

# A Better Digital Garage

December 2022

www.abetterDG.com

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# 1. Executive Summary



### **Executive Summary**

- Digital Garage Inc. ("DG" or the "Company") is a payment service provider and investment business with great potential; however, management has not been able to realize its true value:
  - The Financial Technology ("FT") segment, which runs the payment service provider business, has fallen behind its main competitor, GMO Payment Gateway, Inc. ("GMO PG"), in terms of growth. We believe this is due to a lack of management focus and insufficient sales staff resources.
  - The Incubation Technology ("IT") segment has not yet leveraged its great track record of stellar performance.
- We believe DG will be a better company if it splits into two fully independent entities: DG Financial Technology and DG Investments.
  - Under our proposed plan, DG's current Financial Technology segment and Marketing Technology ("MT") segment will become DG Financial Technology.
  - DG's current Incubation Technology segment and Long-term Incubation ("LTI") segment will become DG Investments.
- The FT segment and IT segment can achieve their full potential under this new proposed structure:
  - Spinning off DG Financial Technology as an independent company would significantly increase management's focus on competing with GMO PG and capitalizing on Japan's shift towards cashless payments. The FT sales department should also increase personnel and establish a project management department, appealing to the strength of DG's product and creating sales teams specialized by sector.
  - An independent DG Investments could leverage its stellar track record to raise third party capital to invest alongside DG in the continued opportunity set. This would be easier to achieve as a standalone entity. While DG currently has KK DG Daiwa Ventures as an equity method consolidated company for this purpose, we believe an independent DG Investments could further raise third party capital and expand the business.
- DG's businesses would also benefit from a fully engaged, independent CEO. DG's Chairman, Mr. Kaoru Hayashi, holds a concurrent position as Chairman of Kakaku.com Inc. We believe Mr. Kaoru Hayashi should step down from this role to focus on the growth of DG's FT segment.
- DG is asset rich; however, investors are not confident that the Company will return capital to shareholders. DG Financial
  Technology should focus on returns to shareholders through capital gain, and DG Investments should focus on shareholder
  returns through buybacks and dividends. This will send a clear message to investors, and shareholders will then apply value to
  the Company's significant net cash (incl. Kakaku shares), which accounts for 61% of DG's current market cap.
- In addition, DG should fully divest its Kakaku shares.
- With these changes, we believe DG can increase estimated 2025 profit before tax by 6.8Bn yen and realize nearly 100% upside to its share price.
- We urge DG's management to seriously consider these proposals and seek shareholder approval for them at the next AGM.

OASIS

# DG Will Be a Better Company if it Splits into DG Financial Technology and DG Investments

• DG will be a better company if it splits into two completely independent entities: DG Financial Technology (Current FT segment + MT segment) and DG Investments (IT segment + LTI segment)

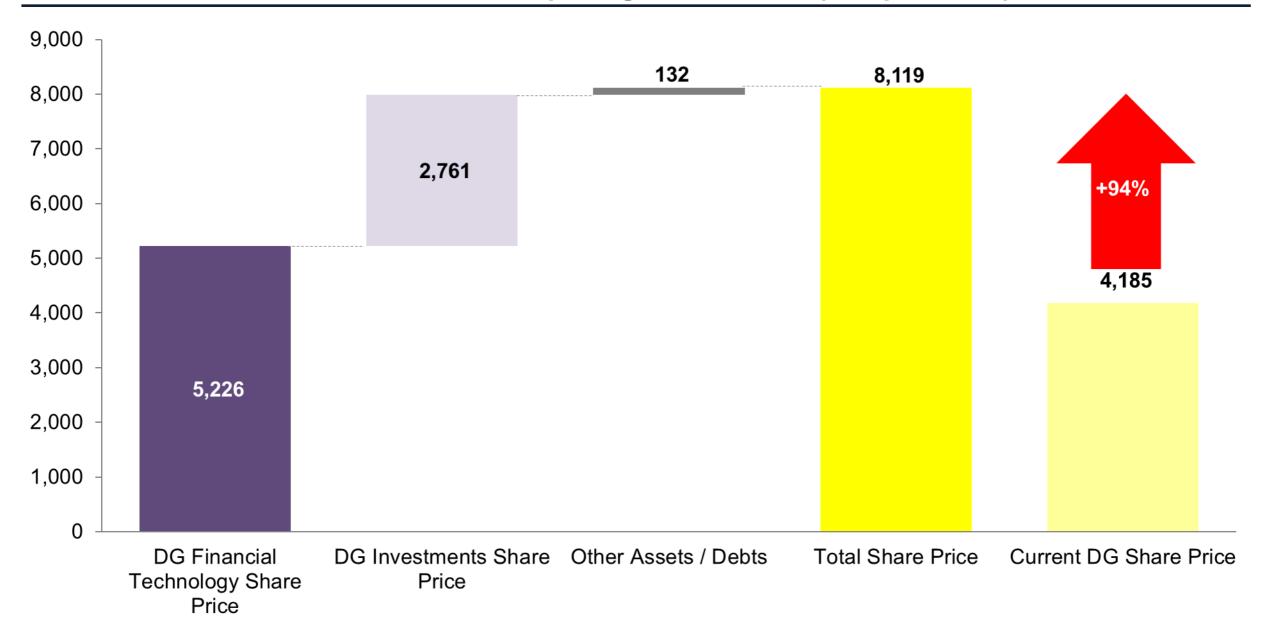
### **Current DG Business** Digital Garage MT LT FT ΙT Tax Free Spin-off **DG After Spinning-Off DG Financial Technology DG Financial DG** Investments **Technology** LT MT IT FT

# DG's Stock Price Could Near Double if the Businesses Realize Their Potential

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- Current DG stock price is deeply discounted from the Company's intrinsic value
- We estimate a +94% upside if the Company unlocks its value

#### **DG Share Price After Splitting the Business (JPY per share)**



# We Urge DG's Board to Conduct a Tax-Free Spin-Off to Create DG Financial Technology

- DG's Board should propose a tax-free spin-off of the FT and MT segments to create DG Financial Technology at the next AGM
- This corporate action would significantly increase management engagement with and focus on each of the businesses, and increase the value of DG as a whole
- As a milestone, DG should announce the benefits of creating DG Financial Technology by mid-March 2023 so that investors can understand the benefits



## 2. Digital Garage Overview

### **Digital Garage Overview**

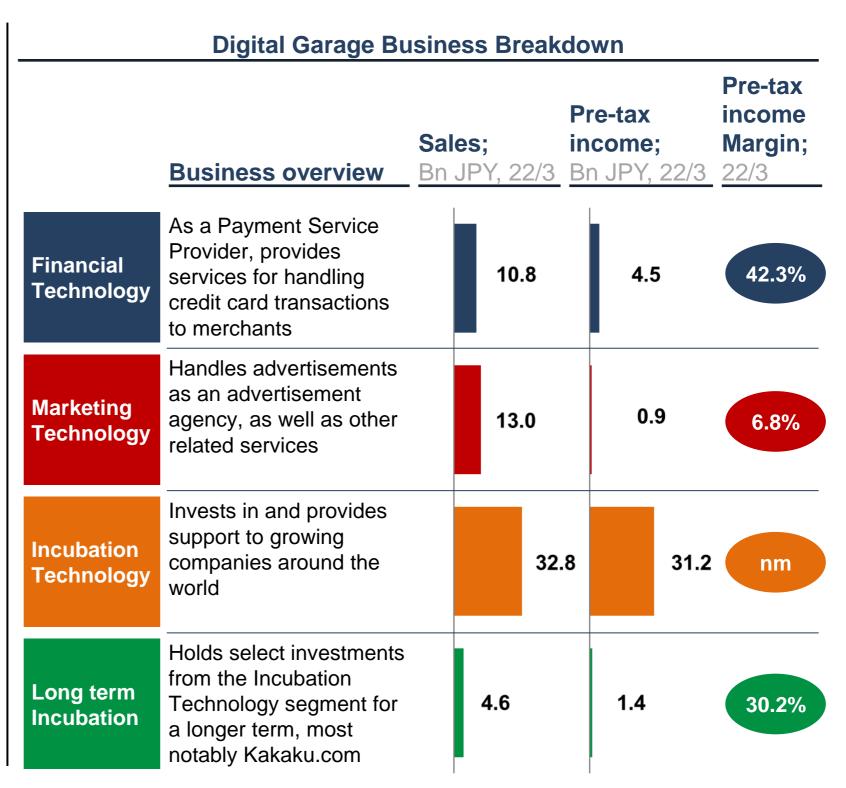
Source: Company Disclosures

#### **Company Overview**

- Name: Digital Garage, Inc.
- Ticker: 4819 JP Equity
- Founded: October 1937
- Headquarters: 3-5-7 Ebisuminami
   Shibuya-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, 150-0022
- Website: <a href="www.garage.co.jp/">www.garage.co.jp/</a>

#### **Board of Directors**

- Representative Director
  - Kaoru Hayashi
- Member, Board of Directors and Co-Founder
  - Joi Ito
- Member, Board of Directors
  - Keizo Odori
  - Masahito Okuma
  - Hiroshi Shino
  - Masashi Tanaka
- Outside Directors
  - Makoto Sakai
  - Emi Omura
  - Hiromi Ozaki
- Director, Audit and Supervisory Committee Member
  - Yasuyuki Rokuyata
  - Junji Inoue
  - Koji Makino





## **DG** by the Numbers

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

**Market Capitalization** 

**JPY 199**<sub>bn</sub>

**Market Share** 

Latest FY **Profit before Tax** 

# of Employees As of March 2022

932

Latest FY Margin

**Latest FY Sales** 

JPY73bn JPY45bn

**62**%

**FY2 P/E Multiple** 

19x

(Ref. Comp 55x)

**Net Cash (incl. Kakaku Shares)** % Market Cap

61%

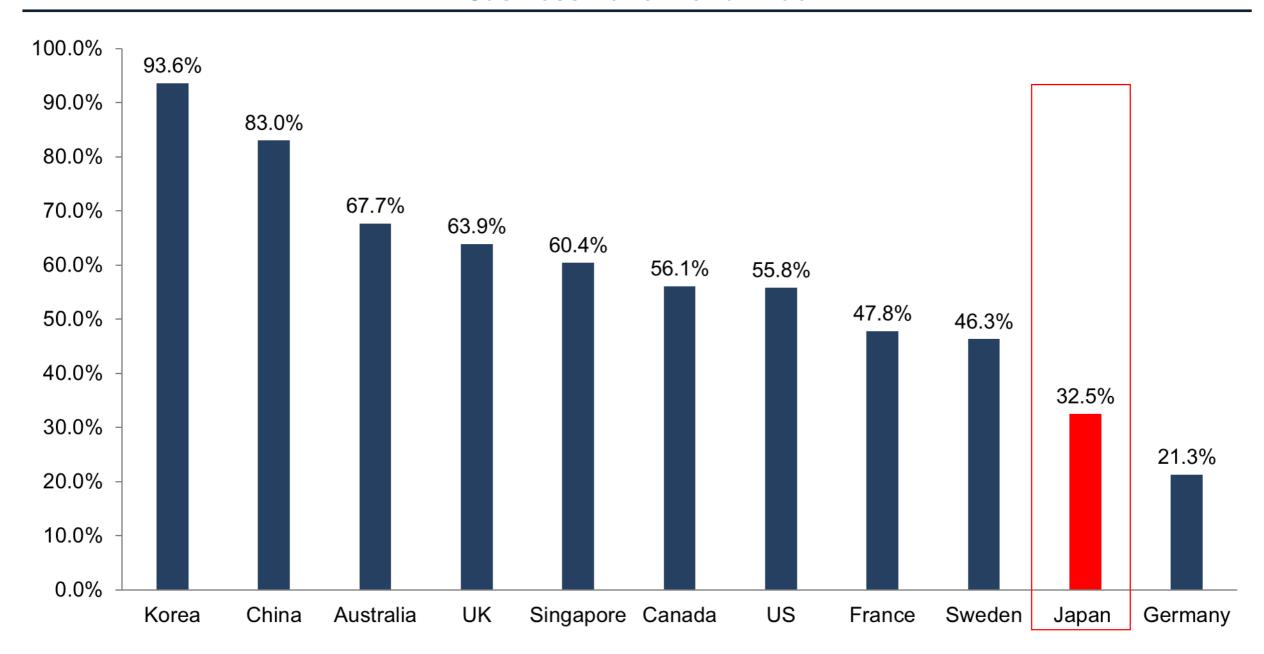
## 3. Japan Payments Overview

## Cash Is King in Japan...

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

• The penetration rate of cashless transactions in Japan is low compared to other countries

#### **Cashless Ratio World Wide**



## ..But the Government Wants to Change That

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

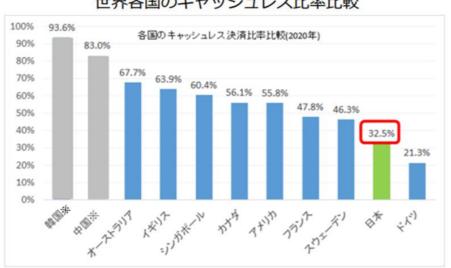
Japan's government aims to increase the cashless settlement ratio to 40% by 2025 and 80% in the future

#### **Japan Government Presentation on Cashless (September 28, 2022)**

#### 日本のキャッシュレスの現状と目標

- 日本のキャッシュレス決済比率は約30%にとどまっているが、主要各国では40%~60%台。
- キャッシュレス決済比率を2025年までに4割程度、将来的には世界最高水準の80%を目指す。

#### 世界各国のキャッシュレス比率比較



#### (出典)キャッシュレス・ロードマップ2022

世界銀行「Household final consumption expenditure(2018年(2021/2/17版))」、BIS「Redbook」の非現金手段による年間支払金額から算出

【抜粋】 2025年 6 月までに、キャッシュレス決済比率を倍増し、 4割程度とすることを目指す。



#### 「キャッシュレス・ビジョン」(平成30年4月11日 キャッシュレス検討会策定)

【抜粋】 大阪・関西万博(2025年)に向けて、「支払い方改革宣言」として「未来投資戦略2017」で設定したキャッシュレス決済比率 40%の目標を前倒し、高いキャッシュレス決済比率の実現を本検討会として宣言する。さらに将来的には、世界最高水準の80%を目 指していく。

#### 我が国のキャッシュレス支払額及び比率の推移



ドラのボリ 国氏経済計算」(名曰) クレジット: (一社) 日本クレジット協会調査(注) 2012年までは加盟クレジット会社へのアンケート調査結果を 基にした推計値、2013年以降は指定復用情報機関に登録されている実数値を使用。 デビットカード: 日本デビットカード推進協議会(~2015年)、2016年以降は日本銀行「決済システムレボート」・「決済動向」

ORコード: (一社) キャッシュレス推進協議会「コード決済利用動向調査

## Why Japan Needs To Go Cashless (1/2)

Increase efficiency of businesses and overall system

- Help Japan cope with a shrinking population and a tight labor market
- Allow stores to automate sales estimates and banks to cut back on costly ATM networks
- Improve retailer convenience, with reduced time spent managing cash and cash registers

Improve customer experience

- Improve customer convenience with less time and cost associated with handling, storing and depositing paper money
- Improve eases of payments for inbound tourists in Japan
- Improve hygiene

Improve collection and use of data

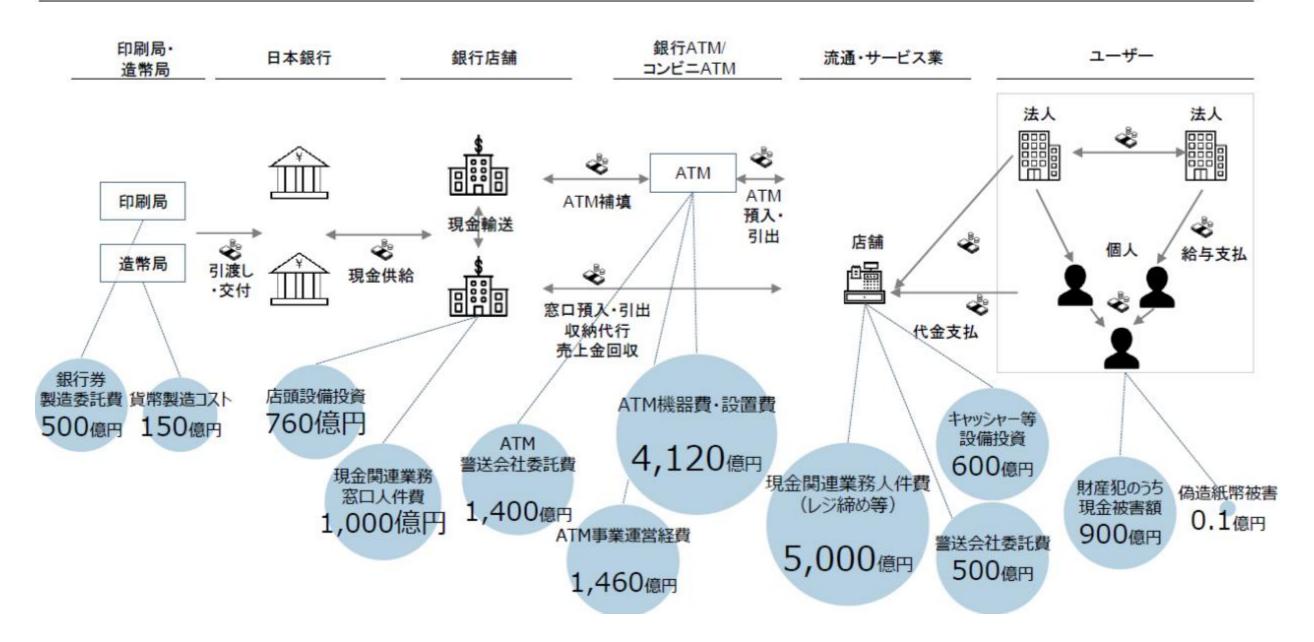
- Advantages for leveraging data; i.e., analyzing and utilizing individual purchase information in advanced marketing, and the development of products and services for target audiences
- Improvement into transparency of transactions for fairer taxation

# Why Japan Needs to Go Cashless (2/2): Reducing Infrastructure Costs

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

Research suggests ¥1.6tr is spent to maintain the cash-oriented infrastructure

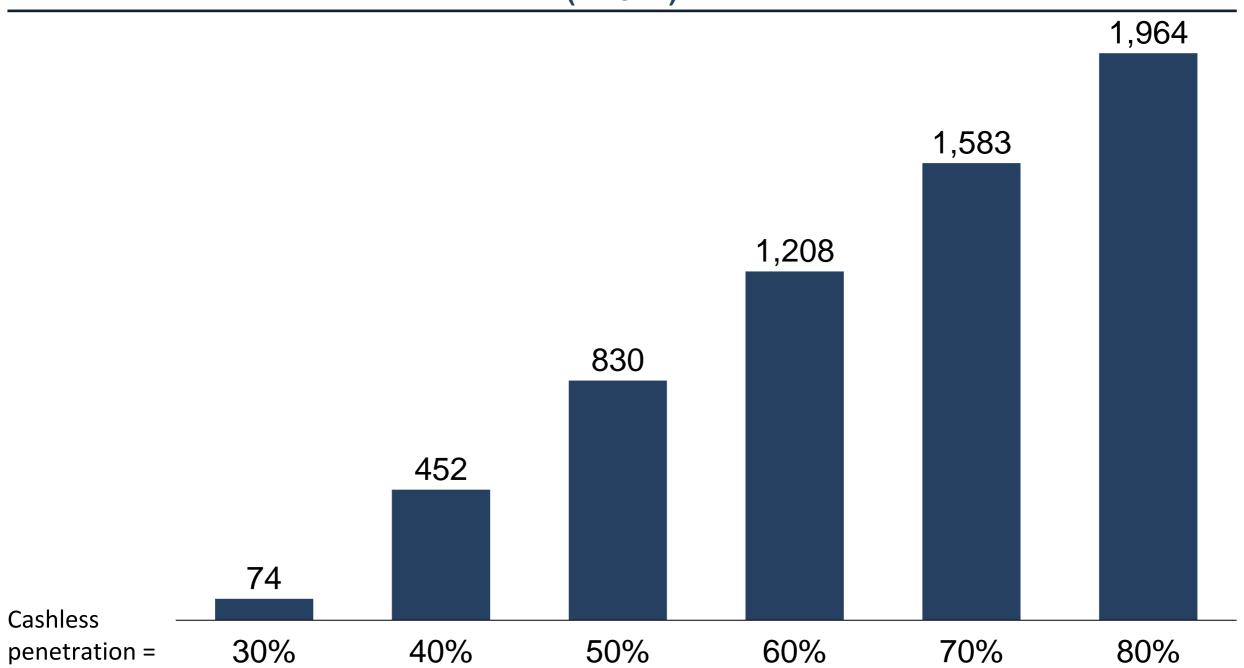
#### 現金決済インフラの直接的な社会コスト(年間)



# Government Sees Significant Benefits to Expanding Cashless Payments

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

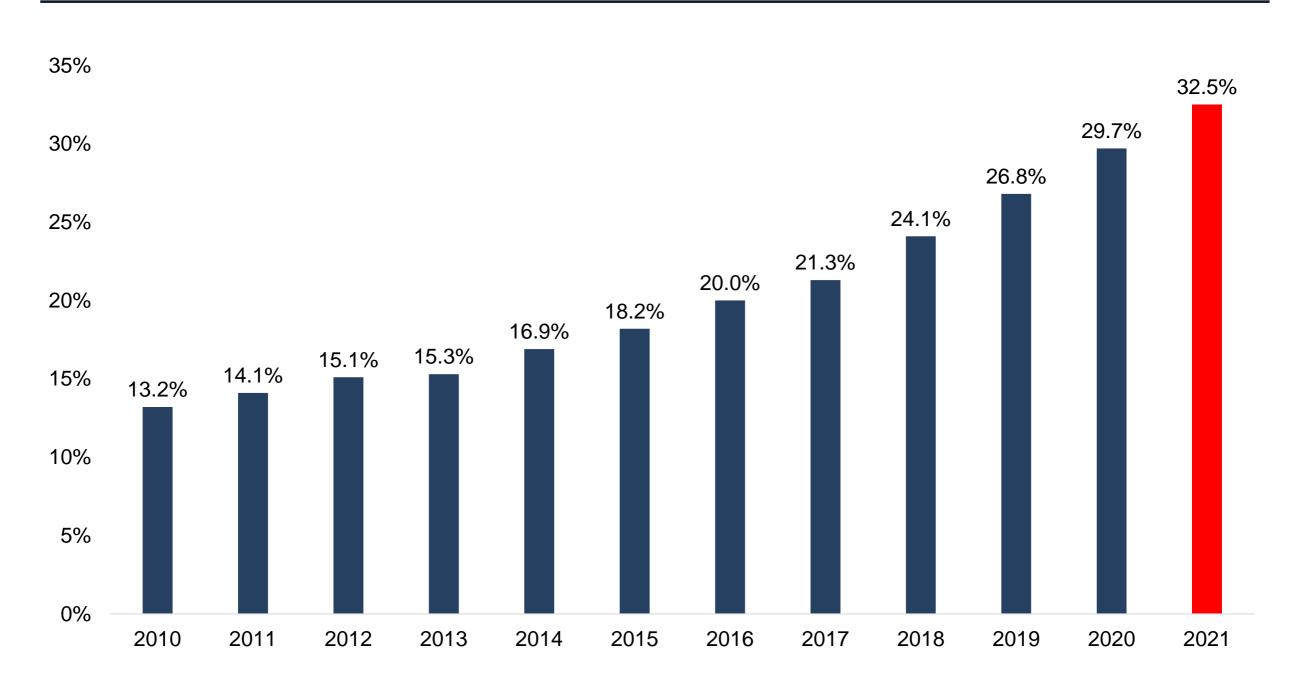
Net benefit (Economic benefit - cost) estimation against cashless payment penetration (Bn JPY)



## Japan's Cashless Payments Are on the Rise

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

#### **Share of Cashless Transactions in Japan (%)**





# During Covid, Government Programs Have Accelerated The Shift to Cashless

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry; Payment Japan Association

**10+** 

Industry groups recommending member businesses "be more cashless" to avoid COVID transmission

50%+

% of consumers who increased their frequency of using cashless payment during COVID with the government campaign, with many keeping up their increased frequency

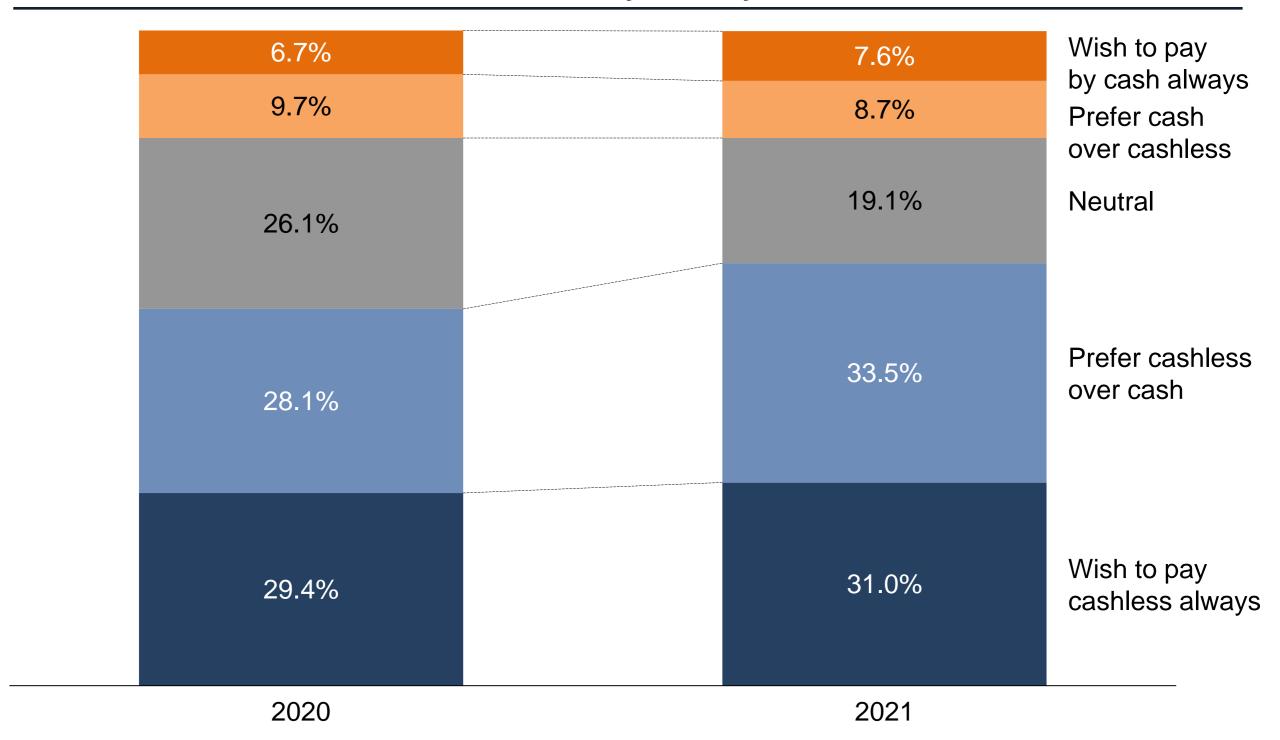
10 p.p.

Increase overall (from 27% to 37%) in businesses accepting cashless payments through the government campaign

# Cashless Payment is Increasingly Viewed Positively Among Japanese Consumers

Source: Payment Japan Association

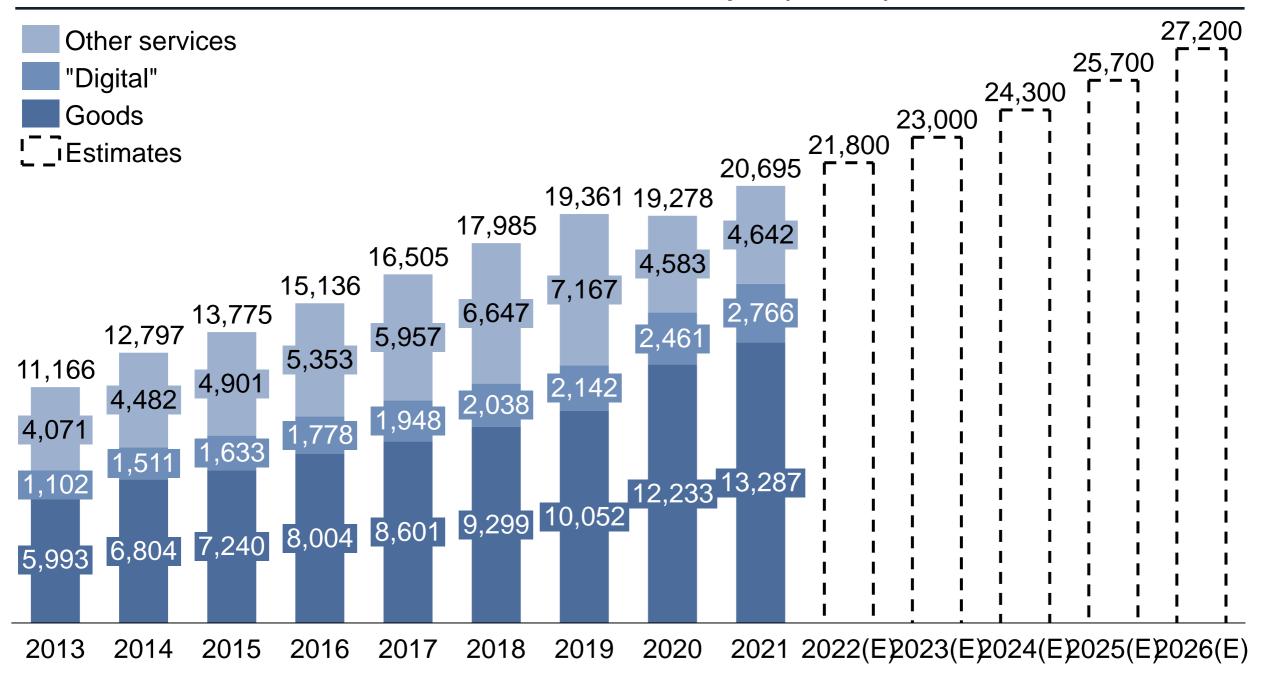
#### **View on Cashless Payments by Consumer**



# E-commerce Has Seen Steady Growth in Japan, and Is Expected to Grow Further

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Industry report

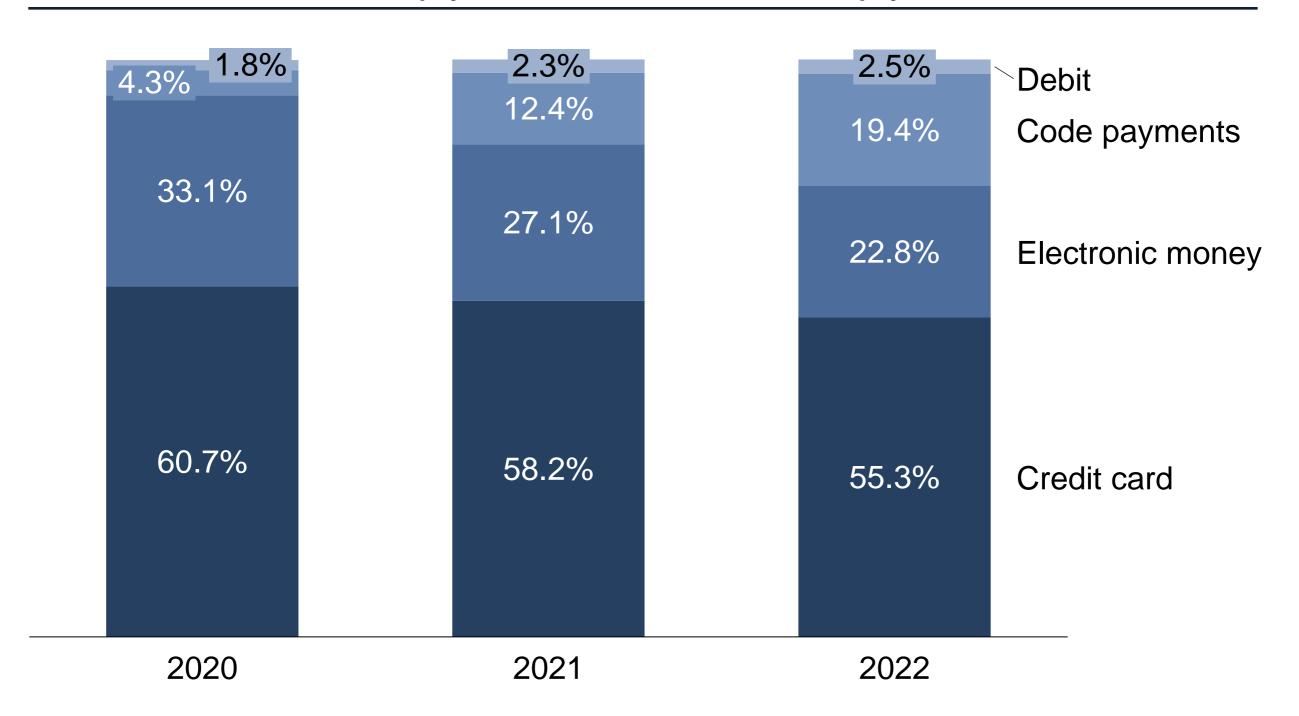
#### **EC** transaction volume in Japan (Bn JPY)



# Credit Card Alternatives Such as QR Codes & Debit Cards Are Increasing

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

#### **Share of payment methods within cashless payments**



# While the Domestic Cashless Landscape Is Rapidly Expanding, With Many New Entrants...

Source: Crowd Cast (Takashi Hoshikawa)

Domestic cashless chaos map Jan 2019 vs. Jan 2022



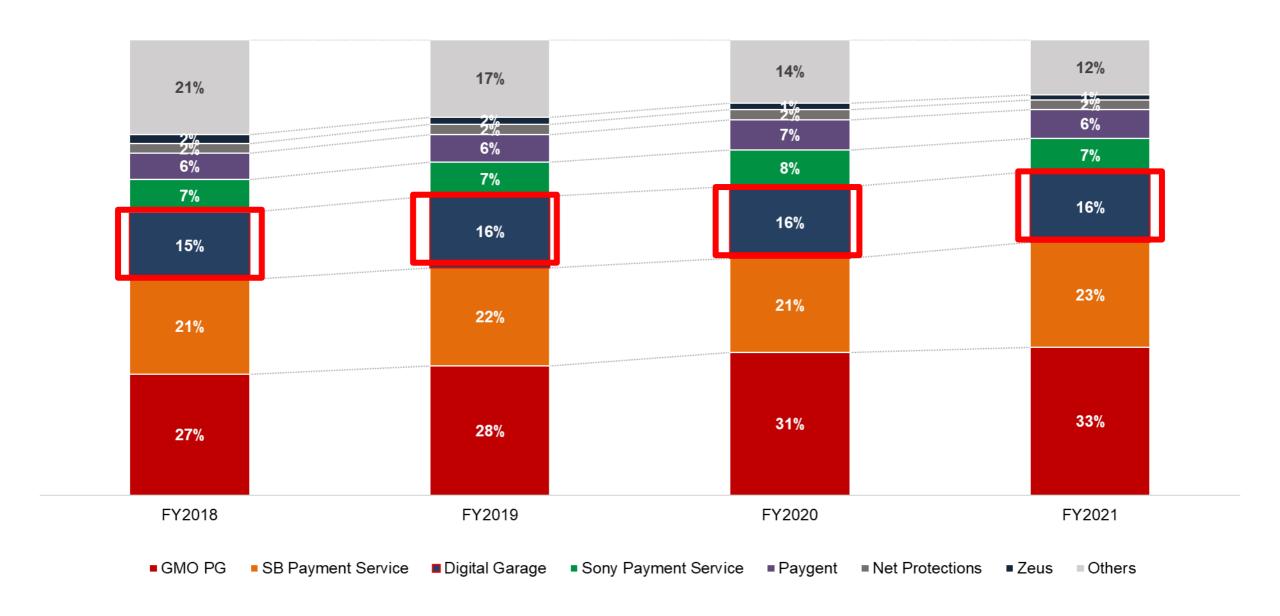


# ...The Top 3 Payment Service Providers Account for 72% of Market Share; DG is #3

Source: Industry Report

- DG has stable market share and is ranked No.3
- Top 3 payment service providers account for 72% of the market share

#### **Market Share by Payment Service Provider Players**



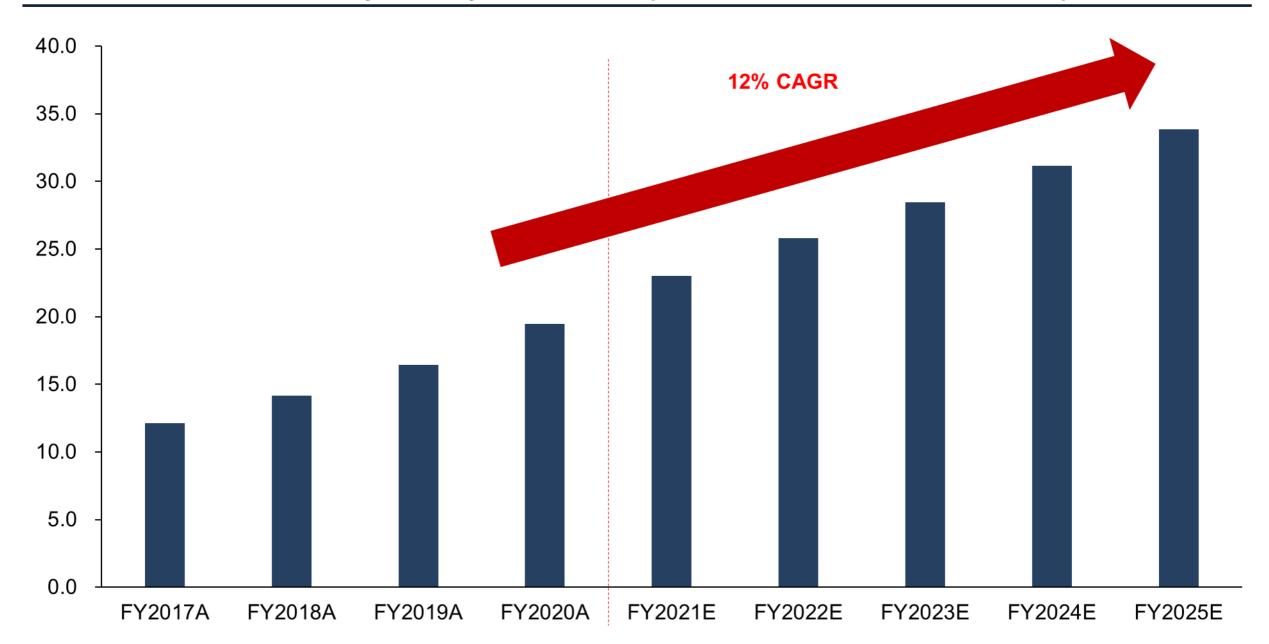


# Domestic Payment System Market Growing at 12% CAGR

Source: Industry Report

The domestic payment system market will grow at 12% CAGR from FY2020-FY2025

#### **Domestic Payment System Market (Amount of Transaction in tr JPY)**

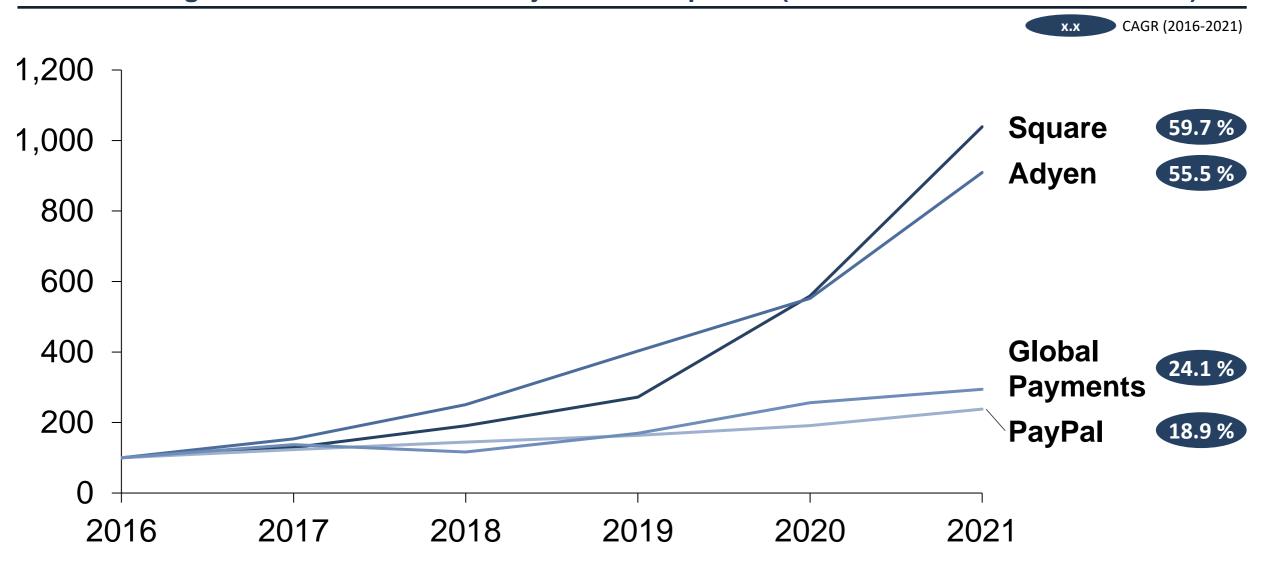


# Case Study: US Payments Service Providers Saw Massive Growth Over Last 5 Yrs

Source: Company disclosures, Bloomberg

- US is far ahead of Japan in terms of penetration of cashless payments
- Even in this more mature US market, PSP companies have enjoyed a significant increase in their revenue in recent years
- In the past five years, major PSP companies have seen 2x ~ 10x revenue growth

#### Revenue growth in US market for major PSP companies (2016 revenue normalized to 100)



# 4. DG's Challenges

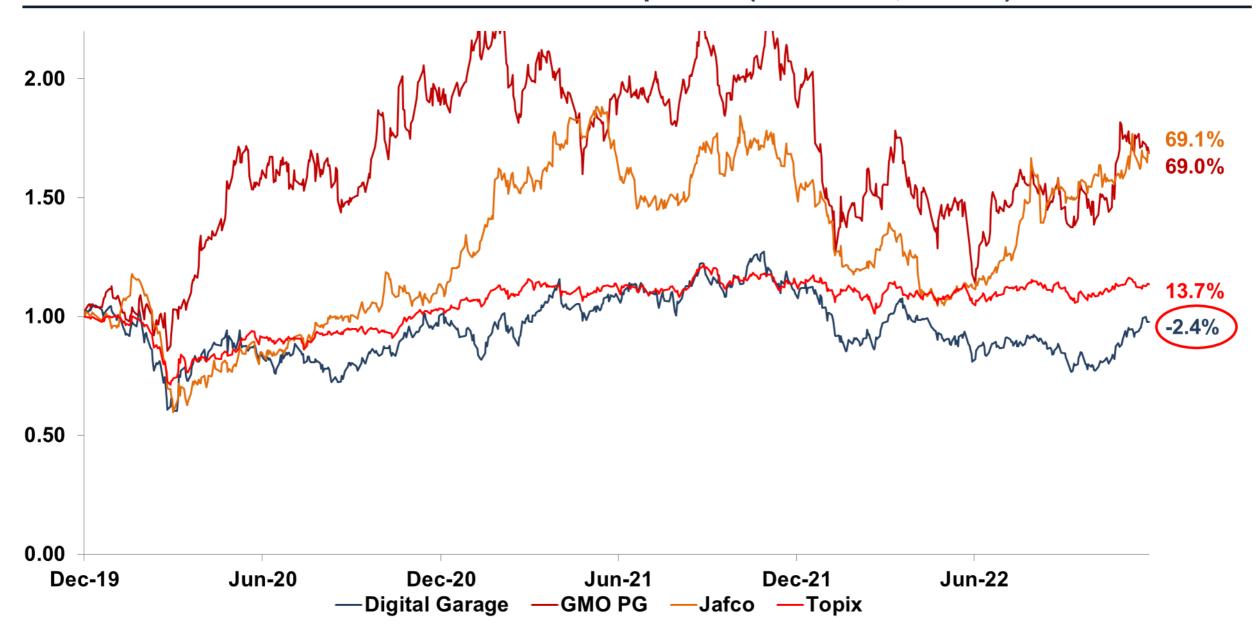


### DG's Stock Has Underperformed

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

• In the past 3 years, DG's stock price underperformed its competitor GMO PG by 71.4%, Jafco by 71.5%, and Topix by 16.1%

#### **Stock Price Performance Comparison (Relativized, Last 3Y)**

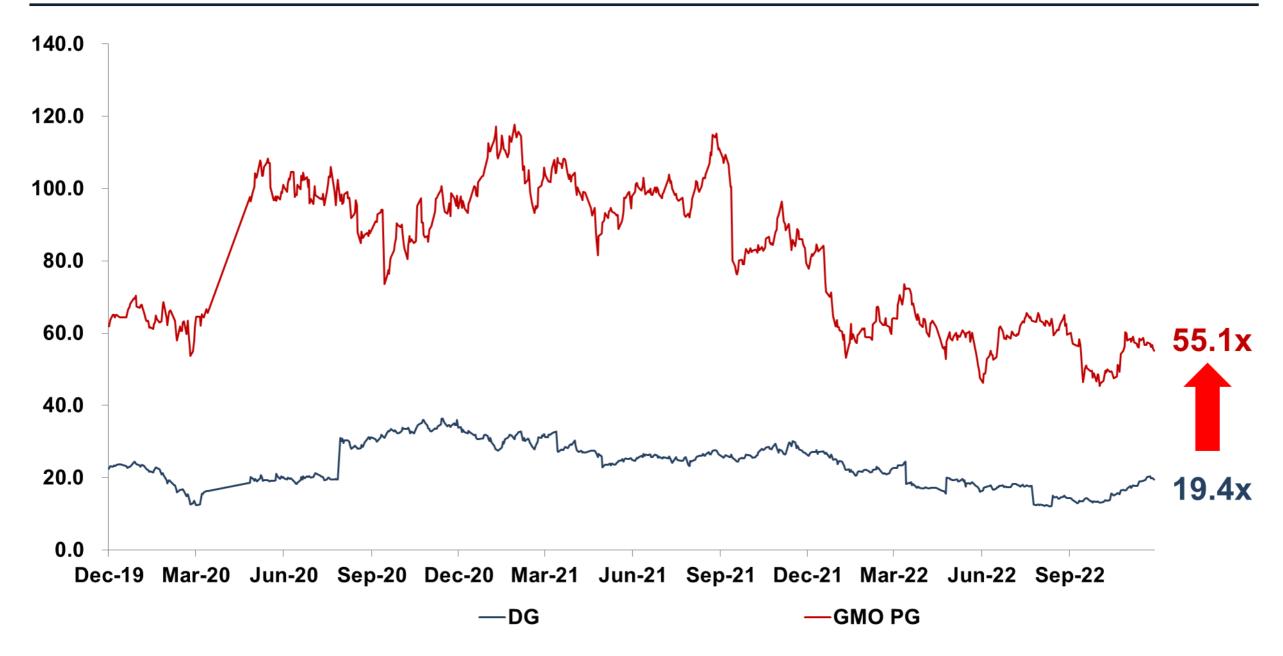


### DG is Valued at a Significant Discount to GMO PG...

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- The valuation gap between DG and GMO PG is significant
- GMO PG trades at a 2.8x multiple to DG

#### **Historical Multiple Comparison (FY2 P/E)**

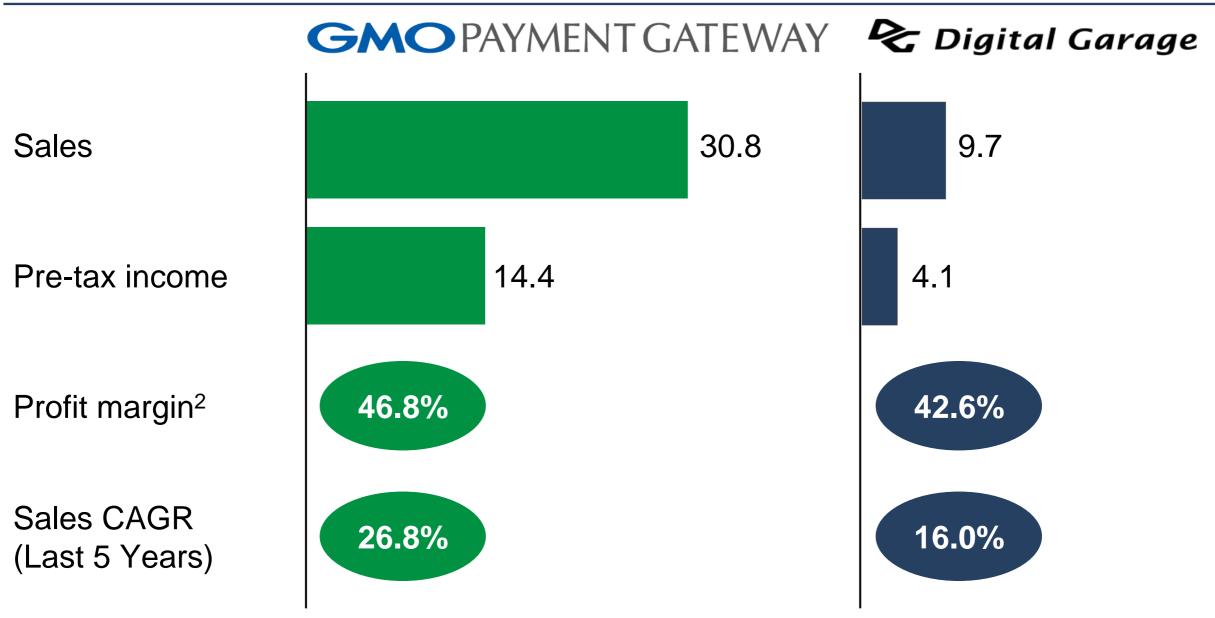


### DG's Growth Has Trailed GMO PG

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

• GMO PG has outpaced Digital Garage in its growth and its business is currently larger than Digital Garage

#### Financial Comparison between GMO PG and Digital Garage<sup>1</sup>; Bn JPY



<sup>1: &</sup>quot;Payment Processing Business" for GMO PG; "Financial Technology" segment for Digital Garage

<sup>2:</sup> Operating profit for GMO PG; Pre-tax income for Digital Garage



## Why Has DG Underperformed?

#### 1. Structure & Strategy

- Too many concurrent positions making DG managements unable to focus on growth of its core FT business
- FT segment profit concealed by volatile IT segment
- FT segment could do more to capture generational opportunity in cashless
- FT sales departments lack sufficient personnel
- MT segment growth has stagnated
- DG has not leveraged IT segment's stellar track record
- Vague guidance

## 2. Governance & Leadership

- Concurrent Chairman role at Kakaku poses a distraction
- Insufficient management focus on growth of FT business to capture market shift towards cashless
- Board lacks experience in payments

#### 3. Capital Allocation

- No synergies with Kakaku, yet maintain holding worth 32% of market cap
- DG is very asset rich (cash + investments make up 61% of mkt cap)
- Investors have no confidence excess capital will be returned to shareholders



# DG Board Members are Not Able to Focus on the Core FT Segment as They have too Many Concurrent Positions

Source: Company Disclosures

 The accountability for growth of FT business is diminished since the board members of DG has too many concurrent position

#### **DG Board Members**

No.	Position	Name	Concurrent Position		In Ch		
1	Representative Director	Kaoru Hayashi	13	FT	MT	ΙΤ	LTI
2	Member, Board of Directors and Co-Founder	Joi Ito	2			ΙΤ	LTI
3	Member, Board of Directors	Keizo Odori	11	FT	МТ	ΙΤ	LTI
4	Member, Board of Directors	Masahito Okuma	11	FT		ΙΤ	LTI
5	Member, Board of Directors	Hiroshi Shino	7	FT			
6	Member, Board of Directors	Masashi Tanaka	6	FT	МТ		LTI



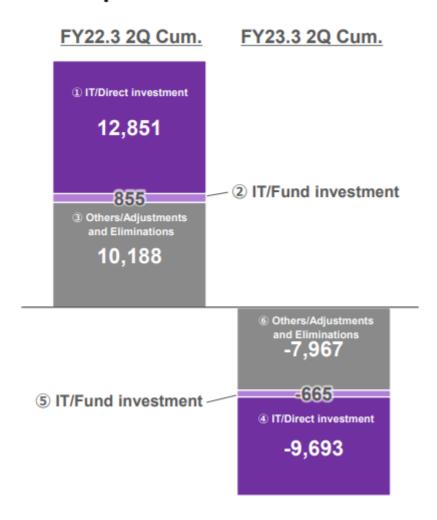
#### Core FT Segment Profit is Concealed by Profit Swings in IT Segment

Source: Company Disclosures

- The IT segment profit swings are extreme and conceal the growth of the FT segment
- In 2H FY22/3, DG recorded a loss of ¥42bn from one investment in the IT segment

#### PL Impact of IT segment is too Significant

#### ■ PL impact of fair value valuation of Blockstream



	FY22.3 2Q Cum.	FY23.3 2Q Cum.	YoY
Revenue	23,893	-10,358	-34,251
Revenue in operational investment securities	1 12,851	<b>4</b> -9,693	-22,544
Share of profit of investments accounted for using equity method	② 855	⑤ -665	-1,519
Finance income	③ 10,188	-	-10,188
Expenses	-	7,967	+7,967
Finance costs	-	6 7,967	+7,967
Profit before tax	23,893	-18,325	-42,218
	nt from DG Venture	•	
IT/Fund investment (②⑤) : Investmer	nt from <b>DG Lab Fun</b>	<b>d I</b> , an equity met	nod affiliate

Others/Adj. & Elimi. (36): Investment from Digital Garage, Inc.

(Unit: M JPY)

### Multiple Experts Suggest Sales Issues at DG

Source: Expert comments

#### Lack of sales personnel

#### 6677

The business suffers from consistent lack of sales personnel. There has been multiple cases where the company has lost in tenders due to an overstretched sales representative who couldn't spend enough time on the project.

The company has consistently failed on hiring enough talents on the Financial Technology side, while it has concentrated more efforts on recruiting for the Marketing Technology segment.

# **Lack of Project Management Function**

#### 6677

It is difficult for the DG salespeople to focus on acquiring new clients as the salespeople sometimes spend too much time on managing projects they have acquired.

In addition, IT knowledge has been lacking among the salespeople, which has been a bottleneck for the sales to expand.

#### **Lack of Commitment**

#### 6677

GMO PG has the spirit of achieving its sales target number in any circumstances. GMO PG reviews its sales situation weekly and consider a solution if the sales activity is falling behind the target. I think DG has less commitment on the sales target.

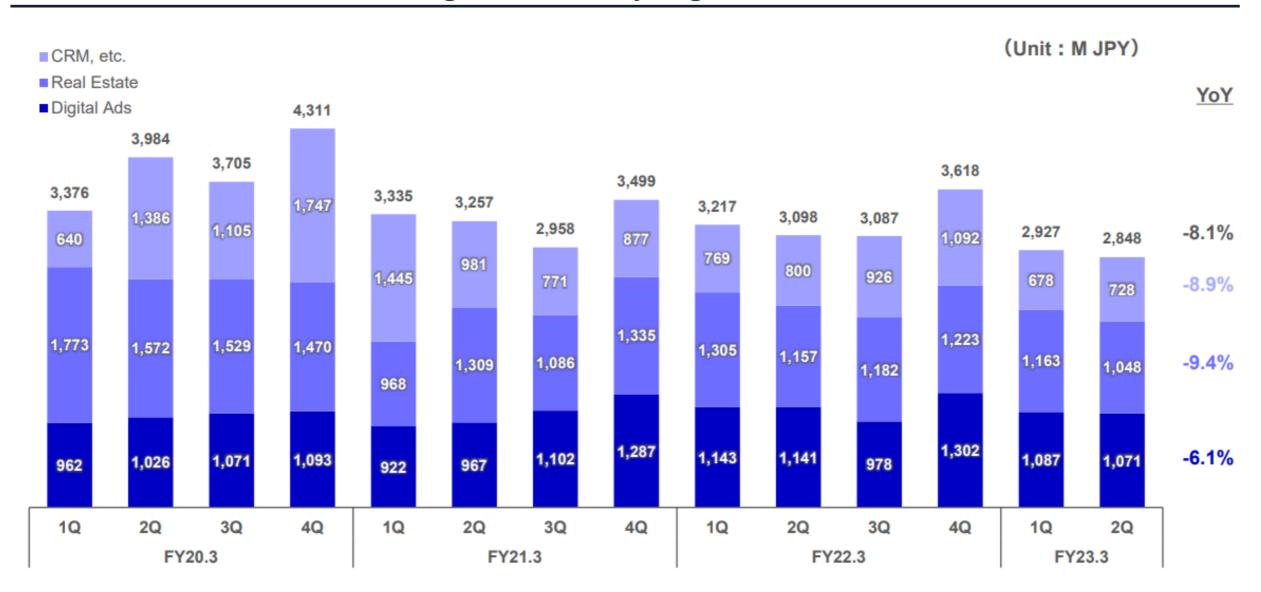
Digital Garage should have a coverage team by client sector so that it could efficiently cultivate relationships.

## **MT Segment Growth has Stagnated**

Source: Company Disclosures

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the MT segment has not been growing

#### **MT Segment Quarterly Segment Revenue**



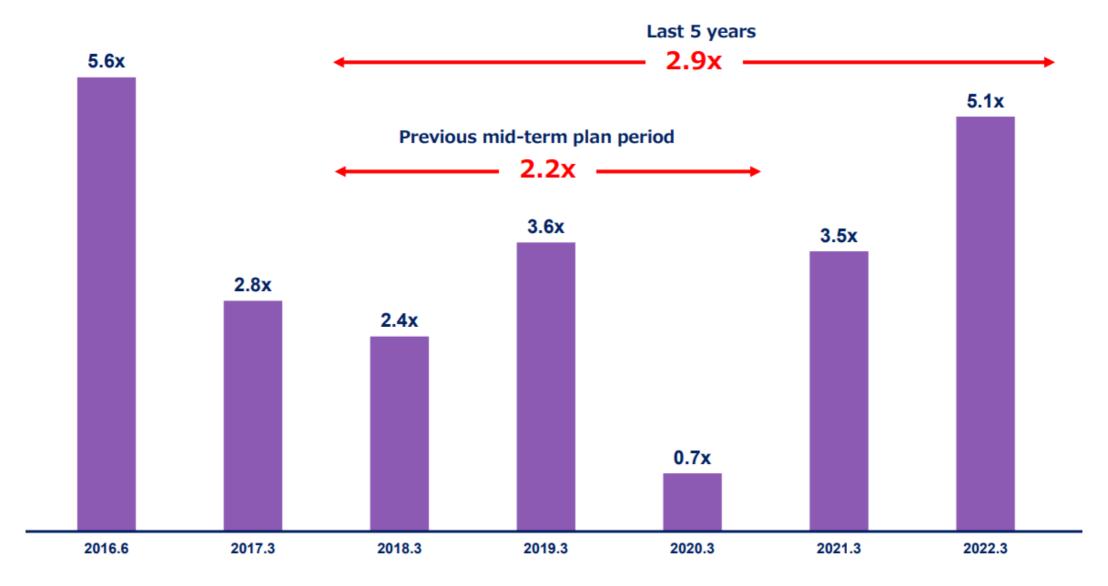


### DG Has Not Capitalized on IT Segment Success

Source: Company Disclosures

- IT segment has strength in early-stage startup investments
- The company has been successful in the market and the average return on investment has been 2.9x in the last 5
  years
- The Company has not been capitalizing on this track record

#### **Track Record in the IT segment (Return on Investments)**



## 1. Structure & Strategy

# Guidance for the Growth of the Business is Vague

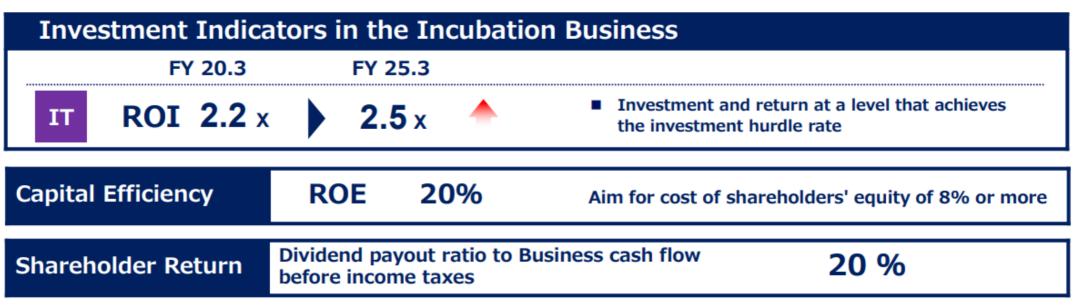
Source: Company Disclosures

- DG has failed to disclose clear guidance for their businesses
- This shows lack in strategy, commitment and focus

## Targets of the Mid-Term Plan (FY2021.3 - FY2025.3)



Grow	th Indicators	(Profit Before Tax CA	GR)
	FY 20.3	<b>CAGR</b> (20.3 – 25.3)	
FT	<b>4.0</b> B JPY	20 %	<ul> <li>Contributing to society as a government-specified operator of "Critical infrastructure", and supporting digital businesses utilizing cutting-edge technologies</li> </ul>
МТ	1.9 в ЈРҮ	20 %	<ul> <li>Further growth of digital ads to leading DX companies, and development of brand ads from developing DX companies into a second pillar</li> </ul>
LTI	<b>4.7</b> в ЈРУ	15 %	<ul> <li>In addition to Kakaku.com, create strategic businesses in Japan and overseas</li> </ul>



\*Cost of shareholders' equity calculated by us

#### 2. Governance & Leadership

# Mr. Kaoru Hayashi Serves as Chairman for Both DG and Kakaku, which Needs to Change

Source: Company Disclosures

 We believe having Mr. Hayashi as a cross-chairman for DG and Kakaku is preventing DG from exiting its investment in Kakaku

#### **AGM Notice for DG**

Α	GW	NOt	ice '	tor	кака	KU

Candidate No.	Name (Date of birth)		Summary, and Position and Responsibility in the Company Significant Concurrent Positions outside the Company)				
No.		Apr. 1983	Representative Director, From Garage, Inc.				
		Aug. 1995	Founded the Company Representative Director, the Company				
		Dec. 1996	Representative Director, K Garage, Inc. (now Representative Partner, K Garage, G.K.) (current position)				
		June 2003	Chairman and Director, Kakaku.com, Inc. (current position)				
		Nov. 2004	Representative Director, President and Group CEO, the Company				
		Oct. 2013	Director and Chairman, ECONTEXT, INC. (current position)				
		Oct. 2015	Director President & Chairman, econtext Asia Limited (current position)				
	Kaoru Hayashi (December 26, 1959)	July 2016	Director Chairman & CEO, Digital Garage US, Inc. (current position)				
	Number of the Company's	July 2016	Director, DG Daiwa Ventures, Inc. (current position)				
	Shares Owned: 6,839,500 shares	Sept. 2016	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, BI. Garage, Inc. (current position)				
l Reelection		Sept. 2016	Representative Director, President Executive Officer and Group CEO, the Company (current position)				
		May 2017	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Ventures, Inc. (current position)				
		Aug. 2018	Representative Director and Chairman, DG Communications Co., Ltd.				
		Sept. 2018	Director, Crypto Garage, Inc. (current position)				
		June 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Financial Technology, Inc. (current position)				
		June 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and President, DG Incubation, Inc. (current position)				
	Reason for the nomination a	s candidate fo	or Director				
			tial of the Internet service in Japan from its predawn era, Kaoru				
			e Company, has created new Internet businesses since founding				
			ven the Group business management and contributed to alth of insights about overall Internet business. The Company				
			ely overseeing business operation of the Company and driving it				
			ominated him as a candidate for Director.				

Candidate No.		Career summary, position and responsibility at the Company (Significant concurrent positions outside the Company)					
		Aug. 1995	Founder and Representative Director, Digital Garage, Inc.				
	Kaoru Hayashi [Reelection]	Jul. 2002	Representative Chairman, the Company				
	[Male]	Jun. 2003	Chairman of the Board, the Company (present post)				
	Date of birth:	Oct. 2015	Director President and Chairman, econtext Asia Limited (present post)				
	December 26, 1959	Jul. 2016	Director Chairman and CEO, Digital Garage US, Inc. (present post)				
	Number of shares held in the Company:	Sep. 2016	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, BI.Garage, Inc. (present post)				
	165,800 shares	Sep. 2016	Representative Director, President Executive Officer and Group CEO, Digital Garage, Inc. (present post)				
1	Attendance at the meetings of the Board	May 2017	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Incubation, Inc. (currently DG Ventures, Inc.) (present post)				
	of Directors: 17/17	Jun. 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Financial Technology, Inc. (present post)				
		Jun. 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and President, DG Incubation, Inc. (present post)				

[Reason for the nomination of the candidate for Director]

Mr. Kaoru Hayashi has been focused on future potential since the early days of personal internet services in Japan and has been involved in the internet business as an entrepreneur since founding Digital Garage, Inc. He has a high level of knowledge about the internet business, including global IT technology trends. The Company has nominated him as a candidate for reelection as Director because we have determined that he can be expected to play a suitable role in the expansion of the Company's business and its overall management in the future.

## 2. Governance & Leadership

# Nearly Half of the DG Board Consists of Outside Directors, and Yet, They Have Been Unable to Realize Value

Source: Company Disclosures

- Nearly half of the Board of DG consists of Outside Directors
- However, there is no expert in the payment service provider industry who could supervise the business

#### **DG Board Members**

				Internal /			
No.	Position	Name	Age	Outside	Nationality	Gender	Former Career
1	Representative Director	Kaoru Hayashi	62	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
2	Member, Board of Directors and Co-Founder	Joi Ito	56	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
3	Member, Board of Directors	Keizo Odori	52	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
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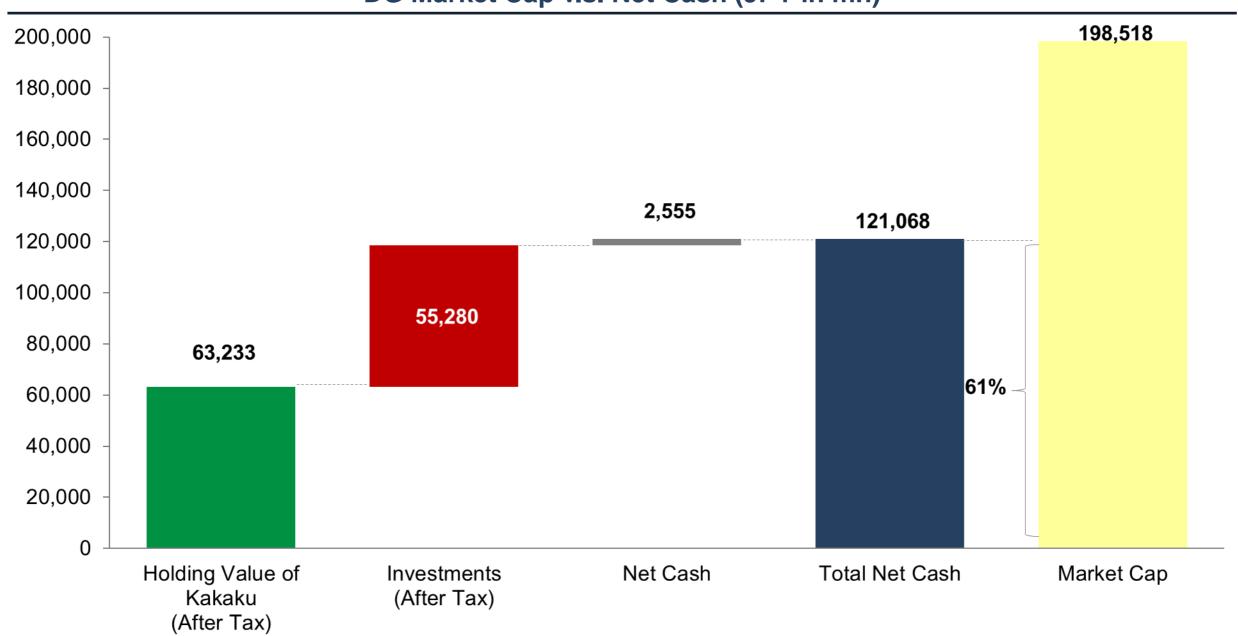
## 3. Capital Allocation

# **DG** is Very Asset Rich

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- Kakaku shares, investments and cash make up 61% of DG's market cap
- However, this value is heavily discounted by the market.
- The market doubts the Company will ever return capital to shareholders

### DG Market Cap v.s. Net Cash (JPY in mn)



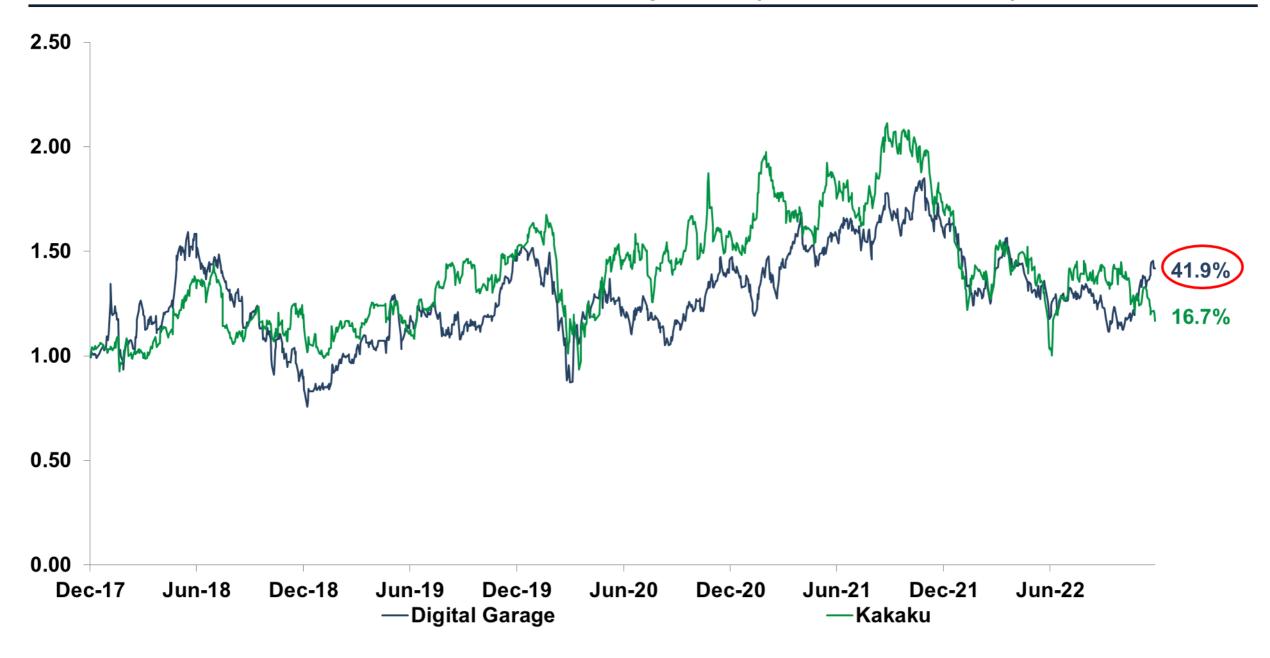
## 3. Capital Allocation

## DG's Stock Mirrors Kakaku's Stock

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- DG's stock price movement has been nearly identical to Kakaku's stock price
- The stock market neglects the other businesses within DG

#### **Stock Price Performance Comparison (Relativized, Last 5Y)**





# 5. Oasis Proposal



## Oasis Plan for A Better DG

Split the Company into DG Financial Technology & DG Investments

- A. DG Financial Technology Improvement Plan
  - A1. Improve FT Sales Function
  - A2. Nominate an Independent Director with Sector Expertise
  - A3. Realize Synergies between the FT Segment and MT Segment
  - **A4. Set Clear Guidance**
  - A5. Focus on Capital Gain
- **B. DG Investments Improvement Plan** 
  - **B1. Further Expand the Fund Business**
  - **B2. Sell Kakaku Shares**
  - **B3. Focus on Shareholder Returns**

# Benefits to All Stakeholders by Improving DG's Corporate Value

## • <u>DG</u>

- Long-term stable continuation of the business
- M&A using stock consideration
- Improvement of capital raising capacity

## DG Employees

- Long-term stable employment
- Attract excellent talent by improving corporate image
- Improvement in wages

## Clients

Creating partners that can trust in the long term

## Creditors

- Reduction of credit risk
- Further room for lending

## Shareholders

- Share price appreciation
- Improvement in shareholder return

OASI

# **Oasis Proposals for DG**

## 1. Structure & Strategy

- Conduct a tax-effective spin-off to split FT segment and MT segment
- Capitalize in FT business on shift to cashless
- Improve Sales: Hire project managers; Train sales teams by sector; Enhance sales product training
- Realize synergies between FT & MT segments
- Set clear guidance
- In IT, expand the fund business

# 2. Governance & Leadership

- Step down from concurrent role
- Add experience to board
- Independent management more focused on separate businesses

## 3. Capital Allocation

- Fully divest Kakaku stake
- Improve shareholder return



# Split the Company into DG Financial Technology and DG Investments

# DG Will be a Better Company if it Splits into DG Financial Technology and DG Investments

• DG will be a better company if it splits into two completely independent entities: DG Financial Technology (Current FT segment + MT segment) and DG Investments (IT segment + LTI segment)

# **Current DG Business** Digital Garage MT LT FT ΙT Tax Free Spin-off **DG After Spinning-Off DG Financial Technology DG Financial DG** Investments **Technology** LT MT IT FT

# Spinning Off DG Financial Technology will Benefit All Stakeholders

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

- Management will be able to focus more on each business if DG Financial Technology is spun off
- Merits of spin-offs include the creation of 1) independent management, 2) independent capital, and 3) an independent listed company

Independent management

- The original company's management is able to focus on their core business
- The independent company can make faster and more flexible decisions. The motivation of the management / employees will increase

Independent capital

- The independent company is able to make the necessary investments which they could not before, via independent financing
- Third parties would be able to invest in the original / independent company
- The new independent company will be able to introduce a stock incentive plan which is linked to shareholder value
- The independent company can conduct business with companies which were competitors before the spin off
- By utilizing a spin off together with a business combination, it would be difficult to become restricted by antitrust law regulations around business combinations

Independent listed company

- Could attract investors that are only interested in each business
- Could conquer conglomerate discount<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>In the case where a company is running multiple businesses, the sum of the business value is evaluated lower in the market than in the case of individually operating them



Spin off will increase both original and independent companies' enterprise value

# Tax Effective Spin-Off will Work for Execution

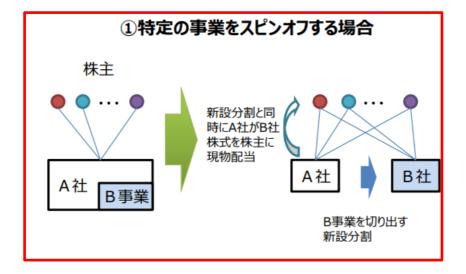
Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

- Stakeholders would be able to benefit from a tax effective spin-off if DG creates DG Financial Technology and DG Investments
- The "分割型分割" scheme would work to spin-off the FT segment and MT segment and create DG Financial Technology
- There will be no equity relationship between DG Financial Technology and DG Investments. This will create two
  completely independent companies

#### スピンオフとは

- 自社内の特定の事業部門又は子会社を切り出し、独立させるもの。独立した会社の株式は元の会社の株主に交付される。
- 自社内の特定の事業部門を切り出す場合は新設分割、子会社を切り出す場合はいわゆる現物配当(注)により行う。

(注) いわゆる現物配当は、会社法上は配当財産が金銭以外の財産である剰余金の配当に当たる。また、法人税法上は完全子会社の株式の全部が移転する現物分配が株式分配に当たる。



# 株主 A社がB社株式を株主に現物配当 A社 B社 B社

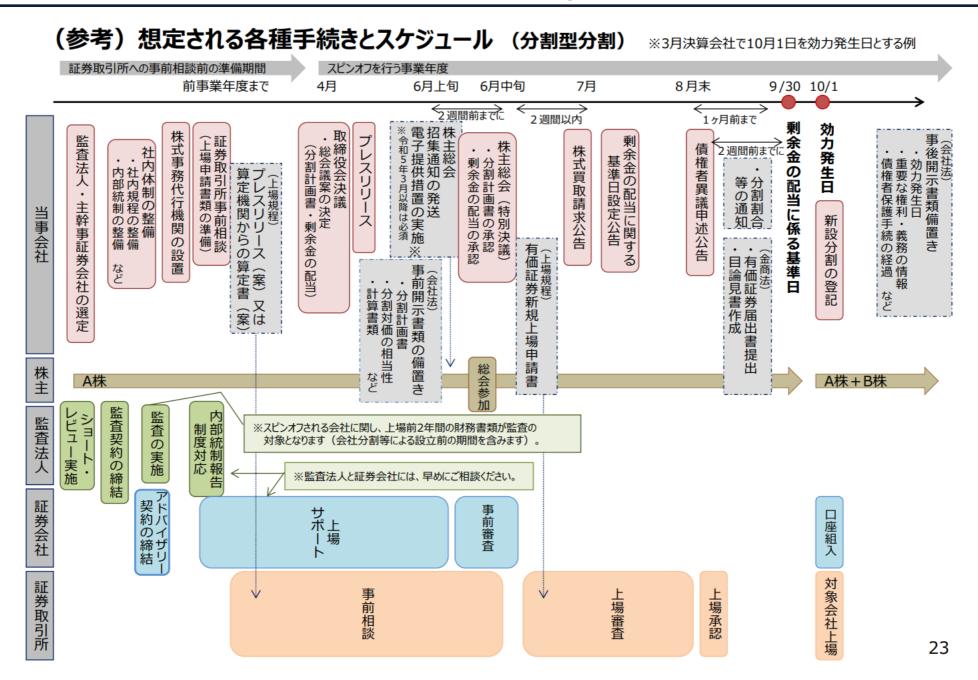
②完全子会社をスピンオフする場合

# Tax Effective Spin-Off: Example Timeline

Source: Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry

DG should start work now on the spin-off in order to execute in the next fiscal year

#### **Schedule Example**



# We Urge DG's Board to Tax-Free Spin-Off the FT & MT Segments to Create DG Financial Technology

- DG's Board should propose a tax-free spin-off of the FT and MT segments to create DG Financial Technology at the next AGM
- This corporate action would significantly increase management engagement with and focus on each of the businesses, and increase the value of DG as a whole
- As a milestone, DG should announce the benefits of creating DG Financial Technology by mid-March 2023 so that investors can understand the benefits



# **Illustrative Board Composition**

Source: Company Disclosures

The below would be the illustrative board composition for each of the companies on day one. Additional diversity
and experienced Directors would need to be added

## **DG Financial Technology Board Members**

				Internal /			
No.	Position	Name	Age	Outside	Nationality	Gender	Former Career
1	Representative Director	Kaoru Hayashi	62	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
2	Member, Board of Directors	Keizo Odori	52	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
3	Member, Board of Directors	Hiroshi Shino	46	Internal	Japan	Male	Softbank
4	Outside Director	Makoto Sakai	65	Outside	Japan	Male	Lawyer
5	Outside Director	Junji Inoue	73	Outside	Japan	Male	Mitsubishi Corp
6	Outside Director	Koji Makino	56	Outside	Japan	Male	KPMG
Stats			59	Outside: 50%	Japanese:100%	Female: 0%	

#### **DG Investments Board Members**

				Internal /			
No.	Position	Name	Age	Outside	Nationality	Gender	Former Career
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6	Member, Board of Directors	Yasuyuki Rokuyata	66	Internal	Japan	Male	DG
7	Outside Director	Shuma Uchino	68	Outside	Japan	Male	Mitsubishi Corp
Stats			52	Outside: 42%	Japanese:100%	Female: 29%	



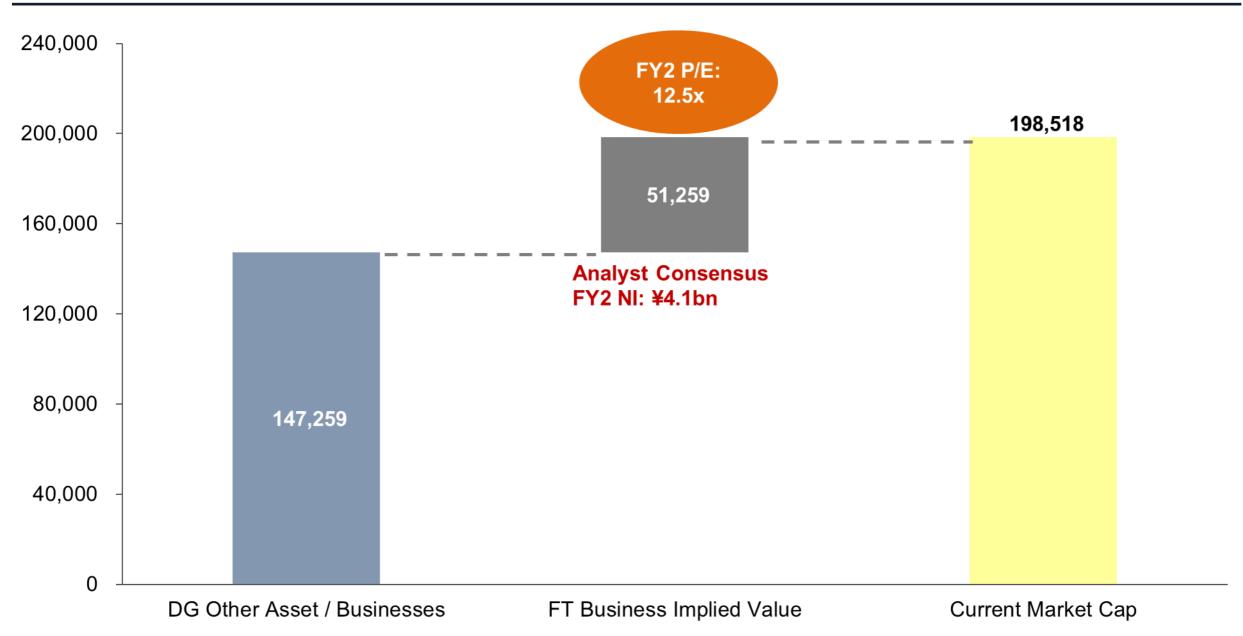
# A. DG Financial Technology Improvement Plan

# The FT Segment is Valued at ¥51bn, or 12.5x FY2P/E

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- The implied FT segment value is ¥51bn, stripping out all the other DG businesses
- This implies a 12.5x FY2 P/E multiple, which is not a multiple which should be applied to a business where the profit grows at a 20% CAGR

### Implied Value of the FT segment (JPY in mn)



# After Executing Growth Plan, FT Segment Could Be Valued at ¥225bn

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

Implementing clear growth plan will substantially increase value of the FT segment

**Profit Before Tax** 

Tax

**GMO PG FY2 P/E** 

¥5.9bn **×** 69% **×** 





55x

**Implied Value** 

# A1. Strengthen FT Sales



# Multiple Experts Suggest Sales Issues at DG

Source: Expert Comments

## Lack of sales personnel

#### 6677

The business suffers from consistent lack of sales personnel. There has been multiple cases where the company has lost in tenders due to an overstretched sales representative who couldn't spend enough time on the project.

The company has consistently failed on hiring enough talents on the Financial Technology side, while it has concentrated more efforts on recruiting for the Marketing Technology segment.

# **Lack of Project Management Function**

#### 6677

It is difficult for the DG salespeople to focus on acquiring new clients as the salespeople sometimes spend too much time on managing projects they have acquired.

In addition, IT knowledge has been lacking among the salespeople, which has been a bottleneck for the sales to expand.

### **Lack of Commitment**

#### 6677

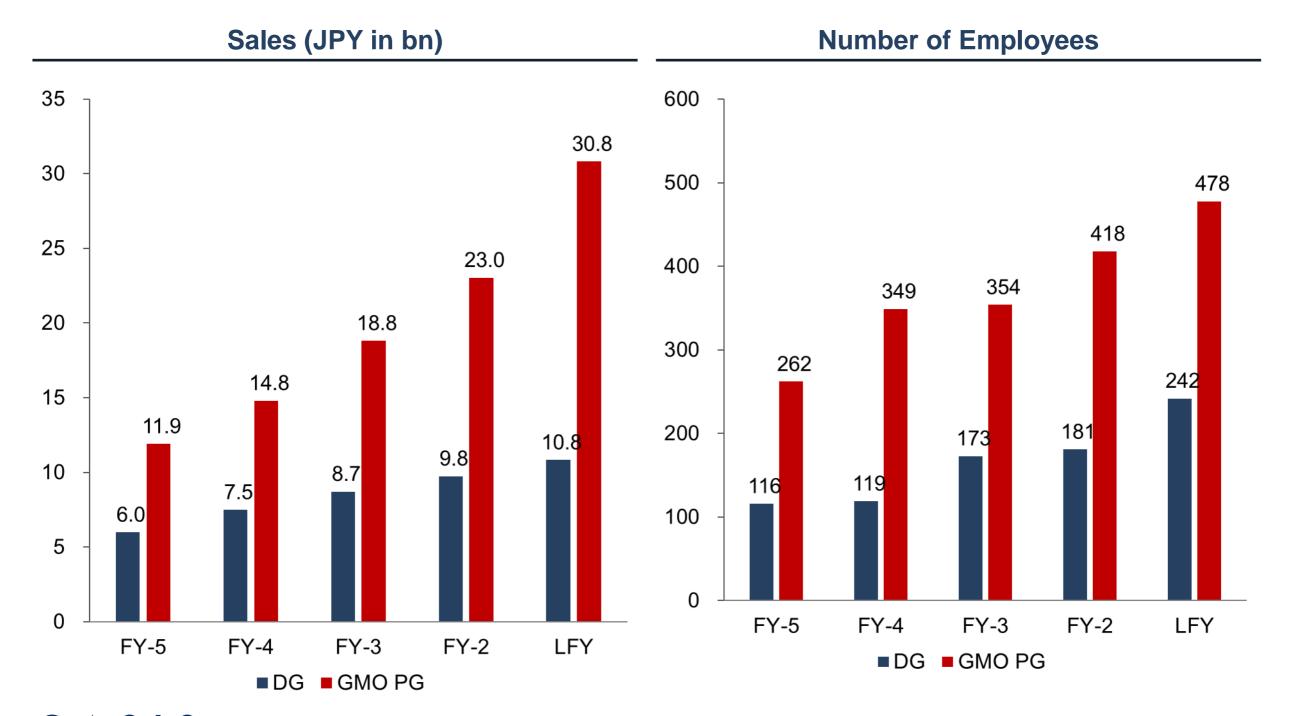
GMO PG has the spirit of achieving its sales target number in any circumstances. GMO PG reviews its sales situation weekly and consider a solution if the sales activity is falling behind the target. I think DG has less commitment on the sales target.

Digital Garage should have a coverage team by client sector so that it could efficiently cultivate relationships.

# DG's Headcount Is too Small to Pursue Further Growth

Source: Company Disclosures

- The growth of sales in the market has been driven by growth in the number of employees
- DG should further accelerate hiring of sales and project management staff to grow the business





# DG Should Hire Project Managers so Sales Staff Can Focus on Acquiring New Clients

Source: Expert comments

- One of the issues in DG's sales department is that when the sales managers acquire new clients, they tend to become the client's project manager, which makes it difficult for them to acquire additional new clients
- DG should create a new department focused on project management so salespeople can focus on acquiring new clients

#### **Current DG Operation**

#### **IT Department**

 IT department customizes products depending on customer needs, which are communicated by the sales department

#### **Sales Department**

- Sales department acts as an intermediary to reflect customer needs to DG system
- Sales dept. resources are locked up with current customers

#### Customer

 Customers interact directly with the sales department as the "face"

#### What DG Operation should Look Like

#### **IT Department**

 IT department customizes products depending on customer needs, which are communicated by the project management department

# Project Management Department

 Be the "Face" of DG for current clients

#### **Sales Department**

Cultivate new clients

#### Customer

 Customers interact directly with the project management department as the "face"



# DG Should Leverage the Strength of its Product to Appeal to Customers

Source: Company Disclosures, expert comments

- DG's system can be customized depending on client requirements. This is one of the strengths of DG's product
- We believe this strength has not been leveraged enough with clients
- DG should educate the sales team so that the sales teams have deeper knowledge of IT to effectively communicate DG's product strengths to customers

IT Department

Sales Department

## **DG Should Consider Creating Industry Sales Teams**

Source: Company Disclosures, expert comments

- DG currently does not have any sales team dedicated to specific sectors
- Since there is required customization for each sector, we suggest DG rebuild its sales teams to develop expertise in each sector



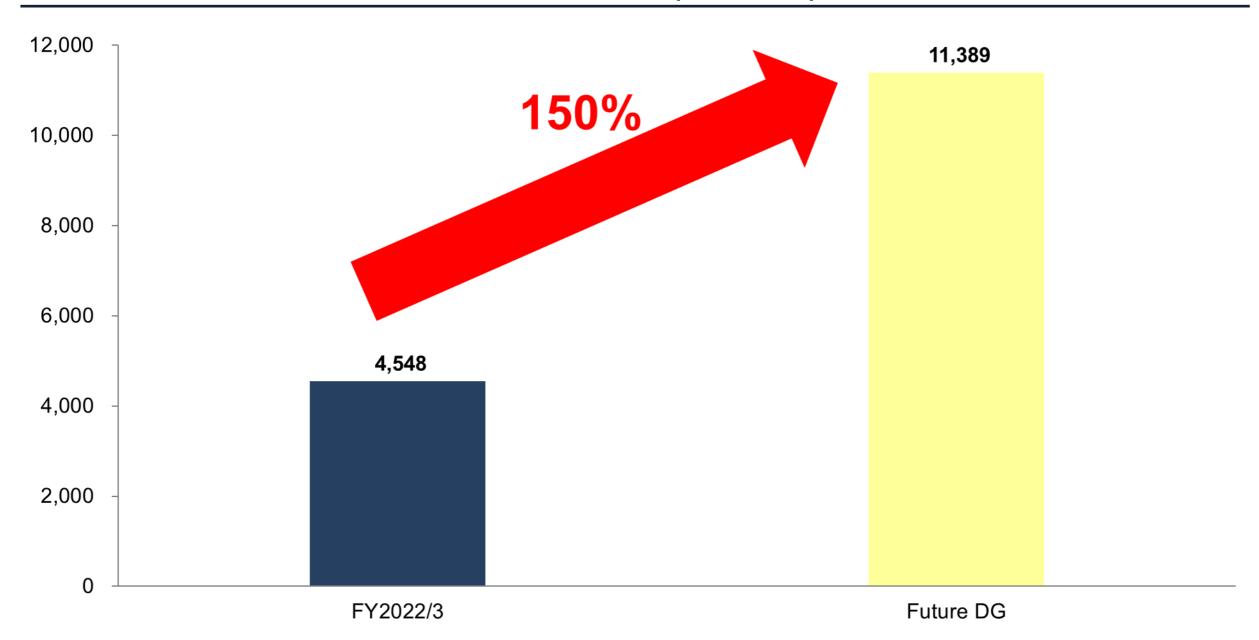


# DG's Profit Could Grow 150% Implementing our Proposals

Source: Company Disclosures, Oasis estimates

With more focus in the sales force, DG's profit could grow 150%

#### **Profit Before Tax (JPY in mn)**



# A2. Hire a Director with Sector Expertise

# DG's Board Lacks Specialist Knowledge in the Payment Service Provider Industry

Source: Company Disclosures

- Current DG Board does not have any specialists with experience in the Payment Service Provider industry
- We believe someone who could better manage the FT segment and hold management accountable for growth with significant payment service provider experience should be included in the Board
- In addition, someone who has strength in managing the sales department could significantly increase value

#### **DG Board Members**

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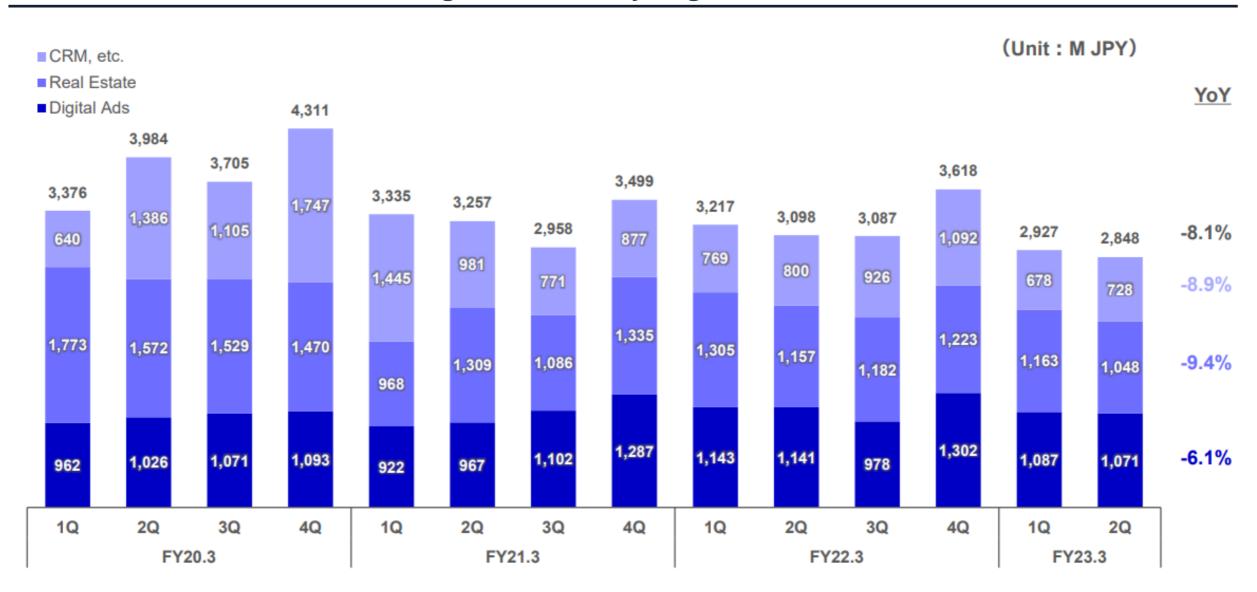
# A3. Realize Synergies between the FT Segment and MT Segment

# MT Segment Growth has Stagnated

Source: Company Disclosures

Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the MT segment has not been growing

#### **MT Segment Quarterly Segment Revenue**



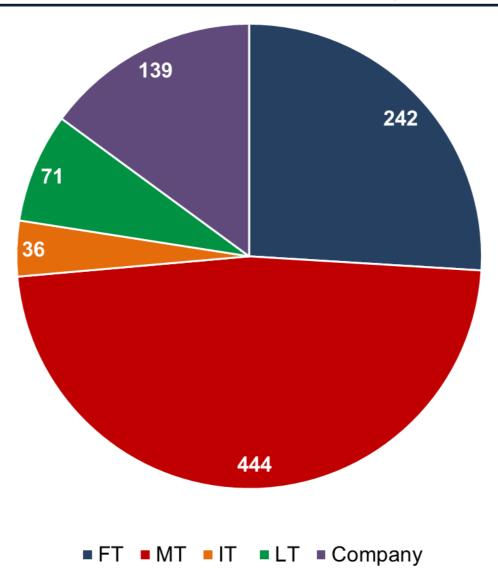


# DG Should Consider Relocating Staff from the MT Segment to the FT Segment

Source: Company Disclosures

- The number of employees in the core FT segment only accounts for 26% of total employees, while the MT segment has nearly double the headcount
- DG should consider relocating staff to the FT Segment

### **Number of Employees by Segment**



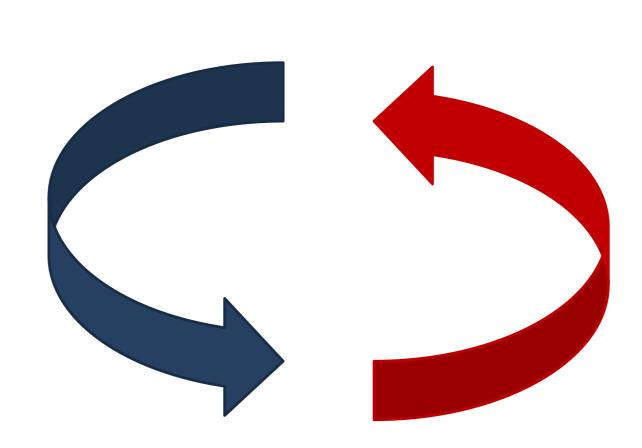
# Synergies with the FT Segment Should Be Pursued

- The new DG Financial Technology would create further value by realizing synergies
- The MT business could expand sales to the FT segment clients, which would in turn boost settlement transactions

#### FT

- Provides

   payment
   settlement
- Help clients with data / payment solutions



MT

Provides
 marketing
 strategy to
 grow
 customers'
 business

Transaction Volume increase in the FT segment

Further Business in MT segment as customers spend more on marketing



# A4. Set Clear Guidance



# Due to Volatile IT Segment, DG Has Not Disclosed Formal Guidance

- Due to the overall business performance being affected by the volatile IT segment, DG was unable to disclose formal guidance
- This will not be the case after the Company splits into two

#### **Quote from DG Quarterly Report**

3. Consolidated Financial Results Forecast for the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2023 (April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023)
The Company does not disclose its consolidated financial results forecast because it is difficult to reasonably estimate the fair value of securities held by the Group at the end of the fiscal year in the field of investment and incubation in domestic and overseas unlisted companies in the Incubation Technology Segment.

# DG Financial Technology Should Set Clear Guidance for the Business with a Bottom-Up Approach

Source: Company Disclosures

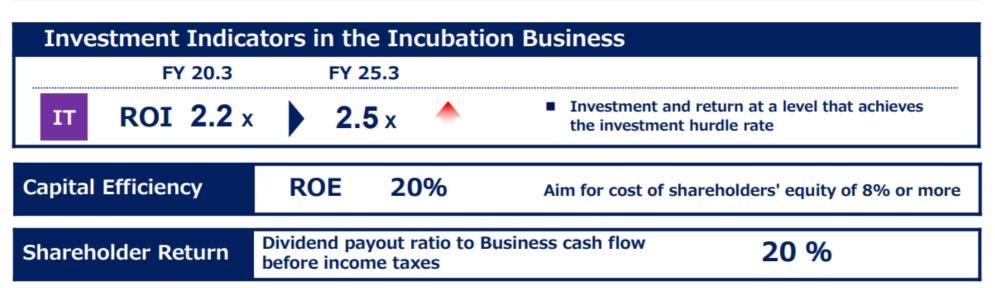
- DG Financial Technology should provide clear guidance with a bottom-up approach
- This would further increase the commitment to the guidance for management
- DG has only provided vague guidance historically, which has been a reason for low commitment and low earnings targets

#### **DG Mid-Term Plan Targets**

Targets of the Mid-Term Plan (FY2021.3 - FY2025.3)



Grow	th Indicators	(Profit Before	Tax CAGR)	
	FY 20.3	<b>CAGR</b> (20.3 –	25.3)	
FT	<b>4.0</b> B JPY	20 %	•	Contributing to society as a government-specified operator of "Critical infrastructure", and supporting digital businesses utilizing cutting-edge technologies
МТ	<b>1.9</b> в JPY	20 %	•	Further growth of digital ads to leading DX companies, and development of brand ads from developing DX companies into a second pillar
LTI	<b>4.7</b> B JPY	15 %	•	In addition to Kakaku.com, create strategic businesses in Japan and overseas



# A5. Focus on Capital Gain

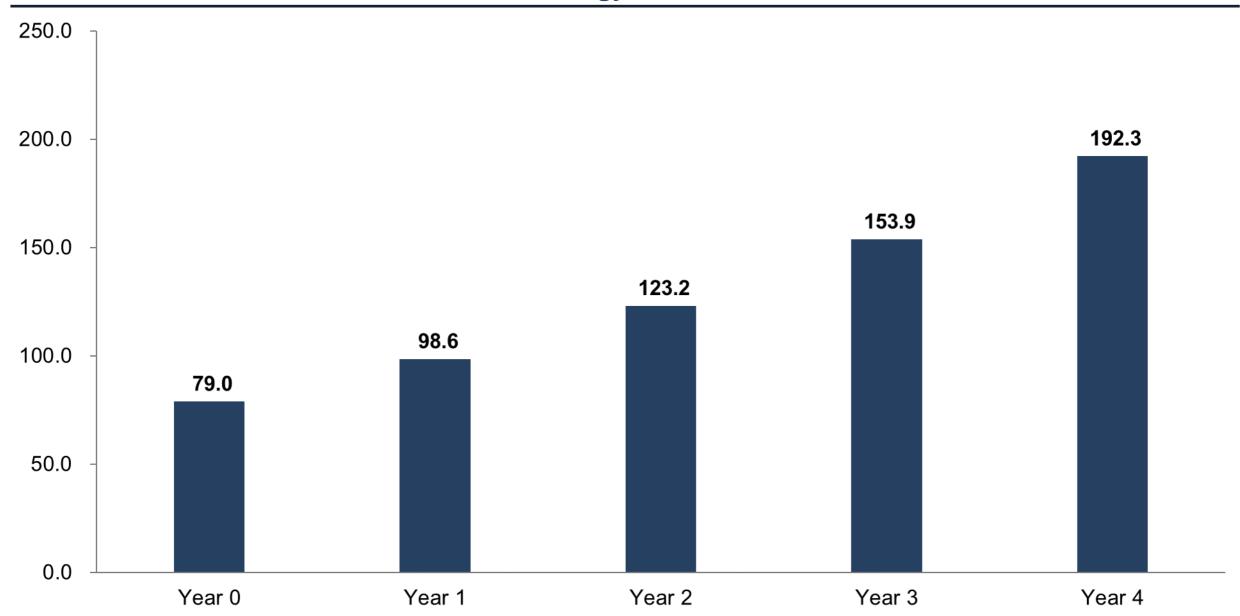


## DG Financial Technology should Focus on Capital Gain

Source: Oasis estimates

- DG Financial Technology should focus on capital gain
- The business could grow 25% CAGR in profit and we believe it makes the most sense for DG Financial Technology to reinvest in the business

### **DG Financial Technology EPS Increase Over Time**



## Significant and Stable Growth will Result in Massive Capital Gain for Shareholders... Like GMO PG

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

We have strong conviction that DG Financial Technology shares could perform like GMO PG over the last 5 years

### **GMO PG Total Return (Last 5Y)**



## Implied Share Price of DG Financial Technology Would be JPY5,226 per Share

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022, Oasis estimates

With implementation of our improvement plan for DG Financial Technology, the shares of DG Financial Technology would be priced at JPY5,226

### **DG Financial Technology Valuation**

FT segment FY2 Profit Before Earnings	¥5,906mn	MT segment FY2 Profit Before Earnings	¥1,853mn
FY2 P/E Multiple	55.1x	FY2 P/E Multiple	17.5x
Value of FT segment	¥225bn	Value of MT segment	¥22bn

Total	¥248bn
Number of Shares Outstanding	47.4mn
Implied Price per Share	¥5,226

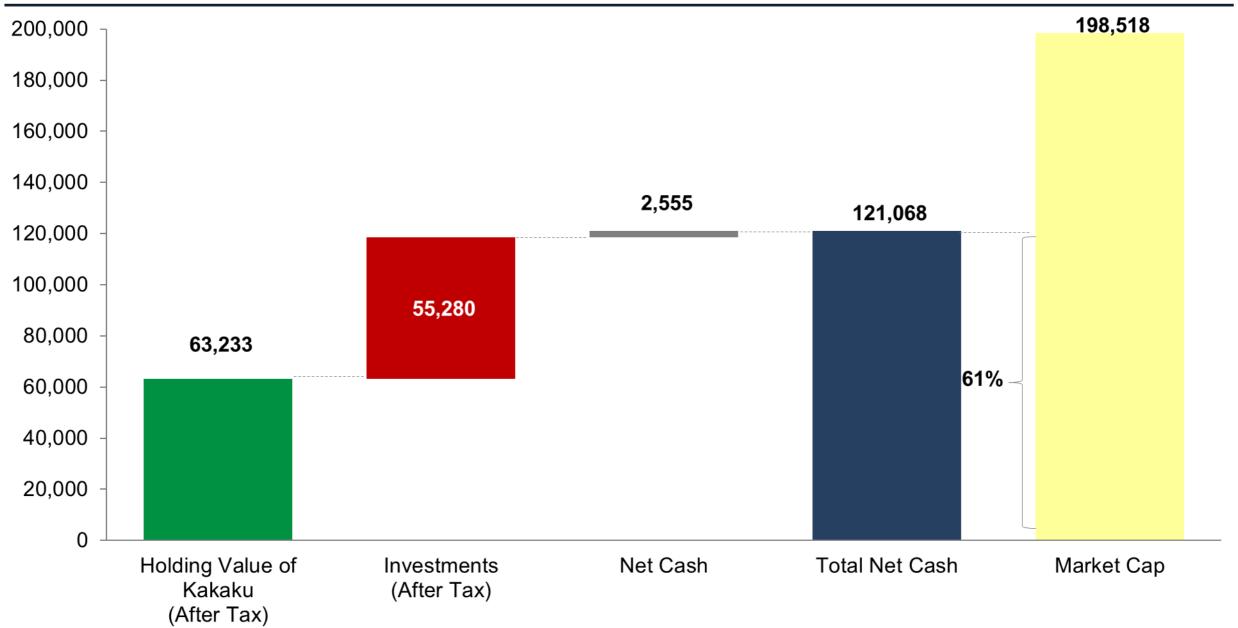
### B. DG Investments Improvement Plan

## This Improvement Plan Aims to Realize the True Value of DG Investments by Unlocking the Value of the Balance Sheet

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- DG's net cash including securities is 61% of its market cap
- This has not been factored in, as investors are uncertain whether the Company will return capital

### DG Market Cap vs. Net Cash (JPY in mn)



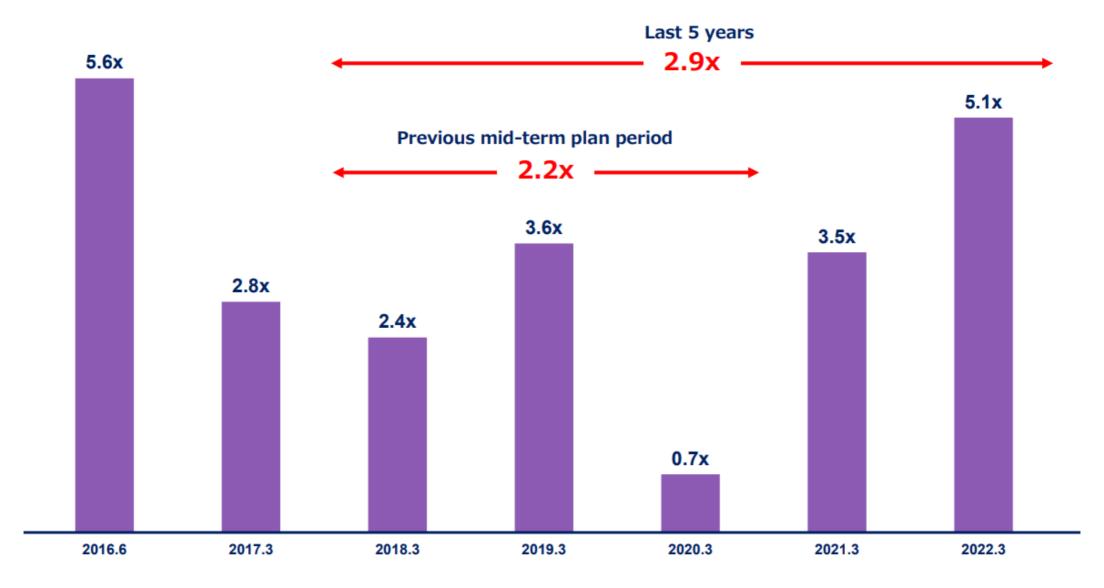
### **B1. Further Expand the Fund Business**

## IT Segment has Been Successful, but DG has Not Capitalized on This

Source: Company Disclosures

- IT segment has strength in early-stage startup investments
- The company has been successful in the market and the average return on investment has been 2.9x in the last 5
  years
- The Company has not been capitalizing on this track record

### **Track Record in the IT segment (Return on Investments)**





## IT Segment Has Made Interesting Overseas Investments

Source: Company Disclosures

The IT segment with its strong platform has been able to make interesting investments overseas

### **DG's Key Portfolio for the IT Segment**

 Fintech/DX promising portfolio companies in the With Corona era grew in Asia, Japan, North America, and other areas. Steady progress was made in fundraising, listing, and exit of investees.

### $oldsymbol{arDelta}$

#### DG Group's Fintech business collaboration projects

#### **Asia**

### Droom

[India]

[India]



Operates Droom, India's largest automotive buying and selling online marketplace

#### NoBroker Technologies Solutions



Operates India's peer-to-peer property marketplace. Users can rent/buy houses online without brokers

#### Expedient Healthcare Marketing [India]



Operates medical web service "Healthians.com," which offers online booking for health checkups at clinics, related information from doctors/experts, etc.

#### Ralali



#### [Indonesia]

Operates BtoB marketplace for office appliances, etc.

#### GoTo Group

[Indonesia]



Indonesian technology company formed in a merger between ridehailing giant Gojek and e-commerce platform Tokopedia

#### Japan

### ✓ AGE technologies [Japan]



A member of the 18th Open Network Lab Seed Accelerator Program. Provides "Souzoku.com," a service that completes various procedures occurring at the time of inheritance on the Internet.

### THIRD [Japan]



Provides cost reduction consulting services for construction, machinery, and electrical work, and Al-based real estate management platform "Kanri Roid"

### Pocket Change [Japan]



Provides "pocket change" service for collection, redemption, and exchange of foreign coins, linked to electronic money and point services

### GOYOH [Japan]



Develops and operates IT services for real estate, commercial and residential properties in Japan and abroad. Develops EaSyGo, a real estate tech service that increases real estate value through stakeholder ESG behavior change

### North America · Europe

### MX Technologies [US]



Offers a PFM (personal financial management) tool for financial institutions in the US

#### Helium Systems [US]



Operates IoT business through smart sensor devices that can be provided at low cost

### **Blockstream**



[US]

Develops Sidechain, a technology for using Blockchain, Bitcoin's core technology, in various applications

\* % stake includes investment securities held by Digital Garage, Inc.

### Pie Systems [Denmark]



Develops mobile app that automatizes refund workflow for international VAT (Value-Added Tax) and bypasses airport kiosk



### IT Segment Has Only a Small Participation in the **Fund Management Business**

Source: Company Disclosures

- DG has not been able to capitalize on the great performance of the IT segment
- Only a small portion of the business is in the fund business

### **DG IT segment**

➤ DG Ventures Inc.

Number of invested companies

: 248

Invests in and incubates cutting-edge internet startups Fair value end

of Mar. 2022

: Over 150



➤ Open Network Lab, Inc.

Seed Accelerator Program

Number of support

companies (accumulation)

**Funding ratio** : 58.2%



➤ DG Incubation, Inc.

Supports startups that challenge the world through incubation and fund management

Hamagin DG Innovation Fund : 3 B JPY

Open Network Lab & ESG I

**Investment Limited** 

Partnership

: Onboarding



➤ DG Daiwa Ventures, Inc. (50% stake/equity method)

Manages DG Lab Fund to invest in startups with next-generation technologies

DG Lab Fund I : 6.8 B JPY DG Lab Fund II : 12.5 B JPY



Digital Garage US, Inc.

The US-based global strategy headquarters

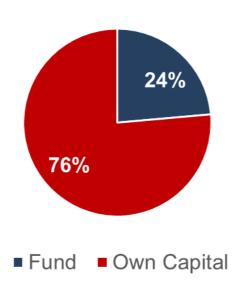


### DG Investments Should Accelerate Growth by Expanding its Fund Business

Source: Company Disclosures

- DG is currently focused on using its balance sheet to invest in start ups (76% of investment is using own capital)
- Since DG has a great track record and platform to invest, we believe DG Investments could expand the fund business further
- DG's competitor, Jafco Group Co., Ltd. ("Jafco") recently announced plans to use more external capital to grow its fund business

### **Current DG IT segment**



### **Jafco Improving Value Leveraging External Capital**

Medium- and long-term goals

Investment ratio in new funds

40%→20%

Total funds under management (AUM)

 $4380 \text{ billion} \rightarrow 4670 \text{ billion}$ 

Plans are to increase fund size in line with target market expansion

deducting the amount of the share buyback from net income.

ROE

 $6\% \rightarrow 15 \sim 20\%$ 

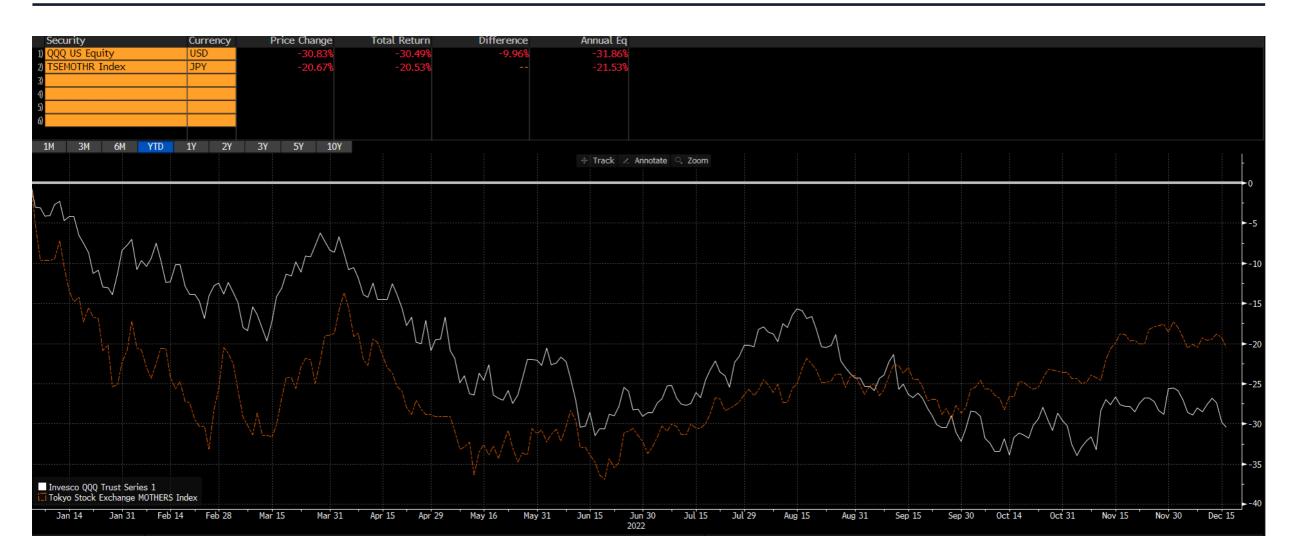


## **Growth Market Correction Provides DG Investments**with Opportunities

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- The growth market has been weak globally this year amid rising interest rates
- This will provide DG Investments with great opportunities and time to prepare

### **Nasdaq and TSE Mothers 2022 YTD Performance**





### **B2. Sell Kakaku shares**

## FT Segment Has Failed to Realize Synergies with Kakaku, while DG Has Been Invested for Decades

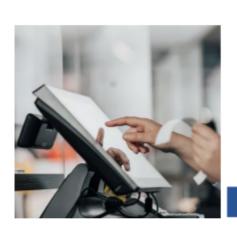
Source: Company Disclosures

- DG has been invested in Kakaku since 2002
- However, historically, DG has not sought any synergies with Kakaku until it announced a plan to do so recently
- We believe this is proof that there are no synergies between DG and Kakaku

#### **DG Q1 FY2022 Presentation**

In July 2022, Digital Garage, Kakaku.com, a DG group company, and alliance partner Toshiba Tec entered into an agreement to promote DX (digital transformation) in the food service and retail industries, promoting the digital in-store mobile ordering service ※ 食べロヴオーヴー (Tabelog Order)

[DX promotion agreement and roles of the three companies for the food service industry]

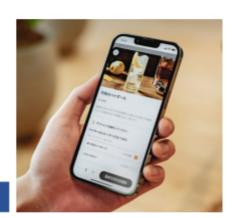




Number of Payment transactions: 720 million Member stores: 700,000

Capital and Business Alliance

**Group Company** 



Toshiba Tec Corporation

TSE Prime Market 6588

World's largest POS market share

Tabelog

Kakaku-com

TSE Prime Market 2371

Restaurants listed on Tabelog: 830,000

Monthly users: 93.23 million Monthly PV: 2.056 billion

Strategic business for the 3 companies, each representing their own industries, which aims to invigorate the food service industry also utilizing IT introduction government subsidies.

## DG Can Maintain Its Relationship with Kakaku, Regardless of Equity Ownership

Source: Company Disclosures

- DG should have a relationship with Kakaku regardless of the equity ownership
- We believe DG could have a business alliance with Kakaku, regardless of the equity ownership

### **Corporate Governance Code**

#### **Principle 1.4 Cross-Shareholdings**

When companies hold shares of other listed companies as cross-shareholdings<sup>2</sup>, they should disclose their policy with respect to doing so, including their policies regarding the reduction of cross-shareholdings. In addition, the board should annually assess whether or not to hold each individual cross-shareholding, specifically examining whether the purpose is appropriate and whether the benefits and risks from each holding cover the company's cost of capital. The results of this assessment should be disclosed.

Companies should establish and disclose specific standards with respect to the voting rights as to their cross-shareholdings, and vote in accordance with the standards.

#### **Supplementary Principles**

- 1.4.1 When cross-shareholders (i.e., shareholders who hold a company's shares for the purpose of cross-shareholding) indicate their intention to sell their shares, companies should not hinder the sale of the cross-held shares by, for instance, implying a possible reduction of business transactions.
- 1.4.2 Companies should not engage in transactions with cross-shareholders which may harm the interests of the companies or the common interests of their shareholders by, for instance, continuing the transactions without carefully examining the underlying economic rationale.



## DG Sold Some Kakaku Shares, which is a Good Start toward Unwinding the Investment

Source: Company Disclosures

- DG sold 3.4% of its Kakaku shares, which is a start
- We believe DG should further sell Kakaku shares to realize its value

### **DG Press Release (2022/11/16)**

#### 持分法適用会社株式の一部売却に伴う収益計上に関するお知らせ

当社は、2022年11月16日付の取締役会において、持分法適用会社株式の一部売却を決議し、それに伴う収益を計上する見込みとなりましたので、下記のとおりお知らせいたします。

記

#### 1. 壳却理由

資産効率の向上及び財務体質の強化を図るため、当社の持分法適用会社である株式会社カカクコムが 実施する自己株式取得に応じて、当社が保有する株式の一部を売却するものであります。

#### 2. 本件の内容

売 却 株 式 : 株式会社カカクコム 普通株式の一部

売 却 時 期 : 2022年12月末まで売 却 株 式 数 : 1,432,300株(上限)

関係会社株式売却益:連結決算(IFRS) 27億円(見込み) 個別決算(日本基準) 33億円(見込み)

#### 3. 業績への影響と今後の見通し

当第3四半期決算において、関係会社売却益を連結決算におきましては連結損益計算書の「その他収益」、個別決算におきましては損益計算書の「特別利益」として計上する見込みです。なお、本株式売却後におきましても、株式会社カカクコムは引き続き当社の持分法適用会社であります。

また、当社は連結業績予想の開示を行っておりませんが、今後業績に関する開示が必要となった場合には速やかにお知らせいたします。

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## Chairman Mr. Kaoru Hayashi Should Step Down as Chairman of Kakaku

Source: Company Disclosures

- We believe having Mr. Hayashi as a cross-chairman for both DG and Kakaku is preventing DG from exiting its investment in Kakaku
- Mr. Kaoru should step down from his role as Chairman of Kakaku

### **Notice of AGM for DG**

### **Notice of AGM for Kakaku**

Candidate No.	Name (Date of birth)		Summary, and Position and Responsibility in the Company Significant Concurrent Positions outside the Company)			
		Apr. 1983	Representative Director, From Garage, Inc.			
		Aug. 1995	Founded the Company Representative Director, the Company			
		Dec. 1996	Representative Director, K Garage, Inc. (now Representative Partner, K Garage, G.K.) (current position)			
		June 2003	Chairman and Director, Kakaku.com, Inc. (current position)			
		Nov. 2004	Representative Director, President and Group CEO, the Company			
		Oct. 2013	Director and Chairman, ECONTEXT, INC. (current position)			
		Oct. 2015	Director President & Chairman, econtext Asia Limited (current position)			
	Kaoru Hayashi (December 26, 1959)	July 2016	Director Chairman & CEO, Digital Garage US, Inc. (current position)			
	Number of the Company's	July 2016	Director, DG Daiwa Ventures, Inc. (current position)			
	Shares Owned: 6,839,500 shares	Sept. 2016	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, BI. Garage, Inc. (current position)			
1 Reelection		Sept. 2016	Representative Director, President Executive Officer and Group CEO, the Company (current position)			
		May 2017	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Ventures, Inc. (current position)			
		Aug. 2018	Representative Director and Chairman, DG Communications Co., Ltd.			
		Sept. 2018	Director, Crypto Garage, Inc. (current position)			
		June 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Financial Technology, Inc. (current position)			
		1	Representative Director, Chairman and President, DG Incubation, Inc. (current position)			
	Reason for the nomination a	s candidate fo	or Director			
Hayashi, as foundi		ention to the potential of the Internet service in Japan from its predawn era, Kaoru				
	Hayashi, as founding business manager of the Company, has created new Internet businesses since founding					
	the Company in 1995. In addition, he has driven the Group business management and contributed to expansion of the business, leveraging his wealth of insights about overall Internet business. The Company					
	therefore expects him to continue appropriately overseeing business operation of the Company and driving its					
	medium- to long-term growth strategy, and nominated him as a candidate for Director.					

Candidate No.		C	areer summary, position and responsibility at the Company (Significant concurrent positions outside the Company)
	V II	Aug. 1995	Founder and Representative Director, Digital Garage, Inc.
	Kaoru Hayashi [Reelection]	Jul. 2002	Representative Chairman, the Company
	[Male]	Jun. 2003	Chairman of the Board, the Company (present post)
	Date of birth:	Oct. 2015	Director President and Chairman, econtext Asia Limited (present post)
	December 26, 1959	Jul. 2016	Director Chairman and CEO, Digital Garage US, Inc. (present post)
	Number of shares held in the Company:	Sep. 2016	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, BI.Garage, Inc. (present post)
	165,800 shares	Sep. 2016	Representative Director, President Executive Officer and Group CEO, Digital Garage, Inc. (present post)
1	Attendance at the meetings of the Board of Directors:	May 2017	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Incubation, Inc. (currently DG Ventures, Inc.) (present post)
	17/17	Jun. 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and CEO, DG Financial Technology, Inc. (present post)
		Jun. 2021	Representative Director, Chairman and President, DG Incubation, Inc. (present post)
		n focused on fi	ate for Director] uture potential since the early days of personal internet services in Japan siness as an entrepreneur since founding Digital Garage, Inc. He has a

high level of knowledge about the internet business, including global IT technology trends. The Company has nominated him as a candidate for reelection as Director because we have determined that he can be expected to play a suitable role in the expansion of the Company's business and its overall management in the future.

OASIS

### **B3. Focus on Shareholder Returns**

## DG Investments Should Focus on Shareholders Returns through Buybacks & Dividends

Source: Company Disclosures

- DG Investments should focus on returning capital through buybacks and dividends at the time it exits investments
- DG Investments should have an increased dividend policy and shareholder return policy

### **DG Investments Proposed Shareholder Return Policy**

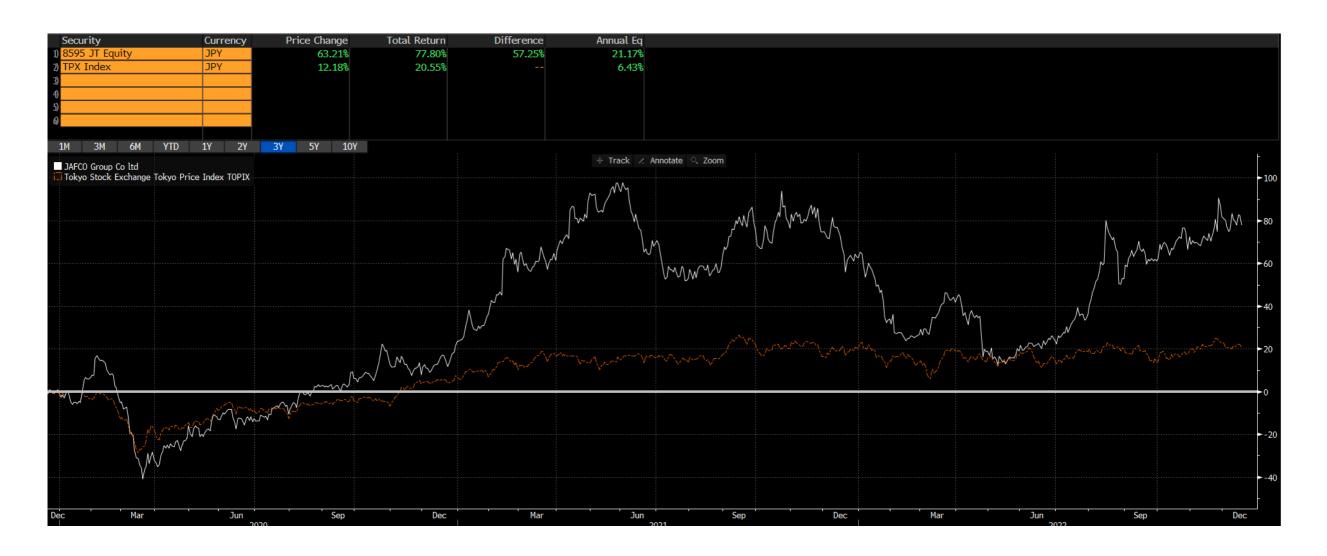
- DG Investments will return 100% of its profit to shareholders, keeping only required capital for further investments
- DG Investments will return the capital from selling Kakaku shares
- DG Investments will have a stable dividend with 3% DOE

## Significant and Stable Return from Investments will Result in Massive Income Gain for Shareholders... Like Jafco

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- DG Investments could perform like Jafco if it successfully returns capital to shareholders through income gain
- Selling Kakaku could be a source of income gain while DG Investments prepares for further growth

### **Jafco Total Return (Last 3 Years)**





### DG Investments Could be Valued JPY2,761 per share

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022, Oasis estimates

DG Investments would be valued JPY2,761 per share

### **DG Investments Valuation**

NAV of the IT segment	¥79.8bn
Value of Kakaku Shares	¥90.3bn
Total	¥170.1bn
Number of Shares Outstanding	47.4mn
Implied NAV per Share	¥3,587
Discount to NAV	23%
Implied Price per Share	¥2,761



### DG is Cheap; It's a Good Time to Buy Back Shares

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- DG is around its historical low on all the valuation metrics
- We believe it is a great time to buyback shares

### **DG Historical Multiple (Last 5 Years)**





## DG Announced a Buyback, which Is a Good First Step; More Should Follow

Source: Company Disclosures

- On November 11, 2022, DG made its first step to buy back shares (3.4%)
- We believe the Company's stock is extremely cheap and look forward seeing more buybacks

### **DG Press Release (2022/11/11)**

自己株式取得に係る事項の決定に関するお知らせ (会社法第165条第2項の規定による定款の定めに基づく自己株式の取得)

当社は、2022年11月11日開催の取締役会において、以下のとおり、会社法第165条第3項の規定により 読み替えて適用される同法第156条の規定に基づき、自己株式取得に係る事項について決議しましたので、 お知らせいたします。

記

1. 自己株式の取得を行う理由

当社は、株主の皆様に対する利益還元を重要な経営課題として位置付けており、キャッシュ・フローを意識した経営による株主還元を基本方針としております。この度、当社の財務状況及び株価の状況等に鑑み、株主還元の拡充を図るとともに、経営環境の変化に対応した機動的な資本政策を遂行するため、自己株式の取得を行うものであります。

#### 2. 取得に係る事項の内容

(1)	取得対象株式の種類		種類	当社普通株式	
(2) 取得し得る株式の総数		総数	1,600,000 株 (上限)		
					(発行済株式総数(自己株式を除く)に対する割合3.39%)
(3) 株式の取得価格の総額		総額	50 億円 (上限)		
(4)	取	得	期	間	2022年11月14日~2023年4月30日
(5)	取	得	方	法	取引一任契約に基づく東京証券取引所における市場買付

(参考) 2022 年 9 月 30 日時点の自己株式の保有状況 発行済株式総数(自己株式を除く) 47,239,815 株

自己株式数 358,885 株

以上

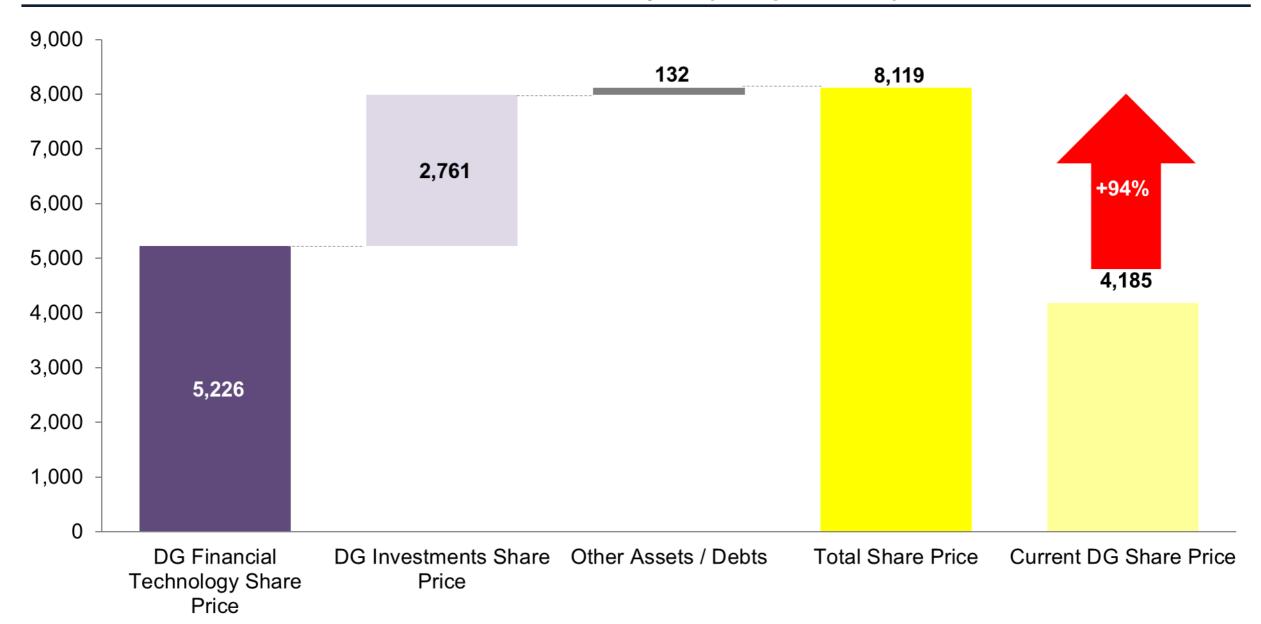
# 6. Value Enhancement By Implementing Our Proposals

## Execution of Oasis's Proposals Will Lead to Significant Value Creation for DG and its Shareholders (1/3)

Source: Company Disclosures, Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022, Oasis estimates

• Executing on all of Oasis's proposals will lead to DG realizing nearly 100% upside to its current stock price

### **Sum of the Parts Analysis (JPY per share)**

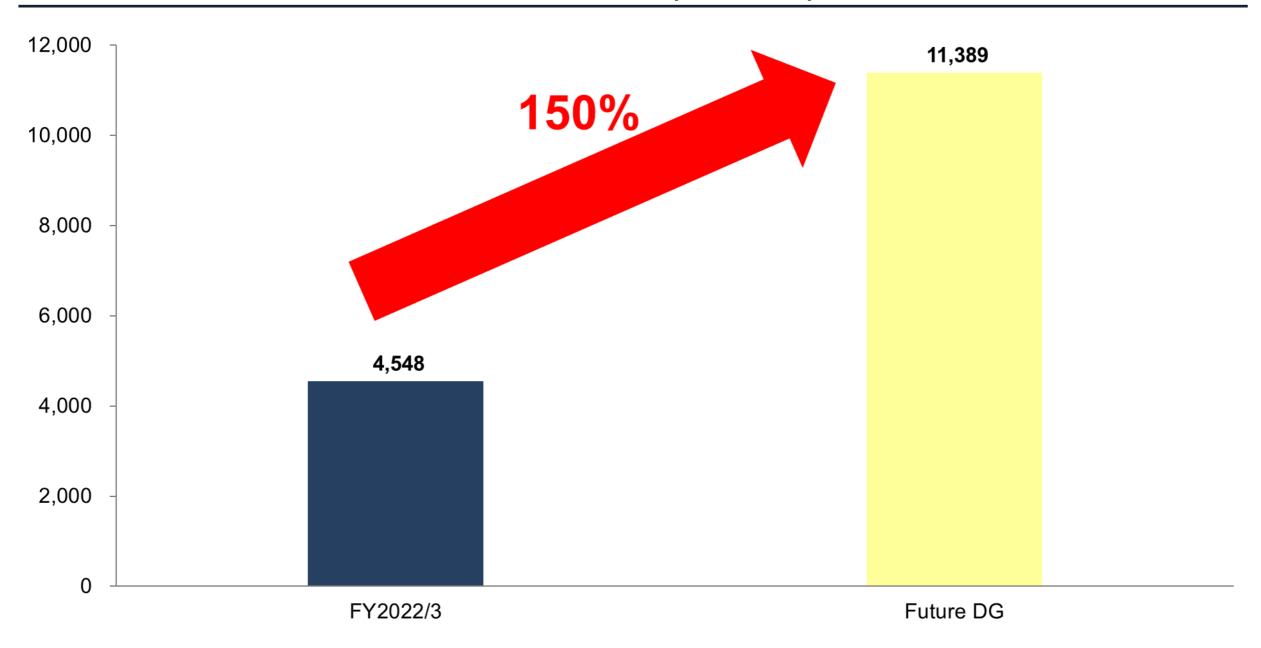


## Execution of Oasis's Proposals Will Lead to Significant Value Creation for DG and its Shareholders (2/3)

Source: Company Disclosures, Oasis estimates

 Executing on all of Oasis's proposals will lead DG to realize a 6.8Bn yen or 150% increase in project profit before tax

### **Profit Before Tax (JPY in mn)**

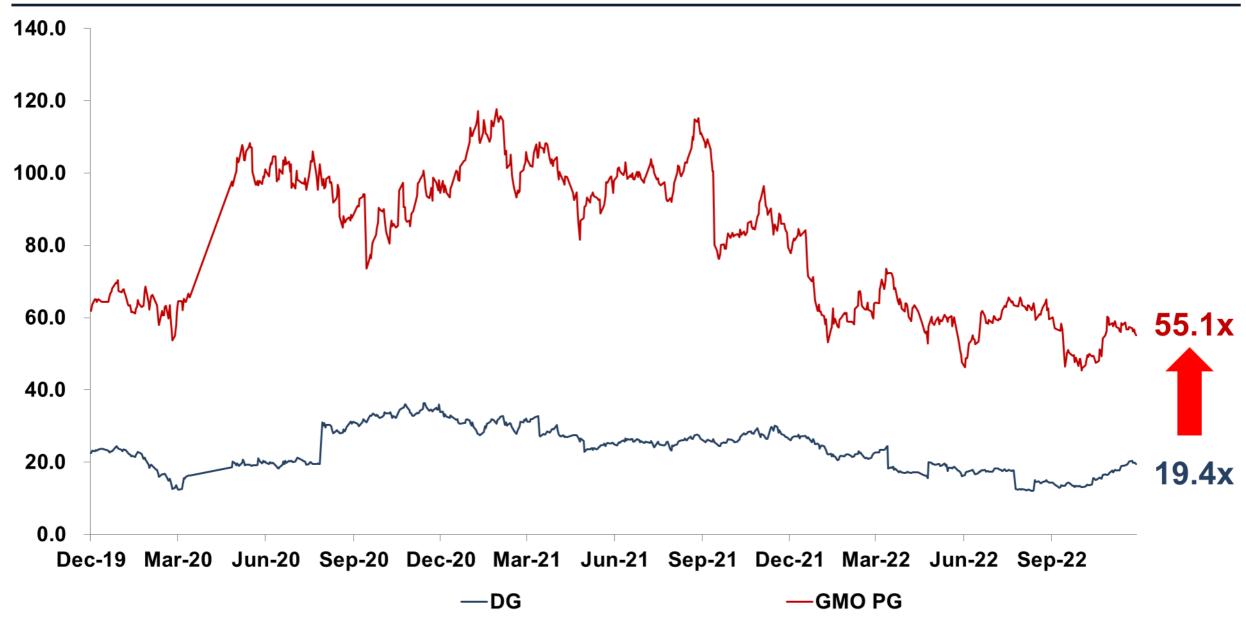


## Execution of Oasis's Proposals Will Lead to Significant Value Creation for DG and its Shareholders (3/3)

Source: Bloomberg, Market Data as of December 18, 2022

- The valuation gap between DG and GMO PG is significant
- GMO PG trades at 2.8x multiple to DG
- DG could fill in this gap by implementing our proposals

### **Historical Multiple Comparison (FY2 P/E)**



# 7. Our Message to the Board and Management of DG

### Oasis Message to the Board & Management of DG

- We urge the DG Board of Directors to split the company into DG Financial Technology and DG Investments so that each management team can be fully engaged with the business
- This will massively accelerate growth for each of the businesses
- It would also be easier to hire people for the separate businesses
- DG Investments should sell down Kakaku shares and return capital to investors
- Mr. Hayashi should step down from Kakaku board to focus on growing DG Financial Technology
- We have reviewed this in great depth and believe that this option is executable
- The directors of DG should execute this at the 2023 AGM
- We would like to maintain our constructive dialogue with the management of DG

### **Contact Us**

- Help us create A Better DG
- For questions, please reach out to:

Info@abetterDG.com

### **Legal Disclaimer**

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