

BASEL,

October 31, 2024

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## AD HOC ANNOUNCEMENT PURSUANT TO ART. 53 LR

# Avolta delivers another set of strong results across all KPIs in 9M and will cancel 4% of its share capital

Avolta marks its 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive quarter of strong growth in Q3, as it continues to successfully execute its Destination 2027 strategy. The company confirms its medium-term targets and will cancel approximately 6.1 million treasury shares (4% of issued share capital) in 2024 in line with its reinforced shareholder focused capital allocation policy.

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- 9M reported turnover CHF 10,371 million, CORE turnover 10,172 million, organic growth +6.6%, like-for-like +6.8%, CORE EBITDA CHF 1,012 million, EBITDA margin 9.9%, EFCF CHF 445 million (+46% YoY)
- Q3 reported turnover CHF 3,908 million, CORE turnover CHF 3,830 million, organic growth +5.7%, like-for-like +5.9%, CORE EBITDA CHF 443 million, EBITDA margin 11.6%, EFCF CHF 232 million (+65% YoY)
- Avolta remains confident in delivering its outlook and confirms its Destination 2027 targets: growing the business organically and through bolt-on acquisitions, expanding profitability and cash generation with a target leverage of 1.5x to 2.0x
- The focus on shareholder value is reflected in Avolta's reinforced capital allocation policy, according to which we will return excess cash to shareholders via dividends and potential share buybacks over the coming years
- Consistent with this, Avolta announces that it will cancel approximately 6.1 million treasury shares (4% of issued share capital) in 2024
- Bank facility of EUR 2,400 million refinanced, extending the maturity profile and reducing financing costs

**Xavier Rossinyol, CEO of Avolta, stated:** "We are very pleased with our strong trading performance over the peak summer months which underscores our confidence in Avolta's outlook for 2024 and the years beyond in line with our Destination 2027 strategy.

Consistent with our strategy of traveler centricity, we have recently announced Club Avolta, a unique loyalty program available in all our locations worldwide.

Capitalizing on our global platform, we have a clear focus to grow the business organically expanding our profitability and cash generation, while targeting leverage of 1.5x to 2.0x. This focus on shareholder value is reflected in our reinforced capital allocation policy, according to which we will return excess cash to shareholders via dividends and potential share buybacks over the coming years. This starts with the cancellation of 4% of outstanding shares in 2024."



#### 9M24 KEY FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

9M consolidated turnover reached CHF 10,371 million with CORE turnover of CHF 10,172 million, up +6.6% on an organic basis. For Q3, CORE turnover grew +5.7% organic and +4.4% reported.

CORE Turnover Growth	9M 2024 vs 9M 2023	Q3 2024 vs Q3 2023
Like for Like <sup>1</sup>	6.8%	5.9%
New concessions, net	-0.3%	-0.2%
Organic Growth	6.6%	5.7%
Change in Scope	3.5%	0.0%
Growth (CER)	10.0%	5.7%
FX Impact	-1.6%	-1.3%
Growth (AER)	8.4%	4.4%

Avolta's 9M CORE EBITDA came in at CHF 1,012 million with an EBITDA margin of 9.9%, +40bps YoY. For Q3, the EBITDA margin was 11.6%, up +60bps YoY driven by commercial performance and productivity increases.

9M EFCF amounted to CHF 445 million, with Q3 EFCF totalling CHF 232 million, +65% YoY and comfortably ahead of expectations.

The combined group's financial net debt stood at CHF 2,617 million as at end-September 2024, implying a leverage (net debt/CORE EBITDA) of 2.16x.

In October, Avolta refinanced its revolving credit facility (RCF), extending it by two years (through to 2029). Avolta anticipates interest expense savings of approximately CHF 10 million per annum.

## 9M24 KEY OPERATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Avolta's key strategic growth projects are advancing as planned. Strengthening its local partnership with Mass Transit Railway (MTR) in Hong Kong, the company has entered into an agreement to acquire 100% of Free Duty at an accretive multiple, extending its presence to six locations, reaching an additional 150 million travelers, and significantly expanding its footprint in Hong Kong. This regional acquisition, which is subject to customary conditions precedent to closing, accelerates the execution of Avolta's Destination 2027 strategy in the APAC region, driving continuous revenue growth with attractive margins.

Avolta launched Club Avolta in October, a pioneering loyalty program that brings together duty-free, duty-paid, convenience, F&B, brands, airports, airlines, hotels, and more across Avolta's 5,100 outlets worldwide.

-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Without Argentinean effect, 9M Like-for-Like Growth vs 2023 would be 8.0%



# **REGIONAL PERFORMANCE 9M 2024**

CORE Turnover (CHFm)	Q3 2024	Q3 2023	Growth vs 2023	FX Impact vs 2023	Organic Growth vs 2023
Europe, Middle East and Africa	2,156	2,002	7.7%	-0.7%	8.5%
North America	1,109	1,081	2.6%	-2.1%	4.7%
Latin America	392	422	-7.1%	-2.0%	-5.0%
Asia Pacific	143	135	5.9%	-2.3%	8.3%
Avolta Group	3,830	3,668	4.4%	-1.3%	5.7%
CORE Turnover (CHFm)	9M 2024	9M 2023	Growth vs 2023	FX Impact vs 2023	Organic Growth vs 2023
Europe, Middle East and Africa	5,268	4,747	11.0%	-1.1%	9.2%
North America	3,242	2,946	10.0%	-1.9%	6.1%
Latin America	1,159	1,198	-3.3%	-2.2%	-1.0%
Asia Pacific	425	420	1.3%	-3.3%	1.1%
Avolta Group	10,172	9,383	8.4%	-1.6%	6.6%

# **IFRS/CORE TURNOVER RECONCILIATION**

3Q 2024 (CHFm)	Turnover IFRS	Fuel Sales Adjustments	Turnover CORE
Europe, Middle East and Africa	2,234	78	2,156
North America	1,109		1,109
Latin America	392		392
Asia Pacific	143		143
Avolta Group	3,908		3,830

9M 2024 (CHFm)	Turnover IFRS	Fuel Sales Adjustments	Turnover CORE
Europe, Middle East and Africa	5,466	198	5,268
North America	3,242		3,242
Latin America	1,159		1,159
Asia Pacific	425		425
Avolta Group	10,371		10,172



#### **MEDIUM-TERM OUTLOOK**

Avolta confirms its CORE turnover growth target of 5%-7% p.a. on average at constant exchange rates in line with its Destination 2027 strategy. Avolta is committed to deliver +20-40bps of CORE EBITDA margin improvement p.a. as it continues to increase its operational efficiency, and +100-150bps EFCF conversion, with a c. 4% CAPEX on CORE turnover p.a.

#### REINFORCED CAPITAL ALLOCATION POLICY

Capitalizing on its integrated and transformed platform and in line with its Destination 2027 strategy, Avolta has a clear focus to deliver organic growth, EBITDA margin expansion and higher EFCF conversion, and clear commitment to drive shareholder value.

Avolta continues to prioritize organic investment to drive growth. The company will continue to selectively consider value-accretive cash funded M&A opportunities, maintaining a high threshold for strategic and financial returns.

To maintain an efficient capital structure, Avolta's target is to operate with leverage of approximately 1.5x - 2.0x over the medium term, with flexibility to move up to 2.5x for business opportunities. Avolta's consistent strong operating cash generation and the progress being made with deleveraging means that there will be opportunities to return excess capital to shareholders by way of dividends and potential share buybacks.

Furthermore, supported by the company's strong balance sheet and financial performance, and in line with the Destination 2027 outlook, Avolta will cancel approximately 6.1 million treasury shares (4% of issued share capital) in 2024.



#### For further information

#### **Contact**

#### Rebecca McClellan

Global Head Investor Relations



rebecca.mcclellan@avolta.net



+44 7543 800 405

## **Cathy Jongens**

Director Corporate Communications



cathy.jongens@avolta.net



+41 79 288 09 36

## Legal Disclaimer

This document contains certain forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements may be identified by words such as 'believes', 'expects', 'anticipates', 'projects', "targets", 'intends', 'estimates', 'future', "outlook", or similar expressions or by discussion of, among other things, strategy, goals, plans, intentions or financial performance. All forward-looking statements included in this document are based on current expectations, estimates and projections of Avolta AG (the "Company") about the factors that may affect its future performance. Factors that could cause the Company's results to deviate from such forward-looking statements include, among others: global GDP trends, competition in the markets in which the Company operates, unfavorable changes in airline passenger traffic, unfavorable changes in taxation and restrictions on the duty-free sale in countries where the company operates. Although the Company believes that its expectations reflected in any such forward-looking statement are based upon reasonable assumptions, it can give no assurance that those expectations will be achieved. The Company assumes no obligation to update forward-looking statements included in this document.

The Company does not sponsor, participate in or assist any American Depositary Receipts ("ADRs") program. ADR holders are not shareholders of the Company and are not entitled to the same rights as holders of bearer shares or registered shares of the Company. To the extent that any ADR depository or ADR holder obtains any information regarding the Company, whether from the Company directly (including but not limited to investor presentations, investor relations materials, or other presentations), or otherwise, the Company does not endorse or support using that information in connection with any such ADR program.

Alternative Performance Measures: This document contains information regarding alternative performance measures. Definitions of these measures and reconciliations between such measures and their IFRS counterparts if not defined in the document may be found on pages 29-34 of the Avolta Half-Year Report available on our website at <a href="https://www.avoltaworld.com/en/investors">https://www.avoltaworld.com/en/investors</a>.

#### **About Avolta**

Avolta AG (SIX: AVOL) is a leading global travel experience player. With the traveler at its strategic core, Avolta maximizes every moment of the traveler's journey through its combination of travel retail and travel food & beverage, passion for innovation and excellent execution. Avolta's well-diversified business across geographical, channel and brand portfolio pillars operates in 73 countries and 1,000 locations, with over 5,100 points of sale across three segments – duty-free, food & beverage and convenience – and various channels, including airports, motorways, cruises ferries, railway, border shops and downtown. An inherent element of Avolta's business strategy is found in ESG, aiming for sustainable and profitable growth of the company while fostering high standards of environmental stewardship and social equity – making meaningful impact in the local communities. The company's access to 2.3 billion passengers each year reinforces the power of it's more than 76,000 people, committed to surprising guests and delivering solid execution, supporting the company in creating value for all stakeholders.

To learn more about Avolta, please visit avoltaworld.com