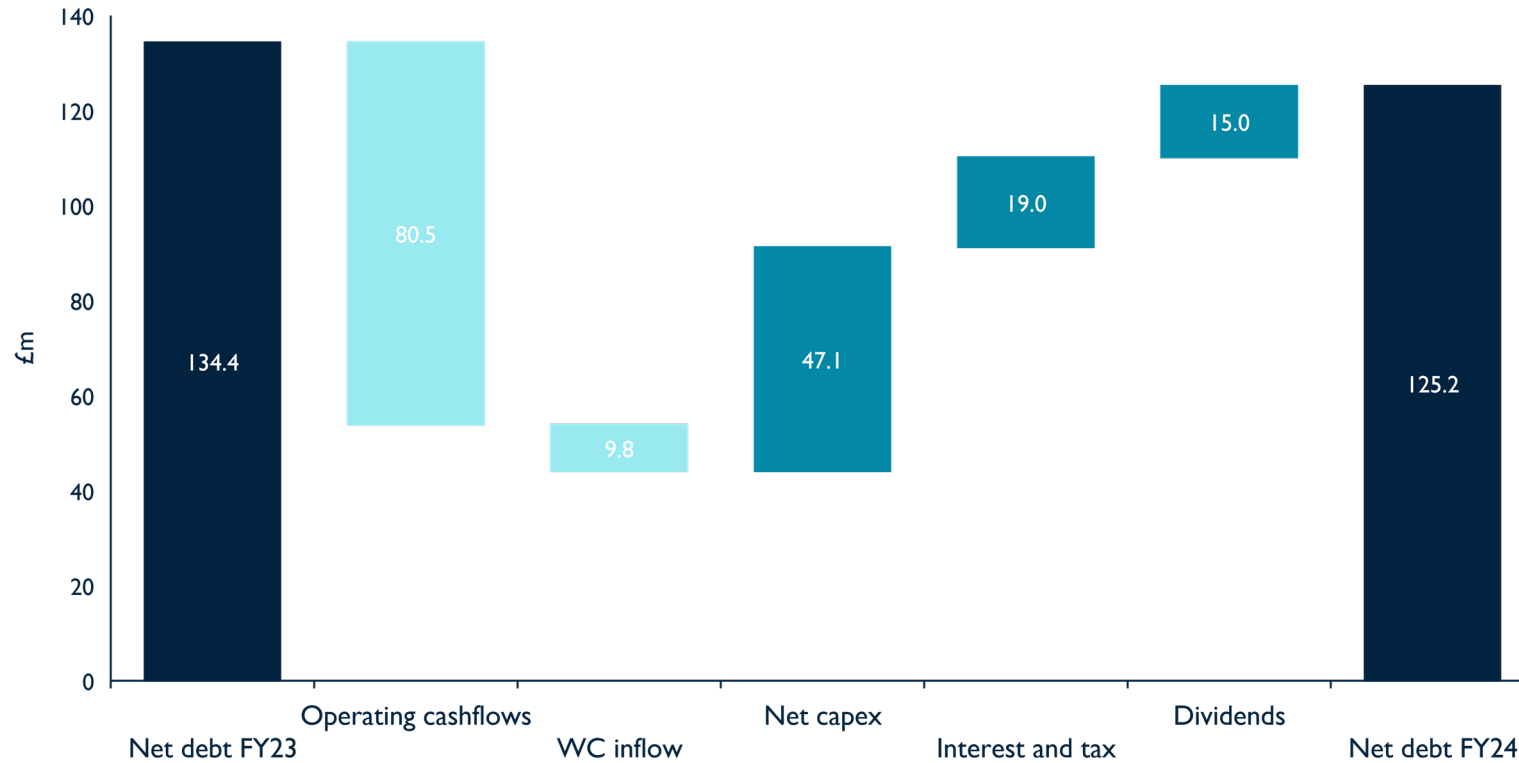
- Resilient trading despite some end market challenges
- Key metrics broadly inline with prior year
- Results include strong performances in Infrastructure and Energy markets
- Exceptional items include restructuring costs
- Statutory profit includes the impact of c.£28m non-cash impairment charge relating to historic Brandon Hire acquisition

# Robust balance sheet positions us well

	FY24 (£m)	FY23 (£m)
Hire fleet	226.0	220.6
Other fixed assets	30.9	31.8
Intangible assets/goodwill	28.6	57.7
IFRS 16 net liabilities	(3.3)	(3.9)
Working capital	10.7	17.4
Pension asset	1.9	2.3
Deferred tax liability	(16.6)	(16.6)
Net debt excluding lease liabilities	(125.2)	(134.4)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>153.0</b>	<b>174.9</b>
DSO	58	59
Bad debt write off % revenue	1.0%	0.9%

- Strong balance sheet positions the Group well for the future
- Continued investment in fleet - £63m during the year
- Year on year improvement in working capital
- Reduction in net debt – operating with significant headroom
- £90m RCF refinanced during the year

# Strong operating cash flows and disciplined capital allocation



*Excludes lease liabilities*

- Closing net debt of £125.2m – reduction of £9.2m
- Strong operating cash flows
- Continued investment in asset base
- Debt continues to be well managed with disciplined capital allocation policy



# Comfortably operating within facilities

	FY24 (£m)	FY23 (£m)
Private placement - Jan 2027	65.0	65.0
Private placement - Apr 2028	28.0	28.0
RCF - matures Nov 2026*	90.0	90.0
<b>Total committed facilities</b>	<b>183.0</b>	<b>183.0</b>
Overdraft	7.5	7.5
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>190.5</b>	<b>190.5</b>
<b>Net debt excluding lease liabilities</b>	<b>125.2</b>	<b>134.4</b>
Headroom against facilities	65.3	56.1
Net debt/EBITDA gearing	1.38x	1.44x

\* Facility also includes accordion of £30m

- £90m RCF refinanced during the year
- c.75% of year end net debt relates to low cost, fixed rate private placements
- Operating well within financial covenants, gearing reduction year on year
- Facilities and headroom provide opportunity for growth

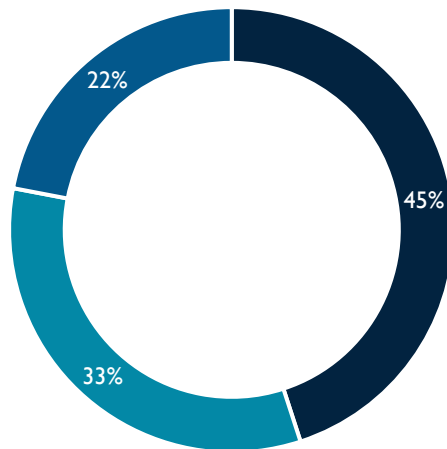
# Significant investment in hire fleet – with environmental focus

	FY24 (£m)	FY23 (£m)
Total fleet investment	62.8	59.9
Disposal proceeds	(25.3)	(24.9)
<b>Net expenditure on fleet</b>	<b>37.5</b>	<b>35.0</b>

- Young, well maintained fleet, with increased investment in year
- Organic growth is a key part of strategy, focused on market opportunity and strong returns
- Transition to greener fleet. c.80% representing cleaner technology or zero emission at point of use

## Fleet investment environmental analysis

- Zero emissions at point of use
- Cleaner technology
- Other investment

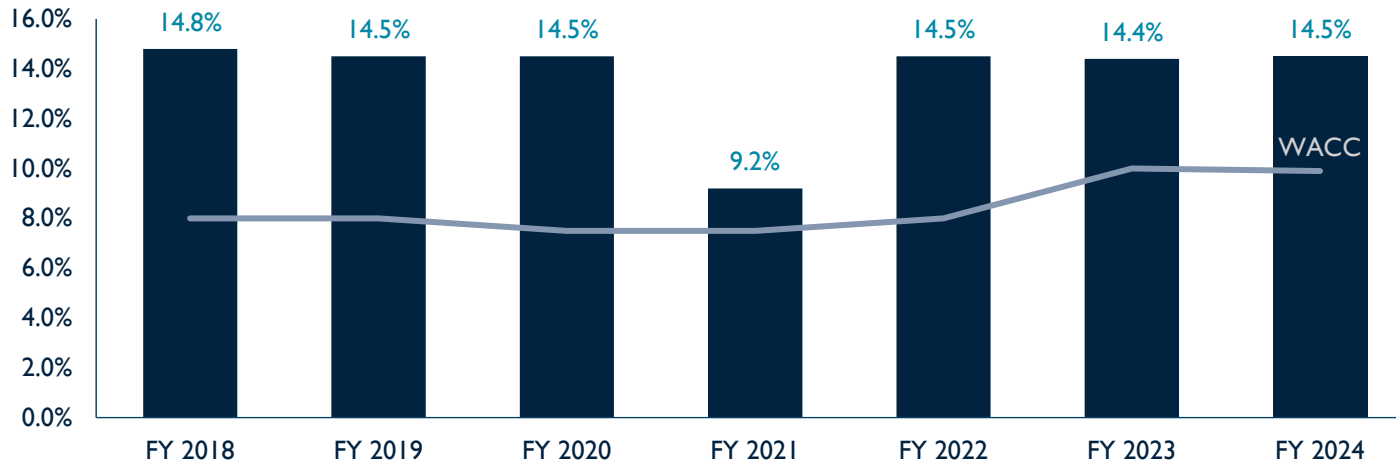


e.g. Solar powered charging station (zero emissions at point of use)



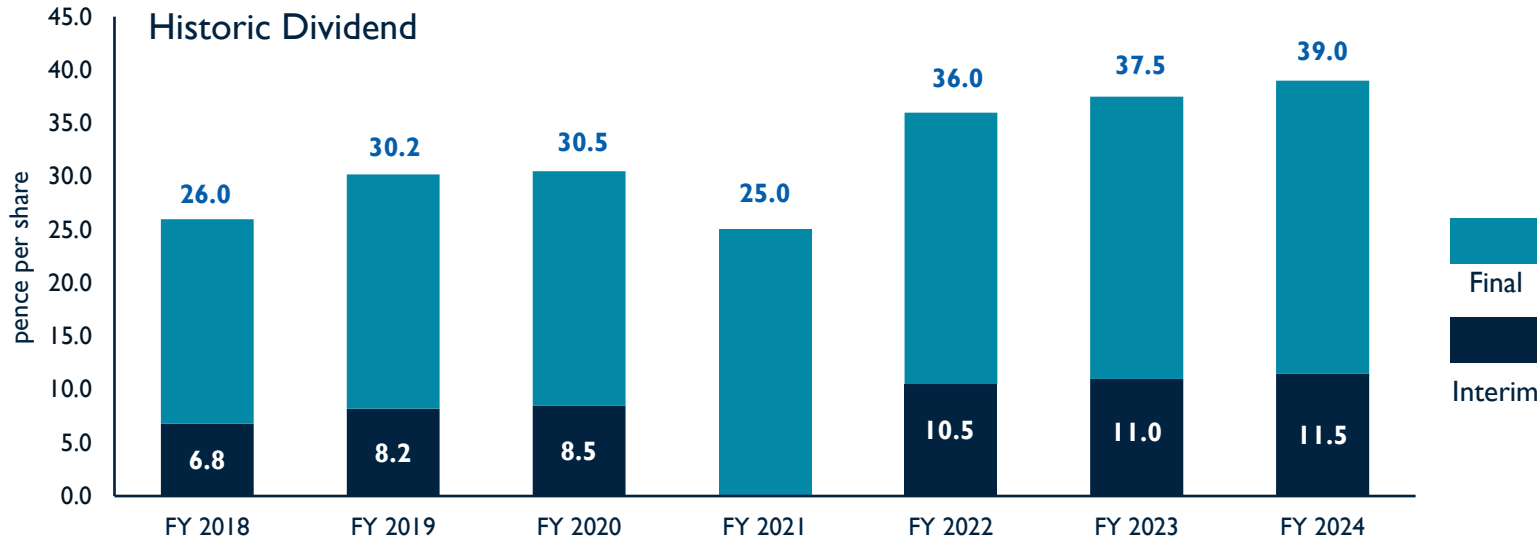
# Consistent return on capital and progressive dividends

Historic ROACE



- Consistent strong returns and progressive dividend contribute to compelling investment case
- Improvement in ROACE, just below 15% target and well above WACC
- 30-year uninterrupted dividend track record
- Recommended final dividend of 27.5p results in full year dividend growth of 4%

Historic Dividend



# Strategy update

Anna Bielby

# Our strategy has been refreshed

Making Vp more straightforward and greater than the sum of its parts



## Delivering growth

- Continued investment to drive organic growth, focus on returns
- Improved cross divisional working to exploit opportunities
- Acquisition opportunity from refreshed corporate development strategy



## Driving operational excellence

- Driving simplicity and consistency through operating model, supported by digital roadmap
- Using the benefit of the Group's scale to drive value
- Appropriate balance between efficient central functions and agile customer centric divisions



## People

- A unique mix of rich heritage, new leadership and fresh ideas
- Recruiting, retaining and developing our people who grow with us
- Rewarding our people fairly



## Digital roadmap

- Modest investment in digital
- Building on what we already have
- Leading to better cross divisional working, customer experience and data and decision making



## ESG focus

- Important area for stakeholders
- A pragmatic approach
- Focus on capex and management of supply chain

# Our corporate development plans will drive growth

## Specialist assets, specialist markets and specialist solutions

### Organic growth

- Capex to support divisional growth, focus on market opportunity and ROACE
- Operational excellence investment: People, Digital and ESG

### Acquisitions

- Specialist with growth potential
- Provides access or extension to geography, assets or sector
- Meets strict financial hurdles, value accretive
- Within risk appetite

### Selective disposals

- Inadequate returns
- Limited growth potential
- Non-alignment to Group strategy

### Bolt-on

- Smaller
- Extension to existing division

### Strategic

- Larger
- New division

# Our updated digital roadmap supports our strategy

## Building on what we already have and investing modestly

### Harmonising our systems and processes

- Facilitates improved cross divisional working
- Improves our ability to provide cross divisional solutions and propositions at Vp Group level
- Simpler efficient processes that are agile to change

### New Configure, Price, Quote tool

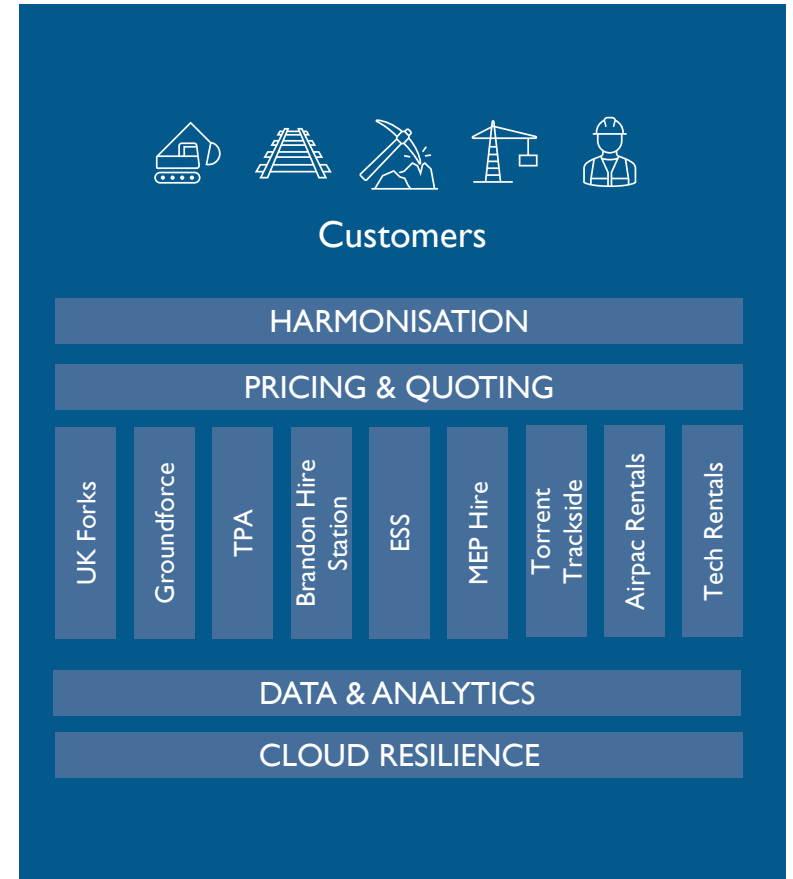
- New digital capability covering quotes to customers, improved pricing controls and making it simpler for customers to work with us

### Improved data and analytics

- Focus on improving data and getting more value through improved analytics and machine learning

### Cloud resilience

- Leveraging modern cloud capability to provide our business and customers with reliable, stable and effective systems



# Our approach to ESG is pragmatic – the financials must work

## Embedded in the way we work - teams, customers and supply chain

### Working with customers and suppliers

- Development of fleet make-up
- Providing data and helping customers achieve their targets
- Supply chain engagement

### Minimising our impact on the environment

- Emissions inventory completed, targets validated by the SBTi
- Renewable electricity commitment
- ISO 50001 accreditation renewed

### Ensuring the resilience of our business model

- Financials for clean fleet must work
- Transition plans - 2050 date unchanged at present
- Measured approach to carbon reduction

### Responsible business approach

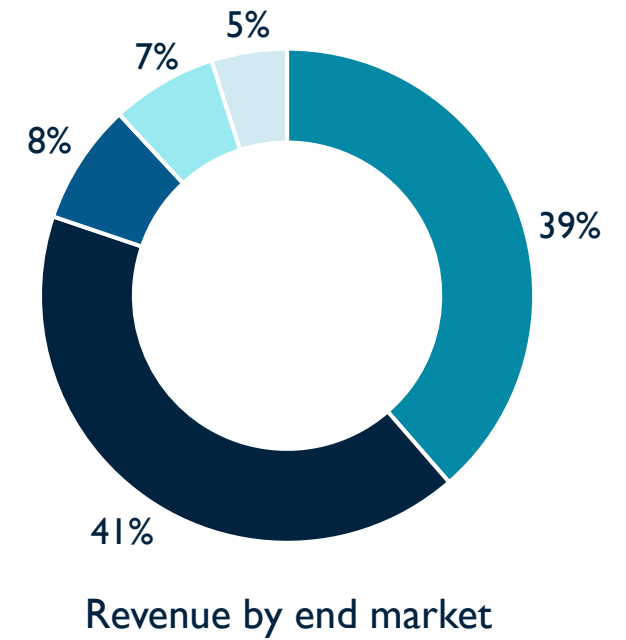
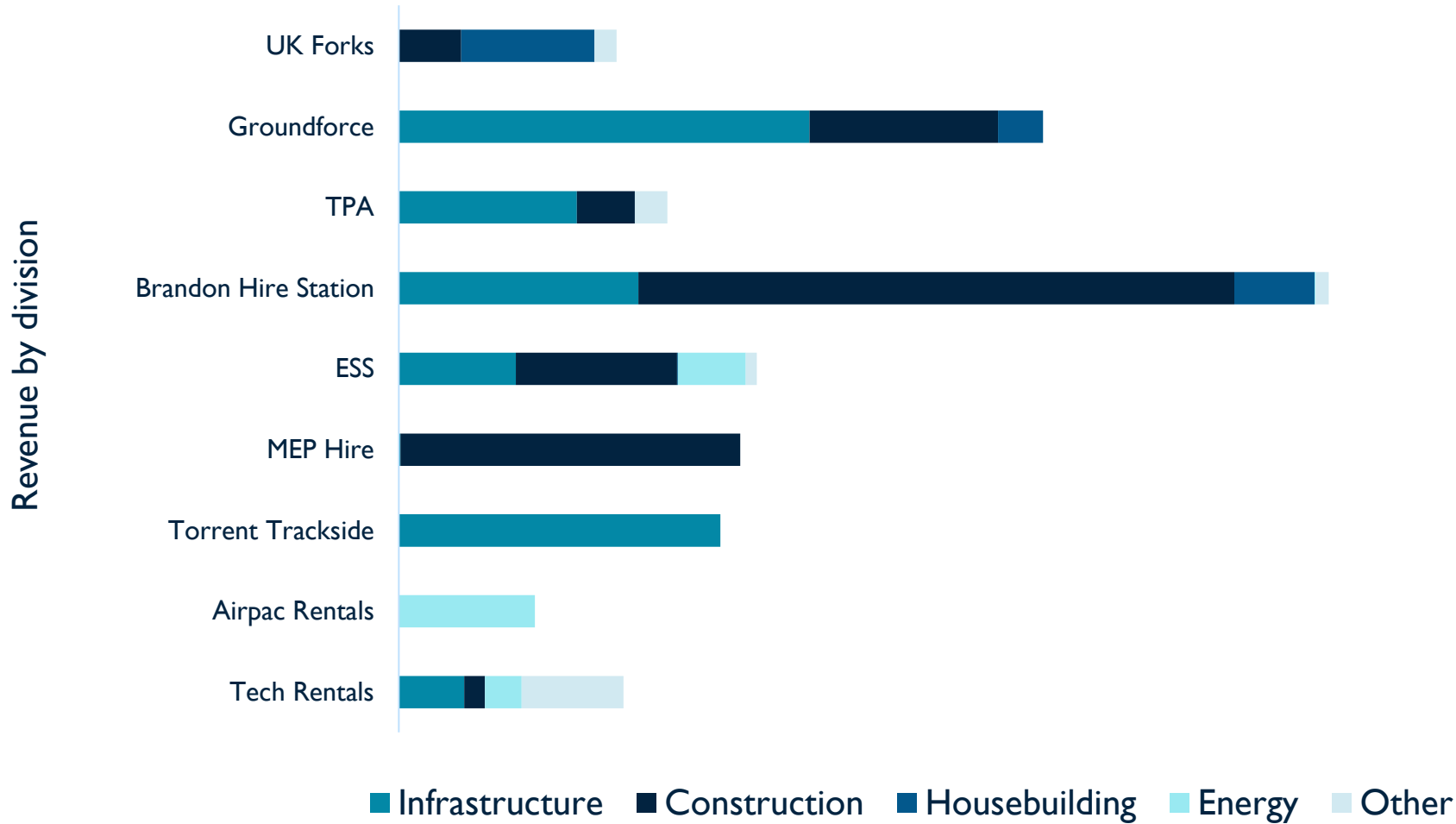
- Health check with BITC
- Social value strategy development
- People engagement through carbon literacy training





# Operational review

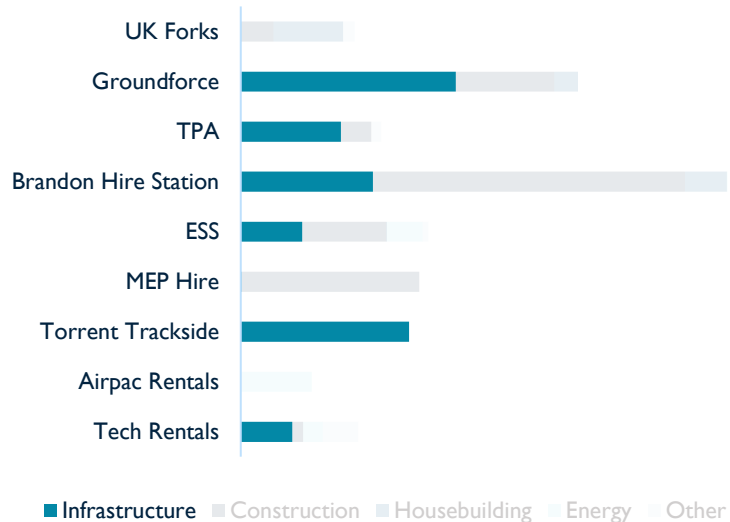
# Our specialist divisions align to four end markets



# Infrastructure – very strong year with progress made

Revenue **£143m**  
(FY2023: £135m)

**39%**



## Market conditions


- Market output grew by 4.0% year on year
  - Major Control Period 6 (CP6) rail projects included HS2 and Transpennine Route upgrade
  - Rail strikes caused disruption during the year
  - Water spend remained stable through the fourth year of AMP7
  - Roads and Highways contracted by 1.0% in the year
- 2024 expected to contract by 3.4%, with a return to growth in 2025

*Experian UK Construction Forecast Spring 2024*

## Our performance

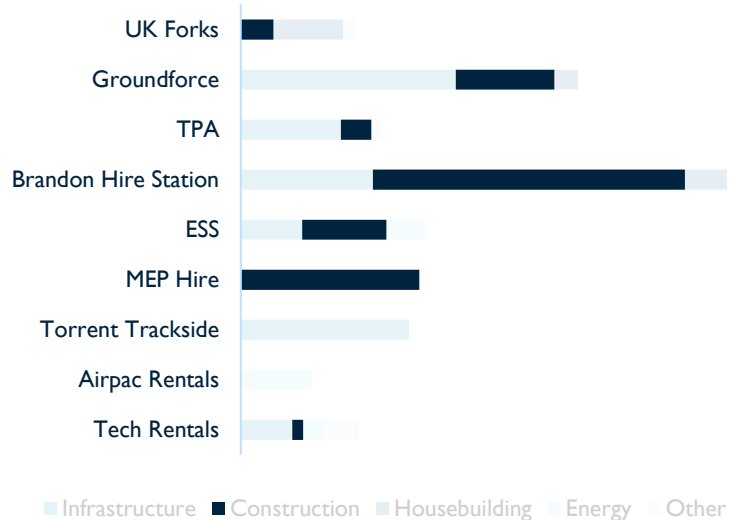
- Very strong performance and growth across our divisions, led by Groundforce
- Particular areas of activity were
  - Rail (CP6 activity, inc. HS2)
  - Water (AMP7)
  - Civil Engineering
  - Transmission
  - Utilities
- TPA and Torrent both recorded good performances despite being impacted by rail strikes

# Construction – some challenges, particularly in non-residential



**Revenue £153m**  
(FY2023: £162m)

**41%**



## Market conditions

- Decline in non-residential construction output of 1.7%
- Clear trend from new commercial builds to commercial redevelopment projects, particularly within London
- Warehouse construction subsector contracted by over 25% year on year
- Subdued conditions remain expected until 2025

*Experian UK Construction Forecast Spring 2024*

## Our performance

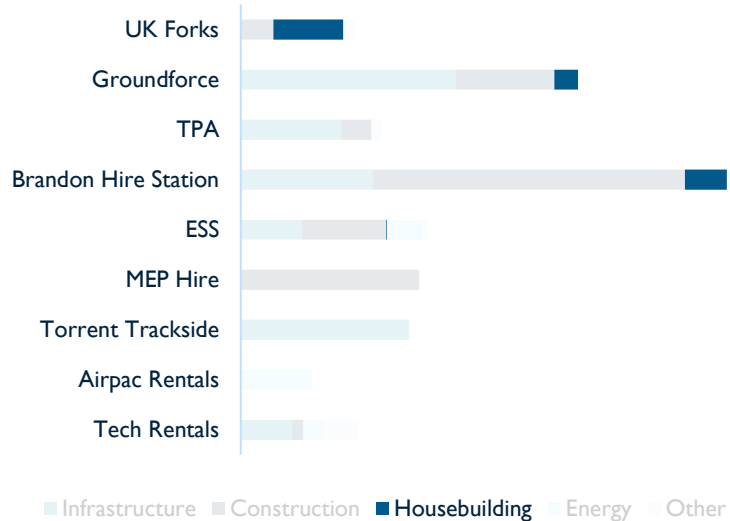
- Challenging end markets affected construction activity across our divisions
- Brandon Hire Station most impacted
  - New management team in place
  - Branch review, branch closures and simplification
  - Customer review
  - Initiatives around pricing, cost reduction and process/ control
- MEP performed well, benefitting from redevelopment projects and the growth in the commercial office fit out sector, but was impacted by a more challenging credit environment
- Despite a subdued market, ESS made progress and ended the year strongly

# Housebuilding – subdued but satisfactory performance



**Revenue £28m**  
(FY2023: £29m)

**8%**



## Market conditions

- Decline in new housebuilding of 11.5% year on year
- Inflationary cost pressures, heightened mortgage interest rates and poor consumer confidence have all contributed to subdued market
- Conditions expected to continue through 2024, before returning to growth in 2025

*Experian UK Construction Forecast Spring 2024*

## Our performance

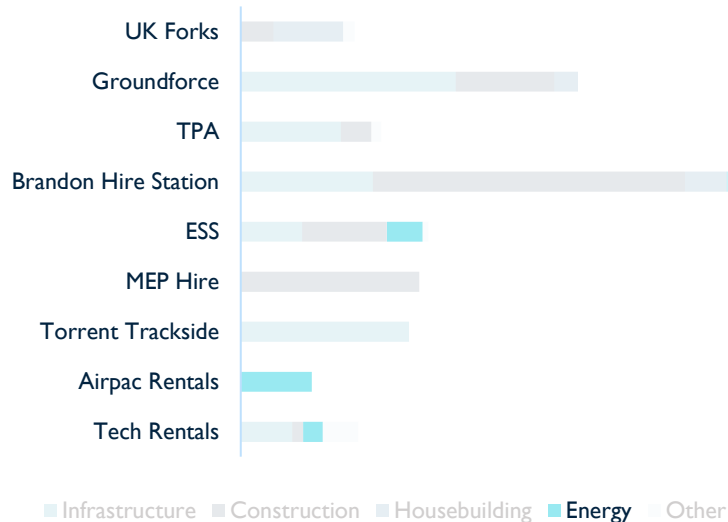
- UK Forks impacted by market conditions but responded well:
  - Rightsized its fleet and accelerated fleet disposals
  - Implemented rigorous cost controls
- Brandon Hire Station and Groundforce also impacted

# Energy – strong performance exploiting supportive markets



Revenue **£26m**  
(FY2023: £22m)

**7%**



## Market conditions

- Significant growth in Global Oil and Gas market led by high oil prices
- Increased infrastructure investment
- Continuing global trend of alternative energy sources as well as offshore projects

*Experian UK Construction Forecast Spring 2024*

## Our performance

- Strong performance from Airpac, capitalising on supportive market conditions, which are expected to continue
- Particular strength in Asia, driven by significant projects including LNG shutdowns and Pipeline activity

# Summary and outlook

- Solid performance in FY24
- Continue to perform strongly in our specialist markets, despite some challenges
- New leadership is now in place
- Focus on delivering refreshed strategy, building on the Group's successful history:
  - Exploiting opportunities to work together better as a Group
  - Driving simplicity and consistency through a new digital roadmap
  - Pursuing corporate development strategy, underpinned by capital allocation policy
- Excellent track record of navigating difficult markets
- Confidence in the future

# Q&A



# Appendices

# Capital allocation strategy

Net debt / EBITDA less than 2x

## Organic growth

- Capital investment in rental fleet
- Short term investment in strategic transformation projects

## Ordinary dividends

- Progressive dividend with 2x target cover
- Full year dividend split c. 1/3 interim, 2/3 final

## Bolt-on acquisitions

- Investment to support divisional growth strategy
- Extension of geography, products, or customers

## Strategic acquisitions

- Investment to scale access to new assets, end sectors, or geographies

## Capital returns

- Further shareholder returns considered after other planned investments
- Discretionary and non-recurring via share buy backs or special dividends

# Exceptional items and impairment

	FY24 (£m)	FY23 (£m)
<b>Exceptional items</b>		
Restructuring and reorganisations	5.8	3.3
Formal Sale Process costs	-	1.7
<b>Total exceptional items</b>	<b>5.8</b>	<b>5.0</b>
<b>Intangible asset impairment</b>		
Intangible assets impairment related to Brandon acquisition	27.7	-
Other intangible asset impairment	0.4	-
<b>Total intangible asset impairment</b>	<b>28.1</b>	<b>-</b>

# Corporate development – focused and disciplined M&A

## Clear criteria

- Specialist in nature
- Operating in growing, resilient sectors
- No.1 or no.2 player
- Solid base with clear opportunity to scale

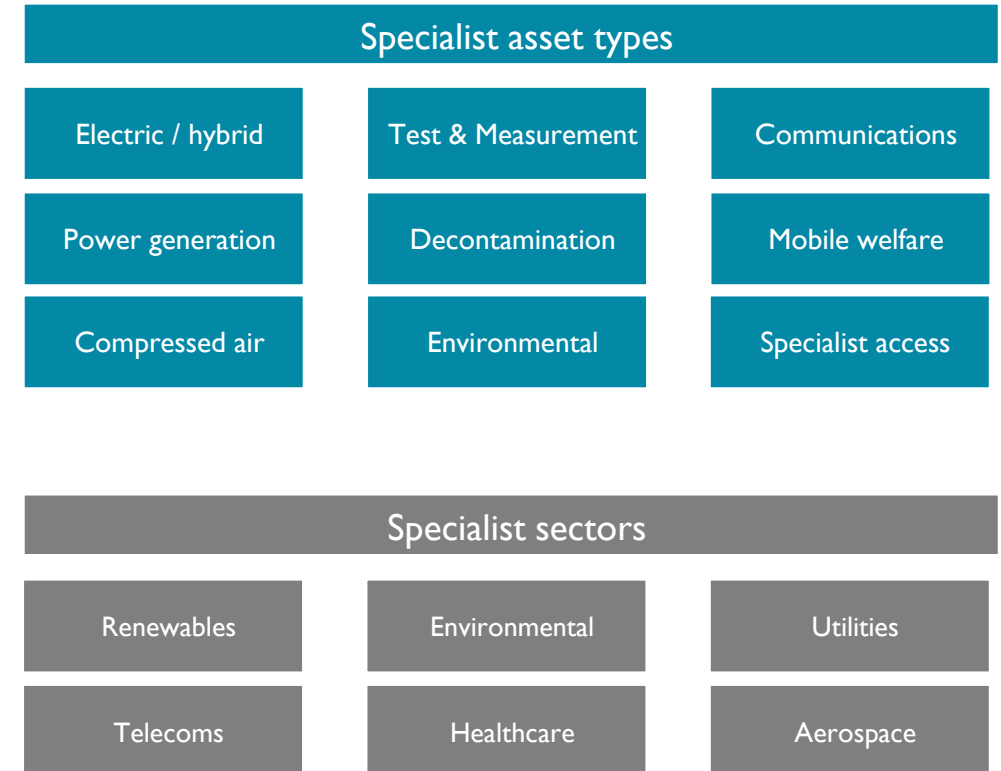
## Disciplined approach

- Low risk – scale, financial profile, geography
- Financially aligned to core
- Underpinned by well invested asset base

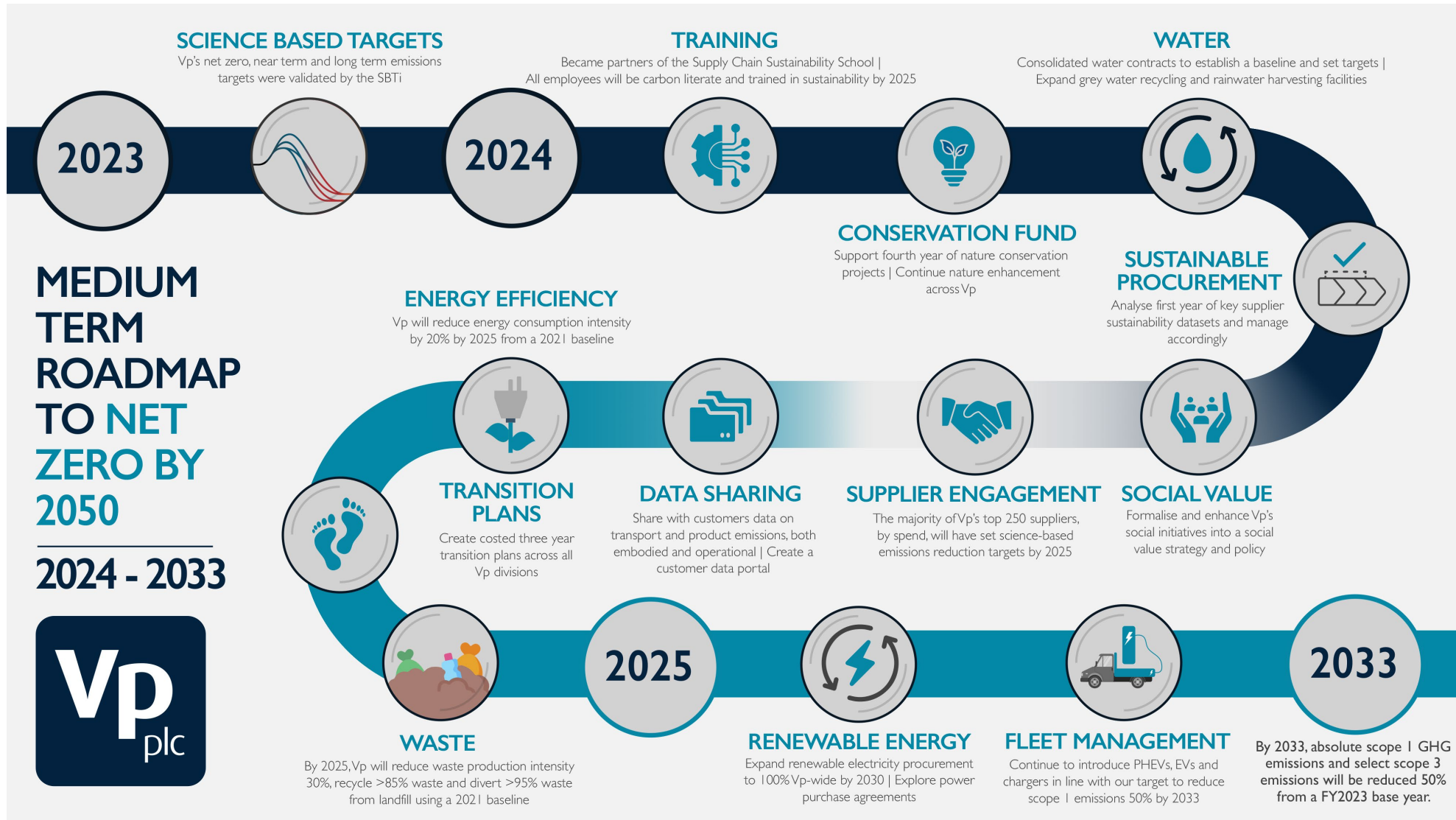
## Efficient process

- Well defined, risk and growth focused M&A and integration process

### Example focus areas:



# Medium term environmental roadmap



# Our businesses



## **UK Forks**

One of the UK's leading specialist hirers of telescopic handlers. The products and services are utilised by its customers to improve safety and productivity on construction and housebuilding sites across the UK.

## **Groundforce**

A market leading rental and design provider of excavation support systems and specialist products to the water, civil engineering and construction industries with operations in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and mainland Europe.

## **TPA**

One of Europe's largest suppliers of temporary access solutions. Operating from bases in the UK and Germany, TPA provides portable roadways and temporary access solutions to customers in the transmission, construction, rail and outdoor events markets.

## **Brandon Hire Station**

The leading provider of tools and specialist rental products to industry, construction and home owners across the UK.

## **MEP Hire**

The UK's largest provider of mechanical and electrical press fittings and low level access platforms to the construction, fit out, mechanical and electrical markets.

## **ESS**

The leading specialist provider of safety, survey, communications and test & measurement equipment rental in the UK.

## **Torrent Trackside**

Specialist suppliers of rail infrastructure portable plant and related trackside services to Network Rail, London Underground and their appointed track renewal, maintenance and project contractors.

## **Airpac Rentals**

An international business supporting a wide range of oil and gas markets, servicing well test, pipeline testing, rig maintenance and LNG markets worldwide.

## **Tech Rentals**

Australasia's leading technical equipment rental group providing test and measurement, communications, calibration and audio visual solutions in Australia, New Zealand and South East Asia.

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