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Disclosure of inside information according to Article 17 MAR of the Regulation (EU) No 596/2014

June 18, 2024

# Verve announces intention to carry out a directed share issue

The board of directors of Verve Group SE (Scale Segment Frankfurt Stock Exchange: VER), (Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market: VER) ("Verve" or the "Company") hereby announces its intention to carry out an issue of approximately 27 million new ordinary A shares (approximately 17 percent of outstanding share capital) directed to institutional investors through an accelerated book-building procedure pursuant to the authorisation granted by the annual general meeting held on June 13, 2024 (the "Directed Share Issue"). The Directed Share Issue is intended to be carried out in connection with the acquisition of Jun Group (the "Acquisition"), announced by the Company earlier today, to maintain the Company's desired capital structure with a midterm pro forma Net Leverage ratio of 1.5-2.5x. Verve has engaged Pareto Securities AB and Swedbank AB (publ) (jointly referred to as the "Managers") to explore the conditions for carrying out the Directed Share Issue.

The subscription price will be determined through an accelerated book-building procedure, which will commence immediately after publication of this announcement and end before the commencement of trading on Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market on June 19, 2024. The book-building procedure may, at the discretion of the Company, close earlier or later and may be cancelled at any time.

The Company intends to use the net proceeds from the Directed Share Issue in order to maintain the Company's desired capital structure following the financing of the Acquisition, which is expected to be closed in September 2024, and to further strengthen the Company's financial position in line with the Company's updated financial targets.

The Company's two largest shareholders, Bodhivas GmbH, owned by Remco Westermann (CEO and Board Member) and funds managed by Oaktree Capital Management, L.P. ("Oaktree"), as well as a highly reputable Swedish multi-family office have indicated an interest to subscribe for a substantial share of the Directed Share Issue. The support from two of the Company's key shareholders is expected to increase the interest in and thereby facilitate the Directed Share Issue.



The Company has considered the possibility to raise the required equity through a rights issue. However, the Board of Directors of the Company has concluded that the Directed Share Issue would be significantly more time-effective, which is essential in order to maintain the Company's desired capital structure following the financing of the Acquisition. Also, a rights issue would entail significantly higher costs and increased exposure to potential market volatility compared to the Directed Share Issue. Unlike a rights issue, the Directed Share Issue is also expected to broaden the shareholder base and provide the Company with new qualified and institutional investors, which the Board of Directors considers to be of benefit to the Company and the general liquidity in the share. Considering the above reasons, the Board of Directors has made the assessment that a Directed Share Issue with deviation from the shareholders' preferential rights, as authorised by the annual general meeting held on June 13, 2024, in this specific case clearly and with sufficient strength outweighs the reasons that justifies the main rule that share issues shall be carried out with application of the shareholders' pre-emptive rights. Therefore, the Directed Share Issue is the most favourable alternative for the Company and in the best interest of the Company and all shareholders. As the subscription price in the Directed Share Issue will be determined through a book-building procedure, the Board of Directors assesses that the subscription price will reflect current market conditions and demand.

In connection with the Directed Share Issue, the Company has agreed, with customary exceptions, not to issue additional shares for a period of 90 calendar days after the first settlement date (unless for M&A financing). In addition, Remco Westermann (including for Bodhivas GmbH) as well as the Board and Executive Management have committed to not sell any shares in Verve for the same period of 90 calendar days after the first settlement date.

## **Advisers**

Pareto Securities AB and Swedbank AB (publ) have been appointed Joint Global Coordinators and Joint Bookrunners. Baker McKenzie acts as legal counsel to the Company and Gernandt & Danielsson Advokatbyrå acts as legal counsel to the Managers in connection with the Directed Share Issue.

### Responsible parties

This information is such information Verve Group SE is obliged to make public in accordance with the (EU) Market Abuse Regulation 596/2014. The information in this release has been made public through the agency of the responsible persons set out below for publication at the time stated by Verve's news distributor EQS Newswire at the publication of this release. The responsible persons below may be contacted for further information.

## For further information, please contact:

Sören Barz
Head of Investor Relations
+49 170 376 9571
soeren.barz@mgi-se.com, investor@mgi-se.com
www.verve.com

### **About Verve:**

Verve (Ticker: VER) is a fast-growing, profitable digital media company that provides Al-driven ad-software solutions. Verve matches global advertiser demand with publisher ad-supply,



enhancing results through first-party data from its own content. Aligned with our mission, "Let's make media better," the company focuses on enabling better outcomes for brands, agencies, and publishers with responsible advertising solutions, with an emphasis on emerging media channels. Verve's main operational presence is in North America and Europe, and it is registered as a Societas Europaea in Sweden (registration number 517100-0143). Its shares are listed on the Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market in Stockholm and the Scale segment of the Frankfurt Stock Exchange. The company has three secured bonds listed on Nasdaq Stockholm and the Frankfurt Stock Exchange Open Market. Verve's certified advisor on the Nasdaq First North Premier Growth Market is FNCA Sweden AB; contact info: info@fnca.se.

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This press release is not a prospectus for the purposes of the Prospectus Regulation (EU) 2017/1129 (the "**Prospectus Regulation**") and has not been approved by any regulatory authority in any jurisdiction. The Company has not authorised any offer to the public of shares or rights in any Member State of the EEA and no prospectus has been or will be prepared in connection with the Directed Share Issue. In any EEA Member State, this communication is only addressed to and is only directed at qualified investors in that Member State within the meaning of the Prospectus Regulation.

This press release does not constitute or form part of an offer or solicitation to purchase or subscribe for securities in the United States. The securities referred to herein may not be offered or sold within the United States absent registration or an applicable exemption from, or in a transaction not subject to, the registration requirements of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"). There is no intention to register any securities referred to herein in the United States or to make a public offering of the securities in the United States. The information in this press release may not be announced, published, copied. reproduced or distributed, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, within or into Australia, Belarus, Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Switzerland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, the United States (including the district of Columbia) or in any other jurisdiction where such announcement, publication or distribution of the information would not comply with applicable laws and regulations or where such actions are subject to legal restrictions or would require registration or any other action other than those required under Swedish law, is prohibited pursuant to EU, UK or US sanctions, or otherwise in conflict with applicable rules in such jurisdiction or cannot take place without application of an exemption from such measure. Actions taken in violation of this instruction may constitute a crime against applicable securities laws and regulations.

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European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018) who are (i) persons having professional experience in matters relating to investments who fall within the definition of "investment professionals" in Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005, as amended (the "Order"); (ii) high net worth entities etc. falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the Order; or (iii) such other persons to whom such investment or investment activity may lawfully be made available under the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "Relevant Persons"). In the United Kingdom, any investment or investment activity to which this communication relates is available only to, and will be engaged in only with, Relevant Persons. Persons who are not Relevant Persons should not take any action on the basis of this press release and should not act or rely on it.

This announcement does not identify or suggest, or purport to identify or suggest, the risks (direct or indirect) that may be associated with an investment in the new shares. Any investment decision to acquire or subscribe for shares in connection with the Directed Share Issue must be made on the basis of all publicly available information relating to the Company and the Company's shares. Such information has not been independently verified by the Managers. The Managers are acting for the Company in connection with the transaction and no one else and will not be responsible to anyone other than the Company for providing the protections afforded to its clients nor for giving advice in relation to the transaction or any other matter referred to herein.

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This press release does not constitute an invitation to warrant, subscribe, or otherwise acquire or transfer any securities in any jurisdiction. This press release does not constitute a recommendation for any investors' decisions regarding the Directed Share Issue. Each investor or potential investor should conduct a self-examination, analysis and evaluation of the business and information described in this press release and any publicly available information. The price and value of the securities can decrease as well as increase. Achieved results do not provide guidance for future results. Neither the contents of the Company's website nor any other website accessible through hyperlinks on the Company's website are incorporated into or form part of this press release.

### **Forward-looking statements**

This press release contains forward-looking statements that reflect the Company's intentions, beliefs, or current expectations about and targets for the Company's future results of operations, financial condition, liquidity, performance, prospects, anticipated growth, strategies and opportunities and the markets in which the Company operates. Forward-looking statements are statements that are not historical facts and may be identified by words such as "believe", "expect", "anticipate", "intend", "may", "plan", "estimate", "will", "should", "could", "aim" or "might", or, in each case, their negative, or similar expressions. The forward-looking statements in this press release are based upon various assumptions, many of which are based, in turn, upon further assumptions. Although the Company believes that the expectations reflected in these forward-looking statements are reasonable, it can give no assurances that they will materialize or prove to be correct. Because these statements are based on assumptions or estimates and are subject to risks and uncertainties, the actual results or outcome could differ materially from those set out in the forward-looking statements as a result of many factors. Such risks, uncertainties, contingencies and other important factors could cause actual events to differ materially from the expectations expressed or implied in this release by such forward-looking statements. The Company does not guarantee that the assumptions underlying the forward-looking statements in this press release are free from errors and readers of this press release should not place undue reliance on the forward-



looking statements in this press release. The information, opinions and forward-looking statements that are expressly or implicitly contained herein speak only as of its date and are subject to change without notice. Neither the Company nor anyone else undertake to review, update, confirm or to release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements to reflect events that occur or circumstances that arise in relation to the content of this press release, unless it is not required by law or Nasdaq First North Growth Market's Rulebook for issuers.

#### Information to distributors

Solely for the purposes of the product governance requirements contained within: (a) EU Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments, as amended ("MiFID II"); (b) Articles 9 and 10 of Commission Delegated Directive (EU) 2017/593 supplementing MiFID II; and (c) local implementing measures (together, the "MiFID II Product Governance Requirements"), and disclaiming all and any liability, whether arising in tort, contract or otherwise, which any "manufacturer" (for the purposes of the MiFID II Product Governance Requirements) may otherwise have with respect thereto, the shares in the Company have been subject to a product approval process, which has determined that such shares are: (i) compatible with an end target market of retail investors and investors who meet the criteria of professional clients and eligible counterparties, each as defined in MiFID II; and (ii) eligible for distribution through all distribution channels as are permitted by MiFID II (the "EU Target Market Assessment"). Solely for the purposes of each manufacturer's product approval process in the United Kingdom, the target market assessment in respect of the shares in the Company has led to the conclusion that: (i) the target market for such shares is only eligible counterparties, as defined in the FCA Handbook Conduct of Business Sourcebook, and professional clients, as defined in Regulation (EU) No 600/2014 as it forms part of domestic law by virtue of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 ("UK MiFIR"); and (ii) all channels for distribution of such shares to eligible counterparties and professional clients are appropriate (the "UK Target Market Assessment" and, together with the EU Target Market Assessment, the "Target Market Assessment"). Notwithstanding the Target Market Assessment, distributors should note that: the price of the shares in the Company may decline and investors could lose all or part of their investment; the shares in the Company offer no guaranteed income and no capital protection; and an investment in the shares in the Company is compatible only with investors who do not need a guaranteed income or capital protection, who (either alone or in conjunction with an appropriate financial or other adviser) are capable of evaluating the merits and risks of such an investment and who have sufficient resources to be able to bear any losses that may result therefrom. The Target Market Assessment is without prejudice to the requirements of any contractual, legal or regulatory selling restrictions in relation to the Directed Share Issue. Furthermore, it is noted that, notwithstanding the Target Market Assessment, the Managers will only procure investors who meet the criteria of professional clients and eligible counterparties.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Target Market Assessment does not constitute: (a) an assessment of suitability or appropriateness for the purposes of MiFID II or UK MiFIR; or (b) a recommendation to any investor or group of investors to invest in, or purchase, or take any other action whatsoever with respect to the shares in the Company.

Each distributor is responsible for undertaking its own target market assessment in respect of the shares in the Company and determining appropriate distribution channels.