26th November 2023

The Listing Department, The Calcutta Stock Exchange Ltd. 7, Lyons Range, Kolkata - 700001

The Manager The Department of Corporate Services, BSE Limited, P. J. Towers, Dalal Street, Mumbai - 400001

Script Code- 531241

The Manager, The Listing Department, National Stock Exchange of India Limited, Exchange Plaza, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East] Mumbai - 400051

Symbol- LINC

Dear Sir,

Re: Strategy Presentation
Please find enclosed herewith the Updated Strategy Presentation for the half yearly ended 30th September, 2023.

Thanking You
Yours faithfully
For LINC LIMITED

| KAUSHIK | Digitally signed by KAUSHIK <br> RAHA |
| :--- | :--- |
| RAHA | Date: 2023.11 .26 20:10:03 <br> $+05 ' 30 '$ |

KAUSHIK RAHA
Company Secretary

Encl: as above

## November 2023

NSE : LINC
BSE : LINC
Bloomberg : LINC:IN

# STRATEGY PRESENTATION. 

## Safe Harbour Statement.

This presentation may contain certain "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of applicable securities laws and regulations, which may include those describing the Company's strategies, strategic direction, objectives, future projects and/or prospects, estimates etc. Investors are cautioned that "forward looking statements" are based on certain assumptions of future events over which the Company exercises no control. Therefore, there can be no guarantee as to their accuracy and readers are advised not to place any undue reliance on these forward-looking statements. The Company undertakes no obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events, or otherwise. These statements involve a number of risks, uncertainties and other factors that could cause actual results or positions to differ materially from those that may be projected or implied by these forwardlooking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to; growth, competition, acquisitions, domestic and international economic conditions affecting demand, supply and price conditions in the various business's verticals in the Company's portfolio, changes in Government regulations, laws, statutes, judicial pronouncement, tax regimes, and the ability to attract and retain high quality human resource.

## Inside this Presentation.

Future of Writing Instrument
Industry Outlook
Why Linc
Financial Snapshot


## Future of Writing Instruments.

## Why traditional pens will persist alongside digital tools?

- Cultural Significance: Writing Instruments hold cultural and traditional importance in many societies. Rituals, ceremonies, cultural practices continue to drive the demand for pens and other writing tools
- Education Sector: The Education Sector remains a significant driver. Increased enrolment in schools and colleges, coupled with focus on learning aids continues to drive the need for writing instruments despite digital advancements
- Corporate Use: Writing Instruments are often used in a corporate setting for note taking, signing documents, and other tasks

- Corporate Gifting \& Promotions: Writing Instruments are popular choices for gifting, cross promotions and branding


## Future of Writing Instruments.

## Why traditional pens will persist alongside digital tools?

- Artistic \& Creative Expression: Pens, markers and other writing tools are essential for Artists and Creative professionals
- Stationery Culture: The Stationery culture, driven by a love for well designed notebooks, planners, and writing accessories, contributes to the demand for quality writing instruments
- Tactile Experience: Despite digital advances, many people still appreciate the tactile experience of writing with pen and paper, contributing to the ongoing demand for writing Instruments

- Population \& Literacy: Increase in Population and Literacy in developing economies will continue to drive usage of traditional writing instruments

A study of Japanese university students and recent graduates has revealed that writing on physical paper can lead to more brain activity when remembering the information an hour later. Researchers say that the unique, complex, spatial and tactile information associated with writing by hand on physical paper is likely to lead to improved memory. (Source: Science Daily)

## Industry Outlook.

## Global Stationery Industry Opportunity.

Global Stationery Products Market


- The stationery industry is divided into paper and nonpaper stationery, the latter accounting for the larger share
- US Market estimated at US\$52 Bn in 2020

CAGR 1.81\%

- China Market projected to grow @ CAGR 3.6\%, to reach US\$42 Bn during 2020-27 period
- Japan to grow at 0.2\%, Canada to grow at 1.3\% and Germany to grow at 0.7\% during 2020-27 period


## Global Writing Instrument Industry Opportunity.

Global Writing Instruments Market ${ }^{1}$


Global Ball Point and Gel Pen Market ${ }^{2}$


Share of Relevant Market

|  | 2020 | 2027 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Ball \& Gel Pen | $36 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| Roller | $9 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Total | $45 \%$ | $50 \%$ |



Writing \& Marking Instruments Market Size ${ }^{2}$

- The USA is estimated at US\$4.7 Billion in the year 2022.
- China is forecasted to reach a projected market size of US\$8.7 Billion by the year 2030 at CAGR of $14.7 \%$ by 2030
- Japan and Canada, each forecasted to grow at $4.6 \%$ and $7.7 \%$ respectively over the 20222030 period, while Germany is forecasted to grow at $\sim 5.6 \%$ CAGR.

Market Scope

- Corporate gifting market at $\$ 120$ bn
- Colouring instrument demand growing faster, due to surge in demand for highlighters, markers, etc
- Pens continue to be the largest share at ~60\%


## Opportunity in Indian Market.

## Writing Instruments Market Growth Drivers

- Rising Populations:
- Largest population in age bracket of 5-24 years ~580 million.
- Indian working population to grow $\sim 20 \%$ and education market to grow ~ $14 \%$, hence Writing Instrument growth prospects are very strong
- Over $\mathbf{2 5 0}$ million school going students and over 38 million students enrolled in higher education
- Rising literacy rate: Govt. initiative such as Sarva Shiksha has strengthened India's literacy from 65\% in 2001 to ~77.70\% in 2021. The objective of attaining 100\% literacy levels by 2025 could have a positive impact on the writing instruments sector.
- Educational Spending : Budget estimates for 2023-24 show that the government will spend ₹ 1.12 lakh crore in the coming fiscal year on education - the highest ever and an increase of around $8.2 \%$ than what was pegged in 2022-23
- NEP 2020 aims to achieve $100 \%$ GER ${ }^{2}$ by 2030 in prechool-secondary level. Policy also seeks to increase public investment in education to $6 \%$ of GDP from $2.5 \%$ in fiscal 2024 budgetary estimates.


## Indian Writing Instrument Industry Opportunity.

## Indian Pen Segment

- Demand is driven by students and working-class population
- As of FY23 Pens occupy $65 \%$ share in Writing Instruments, and expected to increase market share to $68 \%$ by FY28
- Pen Market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 7.5\%-8.5\% from ₹ 43.1 Bn in FY23 to ₹ $62-65 \mathrm{bn}$ in FY28.


## Indian Pencil Segment

- Pencil is the primary writing instrument till class $5^{\text {th }}$, and hence demand is driven by students in class $5^{\text {th }}$ and below.
- Wooden pencils continue to dominate the market despite innovations like mechanical pencils.
- Pencils are expected to grow at a CAGR of $4.5 \%-5.5 \%$ from ₹ 18.2 bn in FY23 to ₹ $23-24$ bn in FY28.


## Indian Marker and Highlighter Segment

- Markers are primarily used by office workers, white board markers being the most popular choice in office workers and students.
- Marker and Highlighter Market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 5\% - 6.5\% from ₹ 5.1 bn in FY23 to ₹ $6.5-7$ bn in FY28.


## Indian Writing Instrument Industry Opportunity.

Indian Pen Segment Market Size


- The Indian pen industry is characterised by a wide range of options at various price levels, each with distinct value propositions
- Market for Pen below ₹ 15 growing at ~8\% \& above ₹ 15 growing at ~ $10 \%$
- Linc, Cello, Flair, and Reynolds are the major players in the Indian pen market in the mass segment category
- Numerous brands offer bundled packs of 5 pieces or above, allowing them in pricing units at odd multiples

Indian Pen Market subsegments


- Mass Market Pens are driven by volume, this subsegment is highly competitive (price denominations play a crucial role in salability).
- It is difficult to increase price without losing significant sales. Students drive the demand, deep retail penetration is essential
- Premium Pens are driven by price, this subsegment is characterized by high brand leverage, as the premium is built on product branding. Focus is on Professionals and Corporate Gifting


## Pens - Global Trade Perspective.

Top 10 Importers of Pens in CY 2022


Pen Exports from India


[^0]lincpen.com

Launch planned for
Pentonic GRT @ Rs 40
(a retractable gel pen)


## LINC

was founded

Uniball ball \& Roller Pens introduced in collaboration with

In

Umergaon
Production
commenced in new factory

E


Pentonic was launched. It was a Game Changer that featured
Minimalistic design \& Price at Rs 10 acquired 13\% Stake in Linc

FY 23
490
\|FY03 FY04 FY05 \|FY06 FY07 FY08 FY09 \|FY10 FY11 FY12\| FY13 \|FY14 FY15 FY16 FY17 FY18\|FY19 \|FY20 FY21 FY22 FY23 6M FY

## Our Portfolio of Products.

## LINC

- Among Top 3 brands in India for Writing Instruments.
- Presence in the affordable segment for over 4 decades



## pentonic

driven by design

- New Writing Instrument brand launched in FY19 by Linc in MRP ₹10 and above segment.
- Known for its super smooth writing and sleek design.



## unMTSUEISHI PENCIL

- Global brand from Mitsubishi Pencil Co. Ltd, Japan.
- Presence across all categories of Writing Instruments - Roller Pen, Gel Pen and Ball Pen.



## deli

- Asia’s largest stationery giant.
- Presence across all stationery categories with over 2000 Products.




## Pentonic's Upcoming Launches.



## Trend of Financial Performance.








## Leadership.

## MR. DEEPAK JALAN

## Managing director,

- Commerce graduate with 37 years of experience
- Responsible for the overall operations with a specialization in international operations
- Responsible for the Company's strategic direction


## MR. ALOKE JALAN

## Whole time director,

- Commerce graduate with 32 years of experience in the business
- Looks after the Company's marketing operations with special emphasis on Western and Southern regions


## MR. ROHIT DEEPAK JALAN

## Whole time director,

- BA Hons. in Management studies from University of Nottingham, UK and PG Diploma in Business Management with specialization in Marketing
- Heading International Business and Marketing Department of the Company


## MR. N.K.DUJARI

## Director finance \& CFO,

- Chartered Accountant with $34^{\text {th }}$ Rank (All India) and a Company Secretary
- Alumnus of St. Xavier's College, Calcutta with over 34 years of professional experience in varied fields
- Joined Linc in the year 2000


## MR. ANIL KOCHAR

Independent, Non-executive director,

- Postgraduate in Commerce and LLB
- An eminent advisor on income tax matters


## MS. SUPRIYA NEWAR

Independent, Non-executive director,

- Author, Writer and a Communications specialist with over two decades of invaluable experience
- Believes in both the beauty and the might of the pen


## MR. NARESH PACHISIA

## Independent, Non-executive director,

- Founder \& MD, SKP Securities Ltd.
- SKP Securities Ltd is Eastern India's leading investment banker, wealth manager and stockbroker with over 40 years' experience in capital markets


## MR. SANJAY JHUNJHUNWALLA

Independent, Non-executive director,

- Commerce graduate with over 35 years of experience across diverse areas
- Specialization in retail-driven growth
- Whole Time Director \& driving force behind Turtle India


## Why Linc?



## Focus on Premiumisation.

Growth in average realization of Pens

- Pentonic brand introduced in FY19 as a minimalistic yet contemporary pen, known for its aesthetics as well as writing smoothness
₹



## Focus on Premiumisation.

Number of Pens


Positioned at ₹ 10 + segment, Pentonic's GPM is $\sim 41 \%$


## Focus on Premiumisation.



- Increase in share of Pentonic in total revenue led to higher GPM at the company level.
- New Launches in the upcoming quarters will drive premiumization


## Increasing it's Global Footprint As Well.

Linc's Geographic Reach - H1 FY 24

| Pen Exports from India - 2022 | Value <br> USD Millions | Growth <br> over 2021 |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| South \& Central America (SA) | 30 | $66 \%$ |
| Middle East (ME) | 41 | $80 \%$ |
| Africa | 43 | $38 \%$ |
| South East Asia (SEA) | 23 | $49 \%$ |
| Total Exports | $\mathbf{2 3 8}$ | $\mathbf{3 0 \%}$ |

- Global Ball \& Gel Pen demand expected to grow at a CAGR of 12.5\% over the next 7-8 years
- Demand to grow faster in the developing world
- Increasing literacy in the developing world to drive this growth
- This poses excellent opportunity to increase exports to the developing world
- While overall export of pens from India grew by $30 \%$ in 2022, Africa, ME, SEA \& SA grew at a much higher rate
- Linc exports at ₹ 3,808 lacs is $\sim 16 \%$ of it's revenue in H1 FY 24
- Linc to continue its focus on exports to SEA, ME \& SA
- To improve penetration in the fast-growing African market, the company has acquired a majority stake in Kenyan manufacturer \& seller of writing instruments


## Recent Participation in Global Expos.



Scofex, South Africa, 2023

## Recent Participation in Global Expos.



Ambiente, Frankfurt, Germany, 2023

## Recent Participation in Global Expos



Escolar, Brazil, 2023

## Recent Participation in Global Expos.



## Inroads into Stationery Products.

- Targeting ₹1 Billion of revenue from Deli by FY26
- Deli offers a range of over 200 products in India
- Company to largely focus on Calculators \& Scissors
- Deli should contribute at least $10 \%$ of company's revenue by FY25
- Deli's GPM is around 20\%
- Deli has achieved the revenue of ₹1,619 Lacs in H1 FY'24



## Focus on Shareholder Value Creation.

Net Cash from Operating Activities Vs Dividend Payout


- NCOA \# Dividend ——Dividend Payout \%
- NCOA continues to be strong in H1 FY 24
- Consistent Dividend Pay-out track record (Other than Covid years due to cash conservation)

Net Debt and Net Debt/Operating EBITDA

- Steady and significant decrease in Net Debt
- NCOA used judiciously to reduce Debt - Nil Debt and free cash of ₹567 lacs as on $30^{\text {th }}$ Sep 2023
- Capex commitment funded largely through internal cash generation
- Net Debt / Operating EBITDA reduced significantly from peak of 2.54 in FY 2018 to (0.12) in H1 FY 2024


## Increased Touch Points...


——Total touch points ——Kiranas, Medical Stores, Pan Stores etc.

- India has over 10 Mn non-stationery outlets
- Broken tradition by expanding to neighbourhood grocery stores (Kirana, Medical stores, Pan stores, etc.)
- We have already crossed the milestone of 1 lakh nonstationery outlets
- Focus will be on increasing revenue per touchpoint

Break-up of Region wise Touch Points - Sep' 2023


## ...Resulting in Broader Penetration Across India.

Revenue Share FY19


Revenue Share H1 FY 24


Increasing footprint in West and South India and steadily moving towards a more homogenous presence across India

## ESG

## Environment

- Pentonic's individual plastic wrapper packaging has been consciously substituted with paper box packaging of 10/20pcs
- This step has saved the planet from around 90 MT of plastic waste in FY23 while also having saved company ~ ₹ 300 lacs in packaging cost
- Pentonic pen, with $83 \%$ recycled plastic, is set to be launched soon


## Social

- Strongly believes in diversity in the workforce and has ~700 female employees at Gujarat
- Employs a small speciallyabled workforce, also providing training to these employees to enable efficient performance
- Long-standing partner of "Friends of Tribal Society" in providing support for education \& other welfare activities


## Governance

- Consistently endeavored to practice good Corporate Governance
- Believes such practices are founded upon the core values of transparency, empowerment, accountability, independent monitoring and environmental consciousness



## EKG




Yes, it's a weapon. But discarded carelessly, a plastic pen becomes a weapon of mass destruction.

For starters, it is difficult to recycle and emits toxic chemicals. Plastic pollution also plays havoc on soil nutrients and contaminates the water. As a result, trees wither away and animals die by getting poisoned, chocked or pierced mercilessly.

The next time you throw a plastic pen away, think again. All it takes is to buy a refill. An act that will slow down pollution and buy some more time for this only planet of ours

## LINC

Financial Snapshot.

## Half Year Highlights (Cont..).

₹ Lacs

| Revenue | Writing Instruments |  |  | Other Products |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Own Brands |  | Licensed Brands | Own Brands |  | Licensed Brands |
|  | Pentonic | Linc \& Others | Uni-Ball | Pentonic | Linc \& Others | Deli |
| H1 FY24 | 7,598 | 9,783 | 3,854 | 364 | 1.138 | 1,619 |
| Sales Contribution (\%) | 31.2\% | 40.2\% | 15.8\% | 1.5\% | 4.7\% | 6.6\% |
| H1 FY23 | 6,343 | 10,645 | 3,002 | 40 | 168 | 1,147 |
| Sales Contribution (\%) | 29.7\% | 49.9\% | 14.1\% | 0.2\% | 0.8\% | 5.4\% |
| Growth YoY | 19.8\% | (8.1\%) | 28.4\% | 809.5\% | 577.4\% | 41.2\% |

## Half Year Highlights (Cont..).

Trade Channel Wise Break-up of Operating Revenue


## Profit \& Loss Summary.

| Particulars | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | H1 FY24 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Operating Income | 36,694 | 39,699 | 25,666 | 35,496 | 48,676 | 24,309 |
| Gross Profit | 7,434 | 9,805 | 5,753 | 8,441 | 15,197 | 7,427 |
| Gross Profit Margin | 20.3\% | 24.7\% | 22.4\% | 23.8\% | 31.2\% | 30.6\% |
| Operating EBITDA | 2,539 | 3,826 | 1,017 | 2,153 | 6,136 | 2,574 |
| Operating EBITDA Margin | 6.9\% | 9.6\% | 4.0\% | 6.1\% | 12.6\% | 10.6\% |
| PAT | 515 | 1,925 | 4 | 813 | 3,740 | 1,509 |
| PAT Margin | 1.4\% | 4.8\% | 0.0\% | 2.3\% | 7.6\% | 6.1\% |
| Cash Profit ${ }^{1}$ | 1,561 | 3,179 | 1,273 | 2,095 | 5,151 | 2,262 |
| EPS (₹) | 3.48 | 12.94 | 0.03 | 5.47 | 25.15 | 10.15 |

Note:

1. Cash Profit = PAT + Depreciation
2. Prior period figures are restated wherever necessary

## Balance Sheet Summary.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Particulars | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY22 | FY23 | H1 FY24 |

[^1]
## Ratios.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  | ₹ Lacs |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Particulars | Ratios | FY19 | FY20 | FY21 | FY 22 | FY23 | H1 FY24 |
| Solvency Ratios | Net Debt/Equity | 0.50 | 0.33 | 0.06 | 0.02 | (0.04) | (0.03) |
|  | Net Debt/Op EBITDA | 2.44 | 1.19 | 0.78 | 0.13 | (0.12) | (0.12) |
|  | EBIT/Interest | 2.76 | 5.26 | -0.39 | 15.81 | 79.78 | 18.24 |
| Operational Ratios | Current Ratio | 1.68 | 1.85 | 1.92 | 2.14 | 2.56 | 2.65 |
|  | Fixed Asset Turnover | 5.15 | 5.15 | 3.43 | 4.63 | 5.64 | 4.87 |
|  | Total Asset Turnover | 1.56 | 1.66 | 1.15 | 1.77 | 2.22 | 1.95 |
|  | Inventory Days | 107 | 113 | 154 | 98 | 89 | 100 |
|  | Debtor Days | 44 | 39 | 56 | 36 | 27 | 27 |
|  | Payable Days | 40 | 45 | 86 | 60 | 48 | 48 |
|  | Cash Conversion Cycle | 111 | 107 | 124 | 74 | 68 | 79 |
| Return Ratios | ROE | 4.22\% | 14.79\% | 0.03\% | 5.86\% | 23.37\% | 16.68\% |
|  | ROCE | 8.97\% | 14.89\% | -0.62\% | 7.67\% | 30.24\% | 21.84\% |

Note:
ROCE $=$ EBIT / Average Capital Employed \& ROE $=$ Net Profit / Average Net worth
YTD figures are annualized

## Shareholding Pattern.



- Promoters
- Mitshubishi Pencil Co Ltd

■ IEPF
NRI, FII, AIF etc.
Other Public

As on $30^{\text {th }}$ September'23

## Thank You.

For further details please contact

Director Finance \& CFO
N.K.Dujari

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Investor Relations Advisor
(II) Uirtus Advisors LLP

Sanjeev Sancheti
Email: ss@uirtus.in
Phone No.: +91 9836244222


## Typical Price Waterfall.

| Particulars | Pentonic <br> Ball Pen | Others |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| MRP | ₹ 10.00 | $₹ 10.00$ |
| Retailer Margin | $₹ 2.50$ | $₹ 3.25$ |
| Distributor Margin | $₹ 0.48$ | $₹ 0.47$ |
| Super Stockist / Channel Partner Margin | $₹ 0.28$ | $₹ 0.25$ |
| GST (For entire value chain) | $₹ 1.14$ | $₹ 1.03$ |
| Company's Realisation | $₹ 5.60$ | $₹ 5.00$ |


[^0]:    Source : tradestat.commerce.gov.in ; comtradeplus.un.org ; oec.world

[^1]:    Note:

    1. Capital Employed $=$ Net worth + Gross Debt + Other long-term liabilities + Lease Liabilities
    2. Net current assets does not include Cash \& cash equivalents
