

# Kepler Cheuvreux Befesa Presentation

2nd Digital Pan European ESG Conference



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EAF steel dust recycling plant at Asúa-Erandio, Spain



# **Executive summary**



### **Q1 EBITDA**

strongest quarter in history 46% up yoy (Q1'20: €33.6m), 15% up over Q4'20 at €42.4m

Plant utilisation recovered to pre-COVID levels at ≥ 90%

# €26.5m

**Operating cash flow** €18.1m up yoy (Q1 2020: €8.4m)

**€164.0m of cash on hand**, €9.4m up vs. YE'20 at €154.6m

Leverage x2.8 L12M and x2.2 L6M improved from x3.1 at YE'20

# FY 2021 guidance

- FY EBITDA of €165 to €190m, +30% to +50% yoy
- **Dividend** guidance narrowed to **€40m** (**€1.17** / **share**); Proposing to AGM (30 June 2021)

At continued current Zinc LME prices of ~\$2900/t expecting to beat upper end closer to €200m EBITDA

# c. 3 years

Hedge book fully extended up to and incl. July 2024; providing increased earnings and cash flow visibility

# China expansion

### on schedule and on budget:

- Jiangsu: Construction completed; Commissioning in process
- Henan: Construction scheduled to be completed after the summer of 2021

# ESG

- Befesa as a vital player within circular economy with strong ESG ratings
- 2020 ESG Progress Update published on 27 April

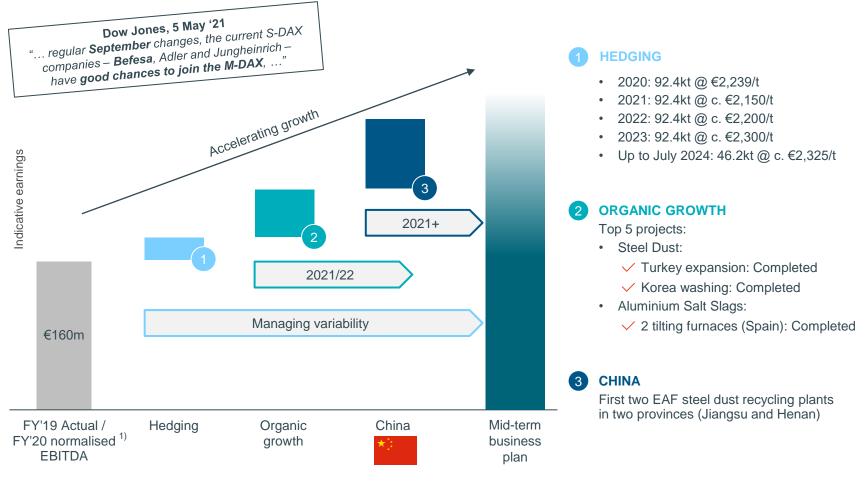
Note: L12M and L6M stand for last-twelve and last-six months period, respectively





# Mid-term growth roadmap

Executing well defined growth roadmap even during COVID-19; Focus 2021: Ramping up operations at the first two EAF steel dust recycling plants in China



Note: Chart is illustrative and size of respective arrows in the chart is not indicative to the underlying growth potential

<sup>1)</sup> FY 2020 normalised for a) Zinc LME @\$2,500/t (long-term consensus), and b) TC @\$225/t (9% \$2,500/t LME)

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# Zinc prices & hedging strategy

Hedges fully extended up to and including July 2024; Improved earnings & cash flows visibility



Source: London Metal Exchange (LME) zinc daily cash settlement prices; Company information

### Zinc hedges & blended average prices (€/t)

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	Q1 2020	Q1 2021
Unhedged	41% or 16kt @ €1,930/t LME	40% or 15kt @ €2,279/t LME
Hedged	59% or 23kt @ €2,244/t	60% or 23kt @ €2,201/t
Blended <sup>1)</sup>	€2,114	€2,237
		+€123/t / +6% yoy

Hedging strategy unchanged:

- Hedges in place fully up to and incl. July 2024 (c. 3 years)
- Targeting 60% to 75% of zinc equivalent volume
- Majority of hedges Euro based
- · Befesa providing no collateral

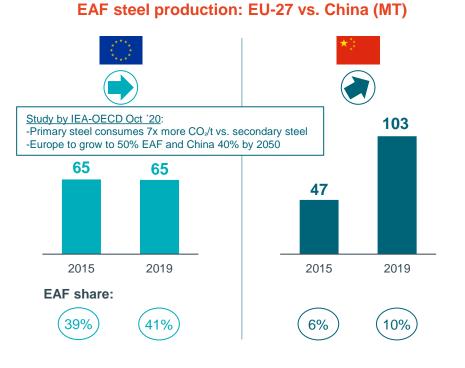
1) Zinc blended prices are annual averages computed based on the monthly effective LME zinc and hedging prices weighted with the respective hedged and non-hedged volumes



# EAF steel production -&-Befesa's steel portfolio growth & diversification

ROW<sup>3)</sup>

China is the largest and growing EAF steel producer worldwide; Befesa growing and diversifying its portfolio to capture China addressable market



China EAF steel dust addressable market > 1.5 MT<sup>1</sup>) -vs. c. 1.2 MT<sup>1</sup>) EU-27; Expected to grow in share and tonnage

Source: worldsteel; Company data

<sup>1)</sup> Assuming 15kg to 20kg EAF dust generated per tonne of EAF crude steel output

<sup>2)</sup> Europe defined as EU-27

<sup>3)</sup> Rest of World (ROW) includes Turkey, Korea as well as servicing South East Asia and China

Further BEFESA China expansion Capacity additions 1.045 825 +220 670 +155China 495 plants +175+45 Turkev (Jiangsu +110 Korea & Henan) +65 Turkey +110 Korea 2009 2015 2019 2021 E EAF steel dust recycling capacity by region (%): Europe<sup>2)</sup> 100% 74% 60% 47%

 Befesa Steel portfolio growing @ c. 6% CAGR (around twice GDP) while diversifying to c. 50/50 Europe / ROW

40%

53%

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26%

### Befesa's EAF steel dust recycling capacity trend (kt)



# China I

Changzhou plant, Jiangsu province

### Key facts of the plant:

- 1<sup>st</sup> EAF steel dust recycling plant in China
- Capacity to recycle 110kt EAF steel dust p.a.
- Total investment: c. €42m
- Location: Changzhou (Jiangsu province)

### Status update:

- ✓ Long-term financing closed July 2020
- Construction completed, on time and on budget
- $\rightarrow$  Cold commissioning completed, Hot commissioning in process
- Targeting commercial output in H2 2021



↑ Changzhou plant, mid-May 2021



# China II

Xuchang plant, Henan province

Key facts of the plant:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> EAF steel dust recycling plant in China
- Capacity to recycle 110kt EAF steel dust p.a.
- Total investment: c. €42m
- Location: Xuchang (Henan province)

### Status update:

- ✓ Long-term financing closed December 2020
- → Construction progressing on schedule; Completion expected after the summer of 2021
- Targeting ramp up in H2 2021



↑ Xuchang construction site, mid-May 2021

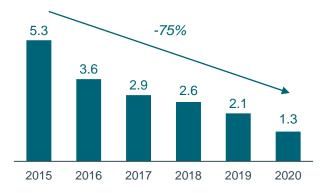


# Sustainability at Befesa

Key player within the circular economy, with c. 1.5 million tonnes recycled and c. 1.3 million tonnes of valuable materials recovered annually, that contributes significantly to increase efficiency of raw material use in the metals industry and promotes the transition towards a more sustainable economy

# Lost Time Injury Rate (LTIR)

- Excellence in health & safety is a priority for Befesa
- · Aiming to reduce LTIR by at least 50% by 2024 vs. 2019



### 

# Global Challenges Index (GCX)

- Befesa selected on 18 Sep 2020
- GCX comprises a total of 50 shares selected according to strict criteria from a total of c. 6,000 companies worldwide



# Sustainability Report

 Befesa 2020 ESG Progress Update was published on 27 April 2021





# FY 2021 Guidance

	Lower-end: €165m EBITDA (above 2019 of €160m)	Upper-end: €190m EBITDA (new record)		
Volume / Capacity utilisation	<ul> <li>Moderate recovery from COVID-19</li> <li>China ramping up &amp; delivering commercial output in H2 on schedule</li> <li>Overall capacity utilisation at c. 85–90%</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Strong recovery from COVID-19</li> <li>China ramping up &amp; delivering commercial output in H2 on schedule</li> <li>Overall cap. utilisation at c. 90–95%</li> </ul>		
Metal prices	<ul> <li>Zinc &amp; aluminium market prices slowing down in H2 (vs. strong Q1'21 level)</li> <li>TC referenced at \$159/t</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Metal market prices maintaining strong Q1'21 levels for 2021 (c. \$2,750/t zinc LME; c. €2,000 alu alloy FMB)</li> <li>TC referenced at \$159/t</li> </ul>		
Capex	<ul> <li>Continuing to fund China expansion</li> <li>Total capex of c. €75–90m:</li> <li>c. €50–60m growth (China), majority funded through China local loans;</li> <li>c. €25–30m regular maintenance / IT / compliance / operational excellence investments</li> </ul>			
Dividend	<ul> <li>€40m (€1.17 / share) dividend distribution, equal to:</li> <li>Distributing 84% of €47.6m net profit in FY'20</li> <li>Distributing net profit at upper-end of 50% on a two-year view: FY'19 €24.9m + FY'20 €40.0m dividend = €64.9m, equal to 50% of FY'19 €82.7m + FY'20 €47.6m net profit = €130m</li> </ul>			
Cash flow, cash position & net leverage	<ul> <li>c. +€25m</li> <li>Cash position c. €180m</li> <li>Net leverage at c. x2.5 (below 2019 of x2.6)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>c. +€45m</li> <li>Cash position c. €200m</li> <li>Net leverage at c. x2.1 (back to 2018 level)</li> </ul>		



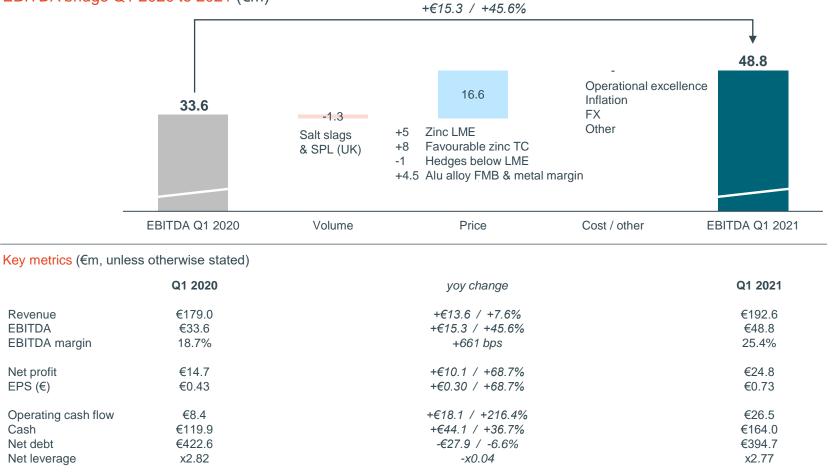


Nanjing City, Location of Befesa China's HQ



# Consolidated key financials

Q1 EBITDA at  $\in$ 48.8m, a new record level, benefited from favourable market prices; Volumes returned to pre-COVID levels with strong plant utilisation levels at  $\geq$  90%



EBITDA bridge Q1 2020 to 2021 (€m)

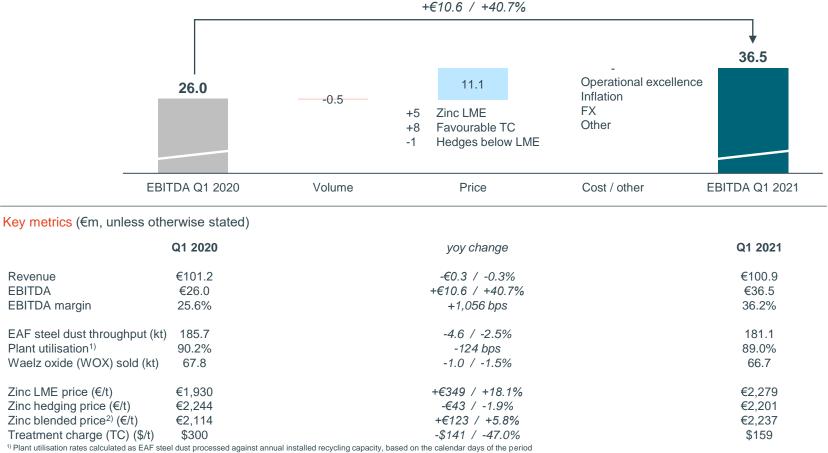
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# **Steel Dust Recycling Services**

Q1 EBITDA at €36.5m; Favourable zinc LME prices and TC, partially offset by lower zinc hedging prices; Overall plant utilisation back to pre-COVID levels at around 90%

### EBITDA bridge Q1 2020 to 2021 (€m)

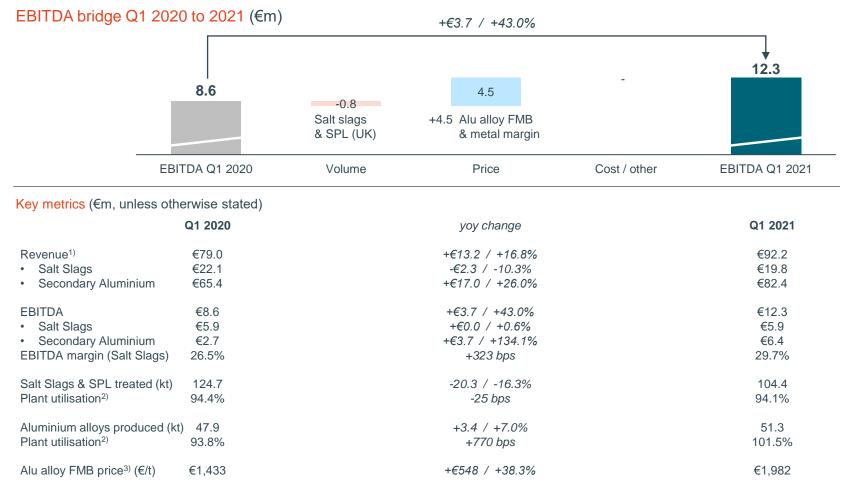


<sup>2</sup> Blended rate between hedged prices and average spot prices, weighted by the respective hedged and non-hedged volumes, reflecting the period



# **Aluminium Salt Slags Recycling Services**

Q1 EBITDA at €12.3m; Higher aluminium alloy FMB prices partially offset by lower salt slags & SPL treated (UK closure); Overall plant utilisation recovered to pre-COVID-19 levels at above 90%



<sup>1)</sup> Total revenue is after intersegment eliminations (Q1 2020: €8.5m; Q1 2021: €10.0m)

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<sup>2)</sup> Plant utilisation rates calculated as either salt slags/SPL treated, or aluminium alloys produced against the corresponding annual installed capacity, based on the calendar days of the period

<sup>3)</sup> Aluminium scrap and foundry ingots aluminium pressure diecasting ingot DIN226/A380 European Metal Bulletin free market duty paid delivered works

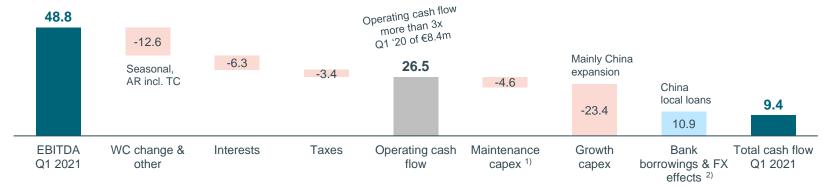


Moody's upgraded Befesa on 6 May '21 to 'Ba2 Stable'; S&P unchanged at 'BB Stable'

# Cash flow, net debt & leverage

Strong €239m liquidity (€164m cash balance + €75m RCF entirely undrawn)

### EBITDA to total cash flow (€m)



<sup>1)</sup> Includes investments required to maintain or replace assets as well as those related to productivity, compliance and IT

<sup>2)</sup> Includes cash bank inflows/outflows from bank borrowings and other liabilities, as well as the effect of foreign exchange rate changes on cash

	At 31 Mar 2020	At 31 Dec 2020	Change	At 31 Mar 2021
Last-twelve months (LTM) EBITDA	€150.1	€127.0	+€15.3 / +12.0%	€142.2
LTM operating cash flow	€93.3	€92.5	+€18.1 / +19.6%	€110.7
Gross debt	€542.5	€548.2	+€10.5 / +1.9%	€558.7
Cash on hand	€119.9	€154.6	+€9.4 / +6.1%	€164.0
Net debt	€422.6	€393.6	+€1.1 / +0.3%	€394.7
Net leverage	x2.82	x3.10	-x0.33	L6N x2.77 <sub>x2.1</sub>

<sup>3)</sup> L6M Net leverage of x2.16 computed as Net debt of €394.7m (at 31 March 2021) divided by L6M annualised EBITDA (Q4 2020 at €42.4m + Q1 2021 at €48.8m = €91.2 x 2 = €182.5m)



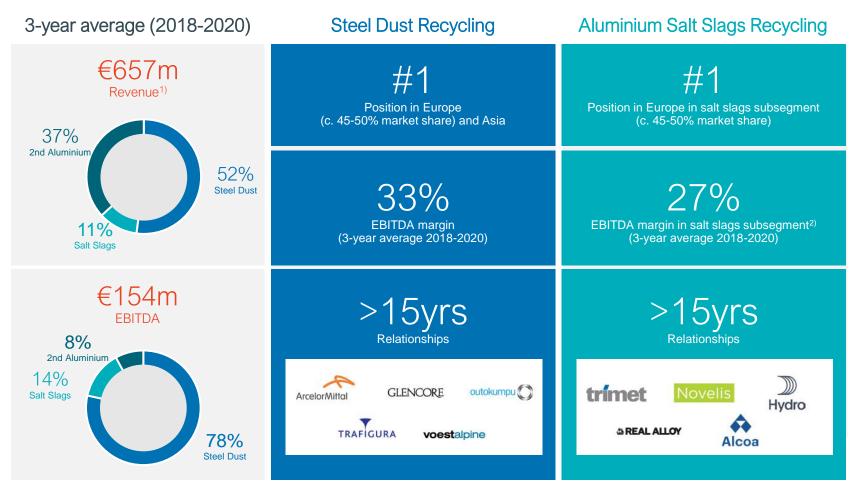


Secondary aluminium production plant at Bernburg, Germany



# Befesa at a glance

Market leader in Europe & Asia in providing regulated critical hazardous waste recycling services to the steel and aluminium industries



Source: Company information, International Consulting Firm based on World Steel Association's Steel Statistical Yearbooks, WBMS, industry research, expert Interviews.

<sup>1)</sup> Excluding internal revenue; revenue split is calculated on revenues including internal revenue

<sup>2)</sup> Including recycling of SPL (a hazardous waste generated in primary aluminium production)

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# Key milestones

Befesa has grown successfully through organic initiatives and acquisitions

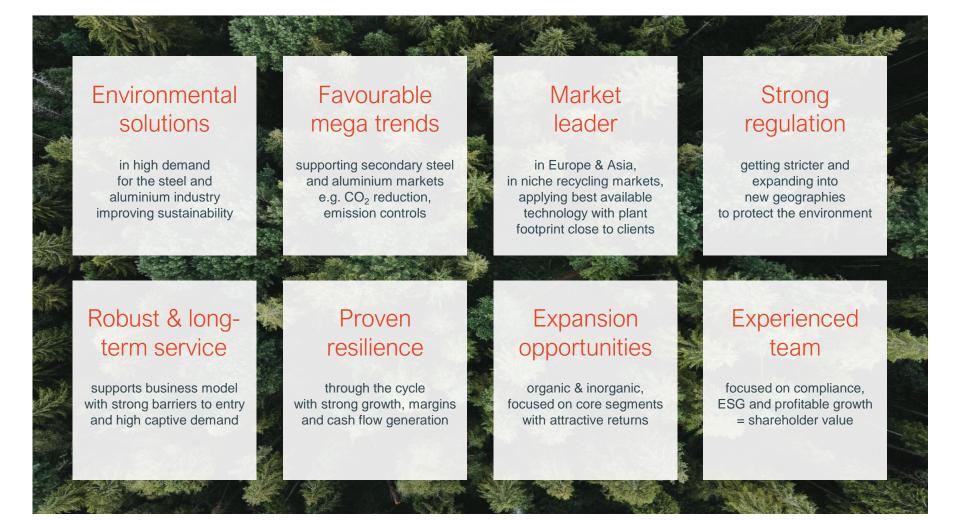
### dust recycling plants in China: **EAFD** expansion Korea & Turkey Changzhou, Jiangsu: Construction completed in Secondary aluminium plant in **Bernburg** Doubled capacity to 220 kt, Gyeongju Q1 2021; commissioning Triton acquired Befesa in process; commercial 1<sup>st</sup> WOX washing plant in Asia, output in H2 2021 (•) Entry in the Asian market<sup>2)</sup> close to Gyeongju plant Xuchang, Henan: EAF steel dust recycling capacity WOX washing plant at Gravelines Completion of construction at Iskenderun expanded to 110 kt expected after summer Entry in the Turkish market<sup>1)</sup> 2021; ramp-up in H2 2021 2010 2012 2015 2013 2014 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 Since 18 Sep 2020, member of European leader in salt slags recycling, acquiring Agor AG's German assets Global Challenges Index Entry to SDAX<sup>3)</sup> Befesa acquired remaining stake in BUS, becoming European leader in EAF steel dust recycling on 24 Sep 2018 Rated by: Abengoa acquired Befesa from BUS ISS ESG ▷ Successful IPO on Berzelius Umwelt Service (BUS) grouped their MSCI 🌐 Spanish assets into Berzeilius Felguera (Befesa) Frankfurt Stock Exchange VE Founded in Germany, Metallgesellschaft **SUSTAINALYTICS**

<sup>1)</sup> Through 51/49 JV with Canadian Silvermet
 <sup>2)</sup> By acquiring subsequent stakes in the Korean Hankook
 <sup>3)</sup> Free-float at 100% after Triton's exit on 6 June 2019

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EAFD expansion China Developing first two EAF steel

# Investment highlights



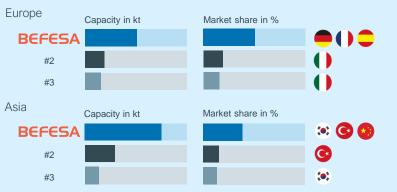
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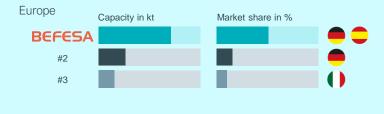
# Market leader in Europe & Asia

Befesa is the market leader in steel dust and salt slags recycling services with a competitive advantage due to its close-proximity to key clients









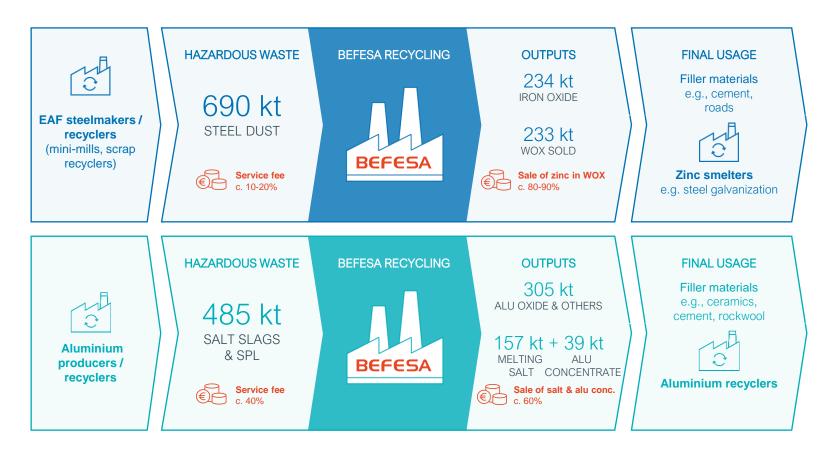
1) 50/50 joint venture with Recylex

<sup>2)</sup> Changzhou, Jiangsu province: construction completed in Q1 2021, commissioning in process and commercial output expected in H2; Xuchang, Henan province: completion of construction expected after summer of 2021, with ramp-up in H2

ALU SALT SLAGS RECYCLING

# Highly regulated & critical service model

Befesa is the leading environmental services partner in the circular economy of the 2<sup>nd</sup> steel and aluminium industry by recycling and avoiding the landfilling of c. 1.5 MT hazardous residues and recovering c. 1.3 MT of new valuable materials



All figures are the average of the fiscal years 2018, 2019 and 2020

Value chains are simplified and only reflect Befesa's core business segments (i.e. Steel Dust; Aluminium Salt Slags):

- Within Steel Dust Recycling Services business segment Befesa manages a Stainless sub-segment (94 kt stainless steel dust throughput, average over L3Y period 2018-2020)

- Within Aluminium Salt Slags Recycling Services business segment Beresa manages a Secondary Aluminium sub-segment (173 kt 2<sup>nd</sup> aluminium alloys produced, average over L3Y period 2018-2020)

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# Experienced management team

Senior management team delivering results through long-standing industry expertise, entrepreneurial spirit and focus on operational excellence as well as governance and compliance processes

Wolf Lehmann

for operational

excellence & IT

Federico Barredo

Aluminium Salt Slags

**Recycling Services** 

Vice-president

incl. responsibilities

CFO:



CEO

**Javier Molina** 

CEO since 2000

Leading Befesa for >20 years



- CFO since 2014
- 20+ years in finance & operational leadership roles, 50/50 General Electric / PE

### Key achievements / track record



Strong performance results through focus on operational excellence

Building strong business foundation of ESG, compliance and health & safety processes



Successful international expansion

Track record of successful acquisitions and turnarounds, e.g., BUS, Agor, Alcasa, Hankook, Silvermet



Experience in developing greenfield projects, e.g., Gravelines, South Korea, Bernburg, China



Asier Zarraonandia Vice-president Steel Dust **Recycling Services** 

• 15+ years with Befesa

Running Befesa's Steel Dust business for >15 years



- 25+ years with Befesa
- Running Befesa's Aluminium Salt Slags business for >20 years





Waelz kiln at EAF steel dust recycling plant in Gyeongju, South Korea

04 / Investor agenda & appendix

# Investor agenda

### Financial calendar

Annual General Meeting Wednesday, 30 June 2021

H1 2021 Interim Report & Conf. Call Thursday, 29 July 2021

Q3 2021 Statement & Conf. Call Thursday, 28 October 2021

### Next investor conferences Q2 2021 H2

Berenberg UN Sustainable Development Goals Conference 2021 20 April 2021 – Berenberg

Kepler Digital SMID Mega Trend Days 10 May 2021 – Kepler Cheuvreux

German SMID Cap One-on-One Forum 11 May 2021 – Stifel

Berenberg US Conference 2021 18 May 2021 – Berenberg

Mining & Steel Virtual Conference 2021 18–20 May 2021 – BofA Global Metals

2<sup>nd</sup> Digital Pan European ESG Conference 1 June 2021 – Kepler Cheuvreux

Stifel 2021 Virtual Cross Sector Insight Conference 9 June 2021 – Stifel

### H2 2021

Frankfurt – Commerzbank Corporate Conference 2021 31 Aug – 2 Sep – Commerzbank

London – 2021 London Cross Sector Insight Conference 1–2 September – Stifel

London – Citi Growth Conference 16 & 17 September 2021 – Citi

Munich – 10<sup>th</sup> German Corporate Conf. 21 Sep 2021 – Berenberg & Goldman Sachs

Munich – 10<sup>th</sup> Baader Investment Conference 2021 23 September 2021 – Baader

London – Global Natural Resources Conference 2021 11 November 2021 – Goldman Sachs

Pennyhill Park, Surrey – Berenberg European Conference 2021 7 December 2021 – Berenberg

### Contact details

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Q1 2021/20 – Key financials

(€m, unless otherwise stated)

	Steel Dust	Salt Slags	Secondary Aluminium	Corporate & eliminations	Total Befesa
Revenue <sup>1)</sup>	<b>€100.9</b>	<b>€19.8</b>	<b>€82.4</b>	<b>-€10.5</b>	<b>€192.6</b>
yoy change	-€0.3 / -0.3%	-€2.3 / -10.3%	+€17.0 / +26.0%	-€0.8 / -	+€13.6 / +7.6%
EBITDA	<b>€36.5</b>	<b>€5.9</b>	<b>€6.4</b>	<b>€0.0</b>	<b>€48.8</b>
yoy change	+€10.6 / +40.7%	+€0.0 / +0.6%	+€3.7 / +134.1%	+€1.0 / -	+€15.3 / +45.6%
EBITDA margin	<b>36.2%</b>	<b>29.7%</b>	<b>7.8%</b>	-	<b>25.4%</b>
yoy change	+1,056 bps	+323 bps	+358 bps		+661 bps

1) Total revenue in Aluminium Salt Slags Recycling Services amounted to €79.0m in Q1 2020 and to €92.3m in Q1 2021 after intersegment eliminations of €8.5m in Q1 2020 and of €10.0m in Q1 2021



# Multi-year trend – Key financials<sup>1)</sup>

(€m, unless otherwise stated)

	2017	2018	2019	2020
Revenue	€667.4 <sup>2)</sup>	€720.1	€647.9	€604.3
Reported EBITDA	€153.0	€176.0	€159.6	€123.5
Reported EBITDA margin	<b>22.9%</b> <sup>2)</sup>	24.4%	24.6%	20.4%
Adjusted EBITDA	€172.4 <sup>3)</sup>	€176.0	€159.6	€127.0 <sup>4)</sup>
Adjusted EBITDA margin	<b>25.8%</b> <sup>2)</sup>	24.4%	24.6%	21.0%
Net profit <sup>5)</sup>	€49.3	€90.2	€82.7	€47.6
EPS <sup>5)</sup> (€)	€1.02 <sup>6)</sup>	€2.65	€2.43	€1.40
Operating cash flow <sup>7)</sup>	€91.5	€103.8	€102.5	€92.5
Cash position end of period	€117.6	€150.6	€125.5	€154.6
Net debt	€406.4	€376.8	€416.9	€393.6
Net leverage	x2.4	x2.1	x2.6	x3.1

1) 2017, 2018 and 2019 are full year actual reported figures audited by external auditors; 2020 are full year preliminary figures currently being audited by external auditors

<sup>2)</sup> FY 2017 reported revenue amounted to €724.8m; Revenue of €667.4m is comparable after amendment IFRS 15 impacting non-operating revenue

3) 2017 EBITDA adjusted due to one-off non-recurrent items primarily related to the IPO

<sup>4)</sup> 2020 EBITDA adjusted for €3.5m for the UK Salt Slags plant closure

<sup>5)</sup> Net profit and total basic earnings/(losses) per share attributable to the ordinary equity holders of Befesa S.A.

<sup>6)</sup> FY 2017 EPS impacted by the conversion of the preferred shares carried out in October 2017 prior to the IPO; The weighted average number of ordinary shares used as the denominator in calculating total basic EPS in FY 2017 was 25,025 thousand shares, compared to the 34,067 thousand shares used from 2018 onwards

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<sup>7)</sup> Operating cash flow is after WC change, taxes and interests; pre capex and pre dividend

# Q1 2021/20 – Operational data – Steel Dust Recycling Services

	Q1 2020	Q1 2021	yoy change
EAF steel dust throughput (kt)	185.7	181.1	-4.6 / -2.5%
EAF Steel dust average capacity utilisation (%)	90.2%	89.0%	-124 bps
Waelz oxide (WOX) sold (kt)	67.8	66.7	-1.0 / -1.5%
Zinc LME price (€/t)	€1,930	€2,279	+€349 / +18.1%
Zinc hedging price (€/t)	€2,244	€2,201	-€43 / -1.9%
Zinc blended price <sup>1)</sup> (€/t)	€2,114	€2,237	+€123 / +5.8%

<sup>1)</sup> Blended rate between hedged prices and average spot prices, weighted by the respective hedged and non-hedged volumes, reflecting the effective price to Befesa

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# Q1 2021/20 – Operational data – Aluminium Salt Slags Recycling Services

	Q1 2020 <sup>1)</sup>	Q1 2021	yoy change
Salt Slags & SPL treated (kt)	124.7	104.4	-20.3 / -16.3%
Salt Slags & SPL avg. cap. utilisation (%)	94.4%	94.1%	-25 bps
Aluminium alloys produced (kt)	47.9	51.3	+3.4 / +7.0%
Secondary Alu avg. capacity utilisation (%)	93.8%	101.5%	+770 bps
Aluminium alloy FMB price <sup>2)</sup> (€/t)	€1,433	€1,982	+€548 / +38.3%

<sup>1)</sup> Salt slags & SPL volumes and corresponding capacity utilisation figures in Q1 2020 include data contributed by the plant in the UK, which was permanently closed in Q4 2020 <sup>2)</sup> Aluminium scrap and foundry ingots aluminium pressure diecasting ingot DIN226/A380 European Metal Bulletin free market duty paid delivered works

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# Multi-year trend – Operational data

	2017	2018	2019	2020
EAF steel dust throughput (kt)	661.0	717.1	665.8	687.0
EAF steel dust average capacity utilisation (%)	84.7%	92.0%	80.7% / 90.1% <sup>1)</sup>	83.0%
Waelz oxide (WOX) sold (kt)	217.8	240.9	217.6	239.2
Zinc LME price (€/t)	€2,572	€2,468	€2,276	€1,979
Zinc hedging price (€/t)	€1,876	€2,051	€2,317	€2,239
Zinc blended price <sup>2)</sup> (€/t)	€2,160	€2,168	€2,280	€2,136
Salt Slags & SPL treated (kt)	509.9	517.0	492.6	444.6
Salt Slags & SPL avg. cap. utilisation (%)	96.2%	97.5%	92.9%	83.7% / 86.9% <sup>3)</sup>
Alu alloys produced (kt)	184.1	169.3	176.7	174.3
Secondary Alu avg. capacity utilisation (%)	89.8%	82.6% / 98.1% <sup>4)</sup>	86.2% / 91.1% <sup>5)</sup>	84.8%
Aluminium alloy FMB price <sup>6)</sup> (€/t)	€1,766	€1,715	€1,397	€1,420

<sup>1)</sup> Installed capacity and corresponding utilisation rates in 2019 are normalised for the capacity upgrade in Turkey, from 65kt to 110kt (plant was shutdown from end of Jan to mid-Aug 2019)

<sup>2)</sup> Blended rate between hedged prices and average spot prices, weighted by the respective hedged and non-hedged volumes, reflecting the effective price to Befesa

<sup>3)</sup> Installed capacity and corresponding utilisation rates in 2020 are normalised for the UK salt slags plant closure in Q4 2020

<sup>5)</sup> Installed capacity and corresponding utilisation rates in 2019 are normalised for the furnace upgrade in Barcelona – phase II (plant was shutdown three months, from mid-August to mid-November) <sup>6)</sup> Aluminium scrap and foundry ingots aluminium pressure diecasting ingot DIN226/A380 European Metal Bulletin free market duty paid delivered works

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<sup>4)</sup> Installed capacity and corresponding utilisation rates in 2018 are normalised for the furnace upgrades in Bilbao (plant was shutdown three months, from 2<sup>nd</sup> week of June to 3<sup>rd</sup> week of September), as well as the Barcelona - phase I (plant was shutdown two months, from 4<sup>th</sup> week of August to 4<sup>th</sup> week of October)