In a year of unusual market conditions, particularly volatile energy prices and a substantial increase in inflation, we’re happy to have achieved a record-high operating profit for 2022.

We achieved strong operational performance with our assets remaining fully operational and having robust availability rates. This applies not least to our Danish CHP plants, which have generated record-high results and supported the security of supply in Denmark.

In addition, we achieved significant strategic results across our business, and we’re confident that we can achieve our previously announced long-term financial estimates and growth ambitions.

The world is facing a climate crisis, and we urgently need to transition to a sustainable energy system. In Ørsted, we’re ready to lead the way in the much-needed renewable energy build-out. But the build-out must be done the right way. A simplistic approach without focus on the industry’s sustainability will put unreasonably pressure on nature, local communities, working conditions, and supply chains.

We want to run a business that gives more back to nature and society than it takes, and we’ll continue to partner with companies, customers, NGOs, and others who share our ambition to build a lasting positive impact.

The year 2022 also underlined our continued leadership in renewable energy, not least in offshore wind.

We were awarded 2.9 GW offshore wind capacity and 1.6 GW onshore renewables. In addition, we took final investment decisions (FID) in a total of nine projects for a combined capacity of 1.6 GW, and we commissioned projects with a total operating capacity of 2 GW.

This meant that by the end of 2022, we had a total capacity of 30.7 GW that was either installed, under construction or awarded. We’re well on track to deliver on our ambition of ~ 50 GW of installed capacity by 2030.
I will now go through some of our most significant strategic results in 2022.

In August, we commissioned Hornsea 2, the world’s largest offshore wind farm to date. The 1.3 GW wind farm comprises 165 wind turbines which can supply renewable electricity over 1.4 million UK households.

This commissioning brings our total installed offshore wind capacity to almost 9 GW.

In the US, we continued the development of our portfolio of offshore wind projects off the East Coast and took final investment decision on our first US project, South Fork Wind. The construction of the project is on track, and we expect the 130 MW offshore wind project to be commissioned later this year.

In the UK, we were awarded a contract for difference for our almost 3 GW Hornsea 3 project. Once it is commissioned in 2027, Hornsea 3 will be the world’s largest offshore wind farm, capable of supplying renewable electricity to 3.2 million UK households.

During 2022, we completed the divestment of 50% of the Hornsea 2 and Borkum Riffgrund 3 projects in the UK and Germany, respectively. The two divestments brought in proceeds of more than DKK 24 billion, underlining once again that our offshore wind portfolio is attractive for investors. The proceeds will be reinvested in our continued build-out of renewable energy.

Finally, in our ‘Offshore business’, I would like to mention that we’ve entered the floating offshore wind market with partnerships in Scotland and Spain, respectively. Floating offshore wind will open several new markets globally, and we’re looking forward to taking part in in developing these areas.

In our ‘Onshore business’, we commissioned 0.8 GW, bringing our total installed onshore renewables capacity to more than 4 GW.

We took final investment decisions in projects with a total capacity of 1.4 GW, meaning that we now have more than 2 GW under construction across Europe and the US. Our
ambition is to have installed 17.5 GW of onshore renewables by 2030, which we’re well on track to achieving.

In September 2022, we acquired Ostwind, a French–German developer of onshore wind and solar. In addition, we entered into four new partnerships in Spain to submit tenders in auctions of solar PV and onshore renewables projects.

Back in 2021, we acquired Brookfield Renewables, an onshore wind business in Ireland and the UK. This means that Ørsted’s Onshore renewables platform now spans the US market and four of the largest growth markets in Europe.

Our business within renewable hydrogen and green fuels also made good strategic progress during the year.

We took final investment decision and acquired the remaining 55% of FlagshipONE, the largest e-methanol project under construction in Europe. The Swedish Power-to-X facility is a significant milestone towards our ambition to become a global leader in the area of green fuels.

In the US, we signed letter of intent with A.P. Moller – Maersk to deliver e-methanol for its future fleet of twelve e-methanol-powered vessels. On the US Gulf Coast, Ørsted will develop a Power-to-X facility with a capacity of 675 MW. The facility will have the capacity to produce approx. 300,000 tonnes of e-methanol per year. Globally, this project is one of the most ambitious projects for producing e-methanol at industrial scale and can be a driving force in the decarbonisation journey of the maritime sector.

I would like to conclude the presentation of our strategic progress by highlighting two special recognitions.

Back in March, we were named one of the 100 most influential companies for the second year in a row by TIME magazine. TIME commends Ørsted for expanding offshore wind in the US. TIME has also moved Ørsted from its ‘Innovators’ category to its ‘Leaders’ category. This acknowledges our ambitious efforts in the build-out of renewable energy and the many planned projects along the East Coast of the US. We’re quite proud to be
recognised for our efforts, as it underlines our leading global role within renewable energy.

In addition, we were internationally recognised for our responsible taxation conduct by being awarded ‘Fair Tax Mark’ accreditation as the first Danish multinational company. As part of the accreditation process, the Fair Tax Foundation assessed that Ørsted has demonstrated exemplary financial transparency, including Ørsted’s publicly available information on beneficial ownership and public country-by-country reporting.

This recognition acknowledges our commitment to sustainable tax practices. Together with our transparency initiatives, our stakeholders can trust that Ørsted acts responsibly. We’ve been one of the largest corporation taxpayers in Denmark for years, but the past two years have been quite unusual as we have incurred heavy losses from our hedges. The large unrealised losses are included in the calculation of our taxable income in Denmark, which is why our tax loss declined in both 2021 and 2022. We expect to return to a more normal tax level within the next years.

Green energy is the most impactful solution for fighting global warming and, in the race against time, we need to build it now and build it right!

Our massive investments in green solutions since we installed our first offshore wind farm in 1991 means that our green share of energy generation energy is 91% in 2022. We’re thus on in the right track to achieving our target of having a 99% green share of heat and power generation by 2025.

Our leadership role compels us to take action. As one of only seven companies in the world, our 2040 net-zero emissions target has been validated as ‘science-based’ and in accordance with the targets of the Paris Agreement to keep the global temperature increase at 1.5°C.

This target of becoming carbon-neutral in 2025 remains unchanged, despite the fact that in order to ensure the security of the electricity supply in Denmark, the Danish authorities have decided to order Ørsted to continue and resume operations of three power station
units which use oil and coal as fuel. The Danish authorities have ordered Ørsted to keep these three units in operation until 30 June 2024.

The first milestone in Ørsted’s decarbonisation target is 2025, when we aim to have achieved carbon-neutral emissions, defined as scope 1 and 2 emissions. We’ll achieve this by reducing our carbon emission intensity by at least 98% compared to 2006. This will make Ørsted the first major energy company to achieve carbon-neutral energy production – far ahead of what climate science deems necessary for limiting global warming to 1.5°C.

And we’re already well on track. In 2022, we managed to reduce our greenhouse gas intensity (i.e. scope 1 and 2 emissions) by as much as 87% compared to our emissions in 2006. In addition, our scope 3 emissions decreased by all of 40% in 2022 compared to 2021, driven by lower gas sales.

To be able to deliver renewable energy that contributes positively to people and nature, we still have a huge strategic focus on sustainability and ESG that extends beyond climate-related issues. Therefore, our ambitious targets include having a net-positive biodiversity impact from all new projects that are commissioned from the 2030 at the latest.

We’re also taking a proactive approach to comply with new EU rules on sustainability. This year, we reported on our sustainability activities pursuant to the EU taxonomy for the first time, and we’re continuously working to strengthen our existing ESG reporting and due diligence process concerning nature and human rights to adhere to the requirements set out in the EU directives CSRD and CSDD.

To provide our current and potential shareholders with insight into Ørsted’s climate change-related risks and opportunities in the medium to long term, we’re reporting in accordance with the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-Related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). As stated in the annual report, the management and the Board of Directors must take climate-related risks and opportunities into account when making decisions on new projects, and engineers must take account of the anticipated impact on
climate change in the design of new assets. The purpose of all of this is to ensure that Ørsted’s assets remain relevant and secure going forward.

Last year, the annual general meeting approved a donation of any net profit under our gas purchase contract with Gazprom Export in 2022 to humanitarian aid in Ukraine.

During the first half of 2022, we had a net loss on our Gazprom Export contract, and on 1 June, Gazprom Export halted its gas supply to Ørsted. This meant that the contract did not generate a profit in 2022, which is also why we did not make a donation to Ukraine under the mandate received from the annual general meeting last year. The gas contract was subsequently terminated.

However, I would like to note that in 2022, we supported Ukraine in the amount of DKK 26.5 million through donations to UNICEF and to the aid organisation Polish Humanitarian Action.

We chose to make donations to these two organisations, as both are respected aid organisations working to provide the best possible support and, insofar as UNICEF is concerned, to help children in Ukraine.

At the same time, we’re currently exploring the possibility of helping rebuild the supply of renewable energy in Ukraine, and we’re engaged in dialogue with the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the best possible approach.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to our talented, dedicated employees here in Ørsted. We wouldn’t have been able to achieve such great results in 2022 without our talented employees. They’ve brought us one step closer to our vision of creating a world that runs entirely on green energy.

Review of the Group’s financial results

I will now go through the financial results for 2022.

Our operating profit before financial income and expenses, tax, depreciation, amortisation, and impairment losses – called EBITDA came in at DKK 32.1 billion, our
highest ever, of which the gain from the 50% farm downs of the offshore wind farms Hornsea 2 and Borkum Riffgrund 3 amounted to DKK 11 billion in total.

Thus, the operating profit excluding new partnerships amounted to DKK 21.1 billion, which is slightly higher compared to our expectations at the beginning of the year of DKK 19–21 billion.

We benefitted from our diversified portfolio in 2022. While earnings in our offshore wind business were lower, we achieved significantly higher earnings from our onshore renewables business, CHP plants and gas activities than we had expected at the start of the year. The unexpected decrease in our Offshore business was primarily due to hedging and construction delays at Hornsea 2 and the Greater Changhua 1 and 2a projects.

Net profit amounted to DKK 15 billion, while the return on capital employed (ROCE) was 17% in 2022. Thus, we’re well on our way to delivering on our target of an average ROCE of 11–12% in the period from 2020 to 2027.

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<tr>
<th>Cash flows, investments, divestments, and debt</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash flow from operating activities amounted to DKK 11.9 billion in 2022, which is in line with 2021.</td>
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<td>We invested DKK 37.4 billion in 2022. Most of our investments concerned the build-out of offshore wind power in Taiwan, the US, the UK, and Germany.</td>
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<td>Almost a quarter of the amount invested was spent on onshore wind and solar PV farms, including the acquisition of the French–German developer ‘Ostwind’ and the construction of Ford Ridge, an onshore US wind project.</td>
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<td>Cash flows from divestments were particularly high in 2022, amounting to DKK 25.6 billion, mainly related to the 50% farm-downs of Hornsea 2 and Borkum Riffgrund 3.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Our interest-bearing net debt totalled DKK 30.6 billion at the end of 2022, compared to DKK 24.3 billion in 2021. The increase was mainly due to our continued high level of investment in sustainable energy.</td>
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The level of our net debt meant that our credit metric – FFO/adjusted net debt – were 43% at year end. Thus, the credit metric was higher than the level of around 25% required by rating agencies to enable us to maintain our current credit rating.

**Remuneration report**

I would also like to briefly comment on the separate remuneration report for 2022 for the Board of Directors and the Executive Board.

The purpose of the remuneration report is to ensure greater transparency about the remuneration of the company’s management.

2022 is the first year in which bonuses are calculated according to the adjustments to the remuneration policy approved at last year’s annual general meeting, and which have increased the weighting of shared KPIs from 40% to 70%. For example, the increased weighting of shared KPIs has provided basis for increasing the share of specific ESG-related KPIs to 30%.

The remuneration report for the year also reflects the changes that have taken place in 2022, in which Daniel Lerup joined the Executive Board as new CFO (as a result of Marianne Wiinholt’s resignation), as well as a subsequent change arising from a reorganisation of Ørsted, which led to Martin Neubert’s resignation and Chief HR Officer Henriette Fenger Ellekrog joining the Executive Board as per 1 November 2022.

The remuneration for 2022 reflects a satisfactory year which, despite the challenges, resulted in strategic progress, global growth, satisfactory financial ratios, and the achievement of a number of other milestones.

**Employees**

Our employees are the backbone of our success.

In a challenging year, our employees have managed to deliver strong strategic progress and generate record-high results. Our company’s success is only possible through them, and we care deeply about the well-being of all our colleagues, not least in terms of our joint safety.
In 2022, our employee satisfaction survey showed a score of 76 out of 100 in terms of motivation and satisfaction. While this high score is well above our external benchmark for comparable companies, we’re aiming even higher, and we’ll continue to improve the well-being of our employees.

Safety is anchored in our organisational culture. This is true of both our physical working conditions and in terms of securing a psychologically safe workplace.

The total recordable injury rate (TRIR) per one million working hours rose from 3.0 in 2021 to 3.1 in 2022, primarily due to recordable injuries by our external suppliers’ employees. We’re not satisfied with this development. Consequently, we have already implemented several initiatives to improve safety so we can achieve a TRIR target of max 2.5 by 2025.

Building renewable energy comes with the opportunity to create high-value jobs and drive a socially just transformation of our industry. We want to do both.

We want to attract, develop, and retain a diverse workforce within our company. At the same time, we aim to build an inclusive supply chain that reflects the global society which we are part of.

To ensure that diversity, equality, and inclusion, also known as DE&I, are embedded in everything we do, we continuously strive to improve our diversity. In 2022, the proportion of women in Ørsted was 33%, compared to 31% in 2021, which means that we’re on track to meeting our ambition of having a workforce across Ørsted comprising at least 40% women by 2030.

Diversity by itself will not achieve this, however. Therefore, we’re working to expand our diversity efforts and initiatives to go beyond gender and our own employees. We’ll continue to diversify our pool of talents, find ways to include a more diverse group of external suppliers in our supply chains, and increase our equity efforts.

After this, I will turn to the Board of Directors’ proposal for the distribution of dividends.
Dividends

Today, the Board of Directors propose to the annual general meeting that dividends of DKK 13.50 per share be paid for the 2022 financial year, corresponding to an 8% increase and a total of DKK 5.7 billion.

This is in line with our dividend policy of increasing dividends annually towards 2025 by a high single-digit percentage, compared to the previous years’ dividends.

Outlook 2023

Our financial outlook for 2023 is as follows:

We expect EBITDA, excluding new partnership agreements, to be DKK 20–23 billion.

We expect our gross investments to amount to DKK 50–54 billion. This reflects our expectations of continued high investment levels in the build-out of green energy.

Summary

In 2022, an energy crisis was added to the global climate and biodiversity crisis.

The renewable energy industry has been challenged by supply chain bottlenecks, higher costs, inflation, and the slowed permitting process of new projects. Despite these challenges, renewable energy has proven to be significantly cheaper than any fossil fuel alternative, and it has also proven to be the best possible insurance policy against future increase of energy prices, like those seen last year.

That is why action must be taken to accelerate the pace of investments needed in renewable energy – and to overcome regulatory and political barriers to focus on fast and streamlined permitting processes, which today continue to represent a major bottleneck within our industry.

We believe this is possible, and we’re pleased to see the political awareness and support given to the build-out of renewable energy over the past year. And in Ørsted, we’re well positioned to continue playing a key role in the necessary build-out in the years ahead.
Despite all the challenges, we have made important steps in 2022, while maintaining our keen focus on sustainability. Financially, we generated a record-high operating profit. Considering this, the Board of Directors concludes that the 2022 financial statements are satisfactory.

Once again, we would like to thank Ørsted’s employees and management for safely guiding us through a period of global uncertainty.

Thank you for your attention. I’ll now turn over the floor to the Chair of the Meeting.