

**PART I**

**Item1. IDENTITY OF DIRECTORS, SENIOR MANAGEMENT AND ADVISERS**

**Item1.A. Directors and Senior Management**

Not applicable.

**Item1.B. Advisers**

Not applicable.

**Item1.C. Auditors**

Not applicable.

**Item2. OFFER STATISTICS AND EXPECTED TIMETABLE**

Not applicable.

**Item3. KEY INFORMATION**

**Item3.A. [Reserved]**

**Item3.B. Capitalization and Indebtedness**

Not applicable.

**Item3.C. Reasons for the Offer and Use of Proceeds**

Not applicable.

**Item3.D. Risk Factors**

**Risks Relating to Our Business**

***Competition may reduce our market share and harm our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We face substantial competition across all of our businesses, including our wireless telecommunications business. We expect competition to remain intense as new technologies, products and services are developed and introduced by us and our competitors. We expect that such trends will continue to put downward pressure on the rates we can charge our subscribers.

Historically, there has been considerable consolidation in the telecommunications industry, resulting in the current competitive landscape comprising three mobile and fixed network operators in the Korean market, us, KT Corporation ("KT") and LG Uplus Corp. ("LG U+"). Each of our competitors has substantial financial, technical, marketing and other resources to respond to our business offerings. As of December 31, 2023, the collective market share of KT and LG U+ amounted to approximately 59.3% in terms of number of wireless subscribers (including an aggregate of 16.3% attributable to mobile virtual network operators ("MVNOs") that lease KT's and LG U+'s respective networks) compared to 56.8% (including an aggregate of 13.8% attributable to MVNOs) as of December 31, 2022. Such increase in the collective market share of KT and LG U+ was mainly attributable to an increase in the market share of MVNOs that lease LG U+'s network.

Our competitors for subscriber activations include MVNOs, including MVNOs that lease our networks. MVNOs generally provide rate plans that are relatively cheaper than similar rate plans of the wireless network providers from which they lease their networks, including us. In recent years, a number of new entrants have entered the MVNO business, including affiliates of leading financial institutions in Korea. Some of these new entrants have engaged in aggressive marketing campaigns and promotional discounts while leveraging the brand power of their affiliates as part of their efforts to gain subscribers. Partly as a result of such efforts, the combined market share of MVNOs has increased in recent years from 14.4% as of December 31, 2021 to 16.9% as of December 31, 2022 and 19.2% as of December 31, 2023, in terms of number of subscribers. In addition, other companies may enter the wireless network services market. For example, in January 2024, the Government allocated 800 MHz of bandwidth in the 28 GHz spectrum to Stage X, a consortium led by Stage Five, an MVNO, to provide nationwide wireless network services. Stage X is required, among other things, to install 6,000 base stations across Korea that use the 28 GHz spectrum by 2027.

We believe that a continued increase in the market share of MVNOs (including through the entrance of new MVNOs, if any) and the entrance of new mobile network operators (including in connection with the allocation of 800 MHz of bandwidth in the 28 GHz spectrum in January 2024 to Stage X), if any, in the wireless telecommunications market may further increase competition in the telecommunications sector, as well as cause downward price pressure on the fees we charge for our services, which, in turn, may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial position and results of operations. See “Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected if we fail to acquire adequate additional frequency usage rights or use our bandwidth efficiently to accommodate subscriber growth and subscriber usage” and “Our businesses are subject to various types of Government regulation, and any change in Government policy relating to the telecommunications industry could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.”

Our fixed-line telephone service competes with KT and LG U+, as well as other providers of voice over Internet protocol (“VoIP”) services. As of December 31, 2023, our market share of the fixed-line telephone and VoIP service market was 15.7% (including the services provided by SK Broadband Co., Ltd. (“SK Broadband”)) in terms of number of subscribers compared to KT with 54.2% and LG U+ with 18.7%. In addition, our broadband Internet access, Internet protocol TV (“IPTV”) and cable TV services provided through SK Broadband compete with other providers of such services, including KT, LG U+ and cable companies. Furthermore, our IPTV and cable TV services are facing an increasing level of competition from global operators of online video streaming platforms, such as YouTube, Netflix, Disney Plus and Apple TV, leading domestic video streaming platforms such as TVING, Wavve (which is seeking to merge with TVING pursuant to a memorandum of understanding entered into in December 2023), Coupang Play and Watcha, and the video services offered by leading domestic online and mobile search and communications platforms including NAVER and Kakao, as such services continue to become increasingly popular to serve as a substitute to traditional television programming. As of December 31, 2023, our market share of the broadband Internet market was 28.7% in terms of number of subscribers compared to KT with 40.8% and LG U+ with 21.4%. As of December 31, 2023, our market share of the pay TV market (which includes IPTV, cable TV and satellite TV) was 26.1% compared to KT with 36.5% (including its IPTV, cable TV and satellite TV services) and LG U+ with 24.7% (including its IPTV and cable TV services), and the collective market share of other pay TV providers was 12.8%.

Over the past few years, the Korean fixed-line telecommunications industry has gone through significant consolidation involving major pay television service providers. In April 2020, we completed the merger of Tbroad Co., Ltd., a former leading cable television and other fixed-line telecommunications services provider in Korea, and two of its subsidiaries, Tbroad Dongdaemun Broadcasting Co., Ltd. and Korea Digital Cable Media Center Co. Ltd. (collectively, “Tbroad”), with and into SK Broadband. In the same month, SK Telecom acquired a 55.0% equity interest in Broadband Nowon Co., Ltd. (formerly known as Tbroad Nowon Broadcasting Co., Ltd.), another subsidiary of Tbroad Co., Ltd., which was subsequently merged with and into SK Broadband in October 2022. Following such transactions (the “Tbroad Merger”), we owned approximately 74.4% of SK

Broadband's total outstanding shares as of December 31, 2023 and were the second-largest pay TV provider in Korea in terms of number of subscribers as of December 31, 2023. In December 2019, LG U+ acquired a majority equity stake in CJ Hello Co., Ltd. and changed the acquired company's name to LG HelloVision Co., Ltd. ("LG HelloVision"). In August 2021, KT acquired HCN Co., Ltd. ("HCN"), a major Korean cable TV service provider, through its subsidiary KT Skylife Co., Ltd. ("KT Skylife"). Such transactions, as well as further consolidation in the fixed-line telecommunications industry, may result in increased competition, as the entities emerging from such consolidation and other remaining players in the industry may actively pursue expanding or protecting their respective market shares.

Furthermore, the Government has historically enforced regulations on cable TV and IPTV service providers that prohibited them from having a market share of more than one-third of the total number of subscribers in the relevant pay TV market on each of their respective platforms. In June 2015, the Government amended the regulation to impose the same limit on the market share of the entire pay TV market, including satellite TV service providers as well. Such amended regulation, however, expired in June 2018.

Continued competition from other wireless and fixed-line telecommunications service providers has also resulted in, and may continue to result in, deactivations among our subscribers. A substantial level of subscriber deactivations, or churn, may significantly harm our business, financial condition and results of operations. In 2023, the monthly churn rate in our wireless telecommunications business ranged from 0.7% to 0.9%, with an average monthly churn rate of 0.8%, which remained unchanged compared to 2022. Intensification of competition in the future may cause our churn rates to increase, which in turn may cause us to increase our marketing expenses as a percentage of sales to attract and retain subscribers.

As we continue to expand our business into areas beyond the traditional wireless and fixed-line telecommunications businesses, we also face competition from major players in the relevant sectors, such as cloud services, data center services, smart factories, metaverse, online commerce and television shopping ("T-commerce"). Some of our competitors may have stronger brand recognition, more robust technological capabilities and/or more significant financial resources than us in their respective areas of business.

Our ability to compete successfully in all of the businesses in which we operate will depend on our ability to anticipate and respond to various competitive factors affecting the respective industries, including new services that may be introduced, changes in consumer preferences, economic conditions and discount pricing strategies by competitors.

***Inability to successfully implement or adapt our network and technology to meet the continuing technological advancements affecting the wireless telecommunications industry will likely have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

The telecommunications industry has been characterized by continual improvements and advances in technology, and this trend is expected to continue. We and our competitors have continually implemented technology upgrades from our basic code division multiple access ("CDMA") network to our wideband code division multiple access ("WCDMA") network, and subsequently to the currently dominant LTE and 5G technologies. Our business could be harmed if we fail to implement, or adapt to, future technological advancements in the telecommunications sector in a timely manner, such as the continued implementation and enhancement of 5G technology and the eventual development and implementation of a successor technology to 5G technology. We launched wireless service plans using the 5G network in April 2019 following the commencement of sales of the first 5G-compatible smartphones, and we are in the process of further expanding our 5G network coverage. Our 5G network coverage currently includes all of the major metropolitan and other urban areas, as well as subway lines, in Korea, and we have been expanding our 5G network coverage in rural areas by constructing 5G networks that are shared with other mobile network operators in such areas. We expect to be able to provide full nationwide outdoor terrestrial coverage and substantially full nationwide coverage in large buildings by the end of 2024. KT and LG U+ also rolled out their respective 5G wireless service plans in

April 2019. The more successful operation of a 5G network or development of improved 5G technology by a competitor, including better market acceptance or network quality of a competitor's 5G services, could materially and adversely affect our existing wireless telecommunications businesses as well as the returns on future investments we may make in our 5G network or our other businesses.

In addition to introducing new technologies and offerings, we must phase out outdated and unprofitable technologies and services. For example, we discontinued our wireless broadband Internet access ("WiBro") services in January 2019 and our second generation CDMA wireless services in July 2020. If we are unable to introduce new technologies and offerings on a cost-effective and timely basis, our business, financial condition and results of operations could be adversely affected.

***Implementation of new wireless technology and enhancement of existing wireless technology have required, and may continue to require, significant capital and other expenditures, which we may not recoup.***

We have made, and intend to continue to make, capital investments to develop, launch and enhance our wireless service. In 2023, 2022 and 2021, we spent Won 1,380.6 billion, Won 1,833.4 billion and Won 1,850.9 billion, respectively, in capital expenditures to build and enhance our wireless networks. We plan to make further capital investments related to our wireless services in the future, including services that can potentially leverage our 5G network and enhance the service quality of our 5G network, including through the development and application of AI technology. In addition, we plan to continue expanding and maintaining our 5G network as described above, while also maintaining our LTE network, which we expect will continue to be used by a significant portion of our subscriber base in the near future, despite the ongoing expansion of the 5G network and gradual migration of wireless service users to the 5G network over time. Our wireless technology-related investment plans are subject to change, and will depend, in part, on market demand for 5G and LTE services, the competitive landscape for provision of such services and the development of competing technologies. There may not be sufficient demand for services based on our latest wireless technologies, as a result of competition or otherwise, to permit us to recoup or profit from our wireless technology-related capital investments.

***Our businesses are subject to various types of Government regulation, and any change in Government policy relating to the telecommunications industry could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

Our businesses are generally subject to governmental supervision and various types of regulation.

***Rate Regulation.*** The Government has periodically reviewed the rates charged by wireless telecommunications service providers and has, from time to time, released public policy guidelines or suggested rate reductions. Although these guidelines or suggestions were not binding, we have implemented some rate reductions in response to them. For example, under the Mobile Device Distribution Improvement Act ("MDDIA"), wireless telecommunications service providers are obliged to provide certain benefits, such as discounted rates, to subscribers who subscribe to their service without receiving subsidies. In June 2017, the State Affairs Planning Advisory Committee of Korea announced that it would encourage wireless telecommunications service providers, including us, to increase the applicable discount rate offered to subscribers from 20% to 25%, which we adopted in September 2017, and to offer additional discounts to low income customers, including those on government welfare programs and senior citizen recipients of the basic pension, which we implemented in December 2017 and July 2018, respectively. While the Government indicated in January 2024 that it will seek to abolish the MDDIA in order to encourage wireless service providers to offer more differentiated customer benefits to consumers, it has also suggested that such discounted rates may be retained through a related amendment to the Telecommunications Business Act. In connection with such policy objectives, the Government amended the Enforcement Decree of the MDDIA in March 2024, pursuant to which wireless telecommunications service providers may provide more liberal subsidies to subscribers that are switching their wireless telecommunications providers based on certain criteria specified by the KCC, including

the expected profits to the wireless telecommunications service providers and subscribers' costs of switching wireless telecommunications service providers. See "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Rate Regulation" and "Item 5.A. Operating Results – Overview – Rate Regulations." Such discounts have contributed to a general decrease in the monthly revenue per subscriber of our wireless telecommunications services. See "Item 5.A. Operating Results – Overview – Decrease in Monthly Revenue per Subscriber." In July 2022, the MSIT requested wireless telecommunications service providers, including us, to introduce additional mid-tier 5G rate plans to provide 5G subscribers with more diverse and affordable rate plans that better meet their data usage patterns. We have since introduced several types of such new plans in 2022 and 2023. In November 2023, the MSIT requested wireless telecommunications service providers, including us, to provide 5G smartphone users with the option to subscribe to LTE plans, which we implemented in the same month. In addition, in January 2024, the MSIT requested wireless telecommunications service providers, including us, to introduce low-tier 5G rate plans priced under Won 40,000 per month, which we implemented in March 2024. The Government may suggest other policy initiatives relating to rate plans of wireless telecommunications service providers in the future and any further changes to our rate plans we make in response to such suggestion may adversely affect our profitability and results of operations.

*Technology Standards.* The Government also plays an active role in setting the timetable and quality standards for the adoption and implementation of new technologies to be used by telecommunications operators in Korea. For example, the Government provided such guidance in connection with the introduction of LTE and 5G technologies in the past. The Government may provide similar guidance or recommendations in connection with the adoption and implementation of technologies to be used in future telecommunications services, and it is possible that adherence to such guidance or recommendations promoted by the Government in the future may not provide us with the best commercial returns.

*Frequency Allocation.* The Government sets the policies regarding the use of frequencies and allocates the spectrum of frequencies used for wireless telecommunications. See "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Frequency Allocation." The reallocation of the spectrum to our existing competitors or a new entrant to the wireless telecommunications business could increase competition among wireless telecommunications service providers, which may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. See "– Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected if we fail to acquire adequate additional frequency usage rights or use our bandwidth efficiently to accommodate subscriber growth and subscriber usage."

*MVNOs.* Pursuant to the Telecommunications Business Act, certain wireless telecommunications service providers designated by the MSIT, which included only us, were required to lease their networks or allow use of their networks (collectively, a "wholesale lease") by other network service providers, such as an MVNO, that have requested such a wholesale lease in order to provide their own services using the leased networks until September 2022. While such regulatory requirement expired in September 2022, we have continued to comply with such requirement pending future regulatory development, and in December 2023, a bill indefinitely extending such requirement was passed by the National Assembly. Currently, 14 MVNOs provide wireless telecommunications services using the networks leased from us. We believe that leasing a portion of our bandwidth capacity to an MVNO impairs our ability to use our bandwidth in ways that would generate maximum revenues and strengthens our MVNO competitors by granting them access and lowering their costs to enter into and operate in our markets. Accordingly, our profitability has been, and may continue to be, adversely affected.

*Interconnection.* Our wireless telecommunications services depend, in part, on our interconnection arrangements with domestic and international fixed-line and other wireless networks. Our interconnection arrangements, including the interconnection rates we pay and interconnection rates we charge, affect our revenues and operating results. The MSIT determines the basic framework for interconnection arrangements, including policies relating to interconnection rates in Korea. Such basic framework for interconnection arrangements has been changed several times in the past, and we cannot assure you that we will not be adversely affected by the MSIT's interconnection policies and future changes to such policies. See "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Interconnection – Domestic Calls."

**Regulatory Action.** The MSIT may revoke our licenses or suspend any of our businesses if we fail to comply with its rules, regulations and corrective orders, including the rules restricting beneficial ownership and control or any violation of the conditions of our licenses. Alternatively, in lieu of suspension of our business, the MSIT or, depending on the subject matter of the violation, the KCC may levy a monetary penalty of up to 3.0% of the average of our annual revenue for the preceding three fiscal years. Such penalties, which may include the revocation of cellular licenses, suspension of business or imposition of monetary penalties by the KCC, could have a material adverse effect on our business. We believe that we are currently in compliance with the material terms of all of our cellular licenses.

In addition, the Fair Trade Act provides for various regulations and restrictions enforced by the Korea Fair Trade Commission (the “KFTC”) to prohibit or restrict actions that impede competition and fair trade. From time to time, we have been, and may in the future be, subject to investigations by the KFTC relating to potential violations of such laws and regulations. See “Item 8.A. – Consolidated Statements and Other Financial Information – Legal Proceedings – KFTC Proceedings.” Any future determination by the KFTC that we have engaged in transactions that violate the fair trade laws and regulations may result in fines or other punitive measures and may have a material adverse effect on our business.

***We are subject to additional regulations as a result of our dominant market position in the wireless telecommunications sector, which could harm our ability to compete effectively.***

The Government endeavors to promote competition in the Korean telecommunications markets through measures designed to prevent a dominant service provider from exercising its market power and deterring the emergence and development of viable competitors. We have been designated by the MSIT as the “dominant network service provider” in respect of our wireless telecommunications business. As such, we are subject to additional regulations to which certain of our competitors are not subject. For example, the MSIT has fifteen days to object to any new rates and terms of service reported by us. See “Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Rate Regulation.” The MSIT could also require us to charge higher usage rates than our competitors for future services or to take certain actions earlier than our competitors, as when the KCC required us to introduce number portability earlier than our competitors, KT and LG U+.

We also qualify as a “market-dominating business entity” under the Fair Trade Act, which subjects us to additional regulations and we are prohibited from engaging in any act of abusing our position as a market-dominating entity. See “Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Competition Regulation.” The additional regulations to which we are subject have affected our competitiveness in the past and may materially hurt our profitability and impede our ability to compete effectively against our competitors in the future.

***Occurrences of widespread infectious diseases, including any possible recurrence of COVID-19, may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

“COVID-19,” an infectious disease caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2, was declared a “pandemic” by the World Health Organization in March 2020. In recent years, the global outbreak of COVID-19 had led to global economic and financial disruptions and had from time to time disrupted our business operations. While we do not believe that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a material adverse impact on our overall business to date, a future exacerbation of the COVID-19 pandemic or other types of widespread infectious diseases may result in disruption in the normal operations of our business.

We are subject to a number of risks, including but not limited to:

- an increase in unemployment among, and/or a decrease in disposable income of, our customers, who may not be able to meet payment obligations or otherwise choose to decrease their spending levels, which in turn may decrease demand for some of our products and services or cause an increase in delinquent subscriber accounts;
- a slowdown in the rate of subscriber migration to our 5G service, which generally entails higher-priced subscription plans and wireless devices;

- disruptions in operations, and/or a decrease in the demand for products and services, of our corporate customers, which in turn may decrease such customers' demand for our services and products;
- service disruptions, outages and performance problems due to capacity constraints caused by an overwhelming number of people accessing our services simultaneously;
- disruptions in the supply of mobile handsets or telecommunications equipment from our vendors (or components of such mobile handsets and equipment such as semiconductors) as well as in the installation of our network infrastructure;
- continued instability in global and Korean financial markets, which may adversely affect our ability to meet capital funding needs on a timely and cost-effective basis;
- a decrease in the fair value of our investments in companies that may be adversely affected by the pandemic; and
- depreciation of the Won against major foreign currencies, which in turn may increase the cost of imported equipment necessary for expansion and enhancement of our telecommunications infrastructure.

In the event that a future recurrence of COVID-19 or other types of widespread infectious diseases cannot be effectively and timely contained, our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected.

***We may fail to successfully complete, integrate or realize the anticipated benefits of our new acquisitions, joint ventures or other strategic alternatives or corporate reorganizations, including the Spin-off, and such transactions may negatively impact our business.***

We continue to seek opportunities to develop new businesses that we believe are complementary to our existing product and service portfolio and expand our global business through selective acquisitions. We also continue to seek ways to optimize our corporate structure to maximize the value of our traditional businesses on the one hand and newly developed businesses on the other hand. Accordingly, we are often engaged in evaluating potential transactions and other strategic alternatives as well as corporate reorganizations, some of which may be significant in size.

For example, we completed the Tbroad Merger in April 2020, following which we became the second-largest pay TV provider in Korea in terms of number of subscribers as of December 31, 2023. Moreover, in February 2022, in order to strengthen our online distribution capabilities and explore synergies with our other businesses in the ICT sector, we indirectly re-acquired a 100.0% equity interest in SK m&service Co., Ltd. ("SK M&Service"), which provides online corporate employee benefits management and training services to Korean businesses and public institutions, through our wholly-owned subsidiary PS&Marketing Corporation ("PS&Marketing"), for Won 72.9 billion from SK Planet.

We have also pursued other strategic alternatives, such as forming a strategic alliance in October 2019 with Kakao Corp. ("Kakao"), a Korean Internet company and the operator of Korea's most popular mobile messaging application, to collaborate in the ICT sector through the sale of 1,266,620 of our treasury shares to Kakao, representing a 1.6% interest, for Won 300.0 billion and a concurrent issuance by Kakao of 2,177,401 of its shares, representing a 2.5% interest, to us for Won 302.3 billion. In addition, in July 2022, we entered into a strategic alliance with Hana Financial Group Inc. ("Hana Financial Group"), a leading financial holding company in Korea with subsidiaries having significant presences in commercial banking, credit card business, securities brokerage and insurance, among others, to seek synergies through convergence between finance and ICT technology. As part of such strategic alliance, we transferred the entirety of our 15.0% interest in HanaCard Co., Ltd. ("HanaCard"), a leading credit card company in Korea and a subsidiary of Hana Financial Group, for Won 330.0 billion in July 2022 and acquired 8,630,949 shares of Hana Financial Group (representing a 2.9% interest) for Won 330.0 billion between July and November 2022, and HanaCard acquired 1,307,471 common shares of us (representing a 0.6% interest) for Won 68.4 billion between July and September 2022.

In order to pursue enhancement of shareholder value and acceleration of growth of the Spin-off Businesses, we effected the Spin-off in November 2021. Following the Spin-off, we have become primarily focused on our core wireless and fixed-line telecommunications businesses, as our equity interests in the Spin-off Portfolio Companies (including our interest in, among others, SK Hynix, SK shieldus Co., Ltd. (a leading provider of physical security, cybersecurity and converged security services in Korea), Eleven Street (an e-commerce platform in Korea), T map Mobility Co., Ltd. (a leading provider of mobility services in Korea) and Content Wavve Co., Ltd. (which operates Wavve, a leading online contents platform in Korea)) comprising our previous semiconductor and new ICT businesses were transferred to SK Square pursuant to the Spin-off. Our business operations relating to the Spin-off Businesses have been accounted for as discontinued operations in our consolidated financial statements for the years ended December 31, 2023, 2022 and 2021 included elsewhere in this annual report.

In line with our strategic emphasis on AI technology, we announced our updated vision of transforming into an “AI Company” that combines AI technology with connectivity technologies of our core telecommunications business as well as the underlying technologies of our other new growth businesses in November 2022 and our “AI Pyramid” strategy in September 2023, which focuses on the three key aspects of (i) developing and expanding our AI infrastructure, (ii) applying AI technology to innovate our existing core business lines and promote the growth of our new growth businesses, and (iii) developing and expanding innovative AI services. See “Item 4.B. Business Overview – Our Business Strategy.” We have also been collaborating with leading Korean AI technology companies as well as other global telecommunications companies in order to accelerate our ongoing transformation to become an AI Company, including by forming the Global Telco AI Alliance (the “GTAA”) in July 2023 with Deutsche Telecom of Germany, e& of the United Arab Emirates and Singtel of Singapore, which was later joined by Softbank of Japan in February 2024. The members of the GTAA have agreed to establish a joint venture dedicated to the development of large-language models that are specifically tailored to the needs of telecommunications companies, and also seek business opportunities in AI-related business areas. In addition, we made a minority equity investment of US\$100 million in Anthropic, a generative AI technology company based in San Francisco, in August 2023. We are working with Anthropic and other technology companies to jointly develop a multilingual large-language model customized for telecommunications companies.

For a more detailed description of our recent investments in new businesses, see “Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Requirements – Investments in New Growth Businesses.”

While we are hoping to benefit from a range of synergies and efficiencies from the Spin-off and our other recent or future acquisitions and corporate reorganizations as well as develop new businesses, we may not be able to successfully complete or integrate such acquisitions, new businesses or reorganized entities and may fail to realize the expected benefits in the near term, or at all. In addition, when we enter into new businesses with partners through joint ventures or other strategic alliances, we and those partners may have disagreements with respect to strategic directions or other aspects of business, or may otherwise be unable to coordinate or cooperate with each other, any of which could materially and adversely affect our operations in such businesses. Our business may be negatively impacted if we fail to successfully integrate or realize the anticipated benefits of such transactions.

***Due to the existing high penetration rate of wireless telecommunications services in Korea, we are unlikely to maintain our subscriber growth rate, which could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

According to data published by the MSIT and the historical population data published by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety, the penetration rate for the Korean wireless telecommunications industry as of December 31, 2023 was approximately 161.3%, which was relatively high compared to many industrialized countries. Therefore, we expect that the penetration rate for wireless telecommunications service in Korea will remain relatively stable. As a result of the already high penetration rate in Korea for wireless telecommunications services coupled with our leading market share, we expect our subscriber growth rate to decrease. Slowed growth in the penetration rate without a commensurate increase in revenues through the introduction of new services and



increased use of our services by existing subscribers would likely have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Our business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected if we fail to acquire adequate additional frequency usage rights or use our bandwidth efficiently to accommodate subscriber growth and subscriber usage.***

One of the principal limitations on a wireless network's subscriber capacity is the amount of frequency spectrum available for use by the network. We have acquired a number of frequency usage rights to secure bandwidth capacity to provide our broad range of services, for which we typically make an initial payment as well as pay usage fees during the license period. We made frequency usage right fee payments of Won 102.5 billion in 2023, Won 103.9 billion in 2022 and Won 120.8 billion in 2021. For more information regarding the various bandwidths that we use and the usage right fees for such bandwidths, see "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Frequency Allocation," "Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Requirements – Capital Expenditures" and note 17 of the notes to our consolidated financial statements.

The growth of our wireless data businesses has been a significant factor in the increased utilization of our bandwidth, since wireless data applications are generally more bandwidth-intensive than voice services. In particular, the continued increase in popularity of smartphones and data intensive applications among smartphone users has been a major factor for the high utilization of our bandwidth in recent years. Although such trend has been offset in part by the implementation of new technologies that enable more efficient usage of our bandwidth, we expect that the current trend of increased data transmission use by our subscribers will continue to accelerate in the near future as more subscribers migrate to our 5G network and the volume and sophistication of the multimedia content we offer through our wireless data services continue to grow in the 5G environment. While we believe that we can address the capacity constraint issue through system upgrades and efficient allocation of bandwidth, inability to address such capacity constraints in a timely manner may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations. In the event we are unable to maintain sufficient bandwidth capacity, our subscribers may perceive a general slowdown of wireless telecommunications services. Growth of our wireless telecommunications business will depend in part upon our ability to effectively manage our bandwidth capacity and to implement efficiently and in a timely manner new bandwidth-efficient technologies if they become available. We cannot assure you that bandwidth constraints will not adversely affect the growth of our wireless telecommunications business.

In 2021, the MSIT reallocated a total of 310 MHz of frequency bandwidths to KT, LG U+ and us, 95 MHz (in the 800 MHz, 2.1 GHz and 2.6 GHz spectrums) of which was allocated to us. See "Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Requirements." In December 2022, citing the lack of progress made to date with respect to the implementation of 5G infrastructure for our use of the 28 GHz spectrum (800 MHz of bandwidth which was allocated to us in December 2018 for a period of five years until November 2023), the MSIT reduced the duration of our license for the use of such bandwidth by six months and asked us to install 15,000 base stations that use the 28 GHz spectrum by the end of May 2023, which we were not able to do within the Government's requested timetable. While we do not believe that the loss of such allocated bandwidth have had or will have a material adverse effect on our business, we cannot assure you that we will be able to reacquire such bandwidth in the future or that the failure to reacquire such bandwidth will not adversely affect our future prospects. Furthermore, in December 2022, the Government cancelled the allocations of bandwidth in the 28 GHz spectrum that had been provided to KT and LG U+, also citing the lack of progress made by these companies. In January 2024, the Government allocated 800 MHz of bandwidth in the 28 GHz spectrum to Stage X to provide nationwide wireless network services. Stage X is required, among other things, to install 6,000 base stations across Korea that use the 28 GHz spectrum by 2027.

We may be required to pay a substantial amount to acquire additional bandwidth capacity in the future in order to meet increasing bandwidth demand or renew the rights to use our existing bandwidth, and we may not be successful in acquiring the necessary bandwidth to meet such demand at commercially attractive terms or at all, which may adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***We rely on key technology professionals and senior management, and the loss of the services of any such personnel or the inability to attract and retain them may negatively affect our business.***

Our success depends to a significant extent on the continued service of our research and development and engineering personnel, and our ability to continue to attract, retain and motivate qualified technology professionals including researchers and engineers. In particular, our focus on leading the market in introducing new services has meant that we must aggressively recruit technology professionals with expertise in cutting-edge technologies. Such employees are in high demand, and we devote significant resources to identifying, hiring, training, successfully integrating and retaining these employees. Competition for these individuals could cause us to offer higher compensation and other benefits to attract and retain them. We also depend on the services of experienced key senior management, and if we lose their services, it would be difficult to find and integrate replacement personnel in a timely manner, or at all.

The loss of the services of any of our key technology professionals or senior management without adequate replacement, or the inability to attract new qualified personnel, would have a material adverse effect on our results of operations.

***We need to observe certain financial and other covenants under the terms of our debt instruments, the failure to comply with which would put us in default under those instruments.***

Certain of our debt instruments contain financial and other covenants with which we are required to comply on an annual and semi-annual basis. The financial covenants with respect to SK Telecom's debt instruments include, but are not limited to, a maximum net debt-to-EBITDA ratio of 3.50 and a minimum EBITDA-to-total interest expense ratio of 4.00, each as determined on a separate financial statement basis. The debt arrangements also contain negative pledge provisions limiting our ability to provide liens on our assets as well as cross-default and cross-acceleration clauses, which give related creditors the right to accelerate the amounts due under such debt if an event of default or acceleration has occurred with respect to our existing or future indebtedness, or if any material part of our indebtedness or indebtedness of our subsidiaries is capable of being declared payable before the stated maturity date. In addition, such covenants restrict our ability to raise future debt financing.

If we breach our financial or other covenants, our financial condition will be adversely affected to the extent we are not able to cure such breaches or repay the relevant debt.

***We may have to make further financing arrangements to meet our capital expenditure requirements and debt payment obligations.***

We have had, and expect to continue to have, significant capital expenditure requirements as we continue to build out, maintain and upgrade our networks and invest in businesses that complement our wireless and fixed-line telecommunications businesses. We spent Won 2,973.9 billion for capital expenditures in 2023. We currently expect to spend a similar amount for capital expenditures in 2024 compared to 2023 for a range of projects, including investments to further expand and improve our 5G network, investments to maintain our LTE network and related services, investments to improve and expand our Wi-Fi network, investments to develop our IoT solutions and platform services business portfolio, including AI solutions, investments in data infrastructure, investments in further research and development of 5G technology, investments in businesses that can potentially leverage our 5G network, and investments in funding for mid-to long-term research and development projects. Such projects also include other initiatives related to the development of new growth businesses and our ongoing businesses in the ordinary course, in each case with an emphasis on incorporating AI technology into our various existing and new business areas. In 2021, the MSIT reallocated a total of 310 MHz of frequency bandwidths to KT, LG U+ and us, 95 MHz (in the 800 MHz, 2.1 GHz and 2.6 GHz spectrums) of which was allocated to us. See "Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Requirements." We would be required to spend additional amounts on capital expenditures in connection with our continued efforts to build out our networks on such reallocated bandwidths. We may increase, reduce or suspend our planned capital expenditures for 2024 or

change the timing and area of our capital expenditure spending from the estimates described above in response to market conditions or for other reasons. We may also make additional capital expenditures and other investments beyond our currently anticipated level as opportunities arise, including in relation to any acquisitions of additional frequency usage rights or execution of additional AI-related investments.

In particular, we continue to make significant capital investments to expand and upgrade our wireless networks in response to growing bandwidth demand by our subscribers. Bandwidth usage by our subscribers has rapidly increased in recent years primarily due to the increasing number of data intensive mobile applications and use of such applications by smartphone users. If heavy usage of bandwidth-intensive services grows beyond our current expectations, we may need to invest more capital than is currently anticipated to expand the bandwidth capacity of our networks or our customers may experience suboptimal performance when using our services. Any of these events could adversely affect our competitive position and have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. For a more detailed discussion of our capital expenditure plans and a discussion of other factors that may affect our future capital expenditures, see “Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Capital Requirements – Capital Expenditures.”

As of December 31, 2023, we had Won 2,707.2 billion in contractual payment obligations (excluding short-term leases and leases of low-value assets) due in 2024, which mostly involved repayment of debt obligations and payments related to lease liabilities and frequency licenses. See “Item 5.B. Liquidity and Capital Resources – Contractual Obligations and Commitments.”

We have not arranged firm financing for all of our current or future capital expenditure plans and contractual payment obligations. We have, in the past, obtained funds for our proposed capital expenditure and payment obligations from various sources, including our cash flow from operations as well as from financings, primarily debt and equity financings. Any material adverse change in our operational or financial condition could impact our ability to fund our capital expenditure plans and contractual payment obligations. Volatile financial market conditions and an increasing interest rate environment may also curtail our ability to obtain adequate funding and/or increase our cost of borrowings, which would have an adverse effect on our liquidity and financial position. Inability to fund such capital expenditure requirements may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, although we currently anticipate that the capital expenditure levels estimated by us will be adequate to meet our business needs, such estimates may need to be adjusted based on developments in technology and markets. Failure to meet any such increased expenditure requirements or to obtain adequate financing for such requirements on terms acceptable to us, or at all, may have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Termination or impairment of our relationship with a small number of key suppliers for network equipment and for leased lines could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.***

We purchase wireless network equipment from a small number of suppliers. To date, we have purchased substantially all of the equipment for our networks from Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (“Samsung Electronics”), Ericsson-LG Co., Ltd. (“Ericsson-LG”) and Nokia Corporation (“Nokia”). In addition, we purchase a substantial majority of our wireless devices from Samsung Electronics and Apple. Although other manufacturers sell the equipment we require, sourcing such equipment from other manufacturers could result in unanticipated costs in the maintenance and enhancement of our wireless networks. Inability to obtain the equipment needed for our networks in a timely manner may have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

We cannot assure you that we will be able to continue to obtain the necessary equipment from one or more of our suppliers. Any discontinuation or interruption in the availability of equipment from our suppliers for any reason could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, inability to lease adequate lines at commercially reasonable rates may impact the quality of the services we offer and may also damage our reputation and our business.

***Our business relies on technology developed by us, and our business will suffer if we are unable to protect our proprietary rights.***

We own numerous patents and trademarks worldwide, and have applications for patents pending in many countries. In addition to active research and development efforts, our success depends in part on our ability to obtain patents and other intellectual property rights covering our services.

We may be required to defend against charges of infringement of patent or other proprietary rights of third parties. Although we have not experienced any significant patent or other intellectual property disputes, we cannot be certain that any significant patent or other intellectual property disputes will not occur in the future. Defending our patent and other proprietary rights could require us to incur substantial expense and to divert significant resources of our technical and management personnel, and could result in our loss of rights to employ certain technologies to provide services.

***Malicious and abusive Internet practices could impair our services and we may be subject to significant legal and financial exposure, damage to our reputation and a loss of confidence of our customers.***

Our business involves the storage and transmission of large amounts of confidential information, and cybersecurity breaches expose us to a risk of loss of this information, which may lead to improper use or disclosure of such information, ensuing potential liability and litigation, any of which could harm our reputation and adversely affect our business.

We maintain a comprehensive process for assessing, identifying and managing material risks from cybersecurity threats as part of our overall risk management system and processes. See “Item 16K. Cybersecurity.” Our cybersecurity measures may be breached due to employee error, malfeasance or otherwise. Instituting appropriate access controls and safeguards across all of our information technology infrastructure is challenging. Furthermore, outside parties may attempt to fraudulently induce employees to disclose sensitive information in order to gain access to our data or our customers’ data or accounts, or may otherwise obtain access to such data or accounts. Because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service or sabotage systems change frequently and often are not recognized until attacks are launched against a target, we may be unable to anticipate these techniques or to implement adequate preventative measures. While we have experienced minor isolated cybersecurity incidents in the past, we do not believe that any such incidents had a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition or results of operations. If an actual or perceived breach of our cybersecurity of a material nature occurs or the market perception of the effectiveness of our cybersecurity measures is materially harmed, we may incur significant legal and financial exposure, including legal claims and regulatory fines and penalties, damage to our reputation and a loss of confidence of our customers, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

In addition, our wireless and fixed-line subscribers utilize our network to access the Internet and, as a consequence, we or they may become victim to common malicious and abusive Internet activities, such as unsolicited mass advertising (i.e., “spam”), hacking of personal information, distributed denial-of-service attacks and dissemination of viruses, worms and other destructive or disruptive software. These activities could have adverse consequences on our network and our customers, including degradation of service, excessive call volume to call centers and damage to our or our customers’ equipment and data. Significant incidents could lead to customer dissatisfaction and, ultimately, loss of customers or revenue, in addition to increased costs to us to service our customers and protect our network. Any significant loss of our subscribers or revenue due to incidents of malicious and abusive Internet practices or significant increase in costs of serving those subscribers could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Labor disputes may disrupt our operations.***

Although we have never experienced any significant labor disputes, there can be no assurance that we will not experience labor disputes in the future, including protests and strikes, which could have an adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Every two years, the union and management negotiate and enter into a new collective bargaining agreement that has a two-year duration, which is focused on employee benefits and welfare. Employee wages are separately negotiated on an annual basis. Although we consider our relationship with our employees to be good, there can be no assurance that we will be able to maintain such a working relationship with our employees and will not experience labor disputes resulting from disagreements with the labor union in the future.

***Concerns that radio frequency emissions may be linked to various health concerns could adversely affect our business and we could be subject to litigation relating to these health concerns.***

In the past, allegations that serious health risks may result from the use of wireless telecommunications devices or other transmission equipment have adversely affected share prices of some wireless telecommunications companies in the United States. In May 2011, the International Agency for Research on Cancer (the “IARC”), a part of the World Health Organization, announced that it has classified radiofrequency electromagnetic fields associated with wireless phone use as possibly carcinogenic to humans, based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer. The IARC conducts research on the causes of human cancer and the mechanisms of carcinogenesis and aims to develop scientific strategies for cancer control. We cannot assure you that these health concerns will not adversely affect our business. Several class action and personal injury lawsuits have been filed in the United States against several wireless phone manufacturers and carriers, asserting product liability, breach of warranty and other claims relating to radio transmissions to and from wireless phones. Certain of these lawsuits have been dismissed. We could be subject to liability or incur significant costs defending lawsuits brought by our subscribers or other parties who claim to have been harmed by or as a result of our services. In addition, the actual or perceived risk of wireless telecommunications devices could have an adverse effect on our business by reducing the number of our subscribers or the usage per subscriber.

***Our ability to deliver services may be disrupted due to a systems failure, shutdown in our networks or natural disaster.***

Our services are currently carried through our wireless and fixed-line networks, which could be vulnerable to damage or interruptions in operations due to fires, floods, earthquakes, power losses, telecommunication failures, network software flaws, unauthorized access, computer viruses and similar events, which may occur from time to time. The occurrence of any of these events could impact our ability to deliver services, we may be liable for damages to our customers caused by such interruptions, our reputation may be damaged and our customers may lose confidence in us, which could have a negative effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***Depreciation of the value of the Won against the Dollar and other major foreign currencies may have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and the market value of our common shares and ADSs.***

Substantially all of our revenues are denominated in Won. Depreciation of the Won may materially affect our results of operations because, among other things, it causes:

- an increase in the amount of Won required by us to make interest and principal payments on our foreign currency-denominated debt; and
- an increase, in Won terms, of the costs of equipment that we purchase from overseas sources which we pay for in Dollars or other foreign currencies.

Fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Won and the Dollar will affect the Dollar equivalent of the Won price of the our common shares on the KRX KOSPI Market. These fluctuations will also affect:

- the amounts a registered holder or beneficial owner of ADSs will receive from the American Depositary Receipt (“ADR”) depositary in respect of dividends, which will be paid in Won to the ADR depositary and converted by the ADR depositary into Dollars;

- the Dollar value of the proceeds that a holder will receive upon sale in Korea of our common shares; and
- the secondary market price of our ADSs.

***If SK Inc. causes us to breach the foreign ownership limitations on our common shares by being deemed to be a foreign entity, we may experience a change of control.***

The Telecommunications Business Act currently sets a 49.0% limit on the aggregate foreign ownership of our issued shares. Under the Telecommunications Business Act, as amended, a Korean entity, such as SK Inc., is deemed to be a foreign entity if its largest shareholder (determined by aggregating the shareholdings of such shareholder and its related parties) is a foreigner and such shareholder (together with the shareholdings of its related parties) holds 15.0% or more of the issued voting stock of the Korean entity. While there is currently a pending bill before the National Assembly which proposes to eliminate such limitation on the aggregate foreign ownership, it remains uncertain as to whether the National Assembly will vote in favor of passing such bill or when such vote will take place.

Notwithstanding the above, pursuant to an amendment to the Telecommunications Business Act which became effective in April 2022, a Korean entity, so long as (i) such entity's largest shareholder (determined by aggregating the shareholdings of such shareholder and its related parties) is a foreign entity specifically designated by the MSIT incorporated in a country that has entered into a bilateral or multilateral free trade agreement with Korea, and (ii) such shareholder (together with the shareholdings of its related parties) owns 15.0% or more of the issued voting stock of such entity, may own more than 49.0% of our issued shares but may not exercise its voting rights with respect to the shares held in excess of the 49% ceiling until the end of the MSIT's Public Interest Review (see "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Foreign Ownership and Investment Restrictions and Requirements").

As of December 31, 2023, SK Inc. owned 65,668,397 shares of our common stock, or 30.0%, of our issued shares. SK Inc. is currently not deemed to be a foreign entity. However, should SK Inc. be considered to be a foreign shareholder in the future, then its shareholding in us would be included in the calculation of our aggregate foreign shareholding and our aggregate foreign shareholding (based on our foreign ownership level as of December 31, 2023, which we believe was 41.0%) would exceed the 49.0% ceiling on foreign shareholding. As of December 31, 2023, the two largest foreign shareholders of SK Inc. each held a 3.3% stake therein.

If our aggregate foreign shareholding limit is exceeded, the MSIT may issue a corrective order to us, the breaching shareholder (including SK Inc. if the breach is caused by an increase in foreign ownership of SK Inc.) and the foreign shareholder which owns in the aggregate 15.0% or more of SK Inc. Furthermore, if SK Inc. is considered a foreign shareholder, it will be prohibited from exercising its voting rights with respect to the shares held in excess of the 49.0% ceiling, which may result in a change in control of us. In addition, the MSIT will be prohibited from granting us licenses or permits necessary for entering into new telecommunications businesses until our aggregate foreign shareholding is reduced to below 49.0%. For a description of further actions that the MSIT could take, see "Item 4.B. Business Overview – Law and Regulation – Foreign Ownership and Investment Restrictions and Requirements."

#### **Risks Relating to Korea**

***Unfavorable financial and economic developments in Korea may have an adverse effect on us.***

We are incorporated in Korea, and a substantial portion of our operations and assets are located in Korea. As a result, we are subject to political, economic, legal and regulatory risks specific to Korea, and our performance and successful fulfillment of our operational strategies are dependent in large part on the overall Korean economy. Due to the debilitating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Korean economy and the economies of Korea's major trading partners, the economic indicators in Korea have shown mixed signs of deterioration and

uncertain recovery since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. See “– Risks relating to Our Business – Occurrences of widespread infectious diseases, including any possible recurrence of COVID-19, may materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.” As a result, future growth of the Korean economy is subject to many factors beyond our control, including developments in the global economy.

In recent years, adverse conditions and volatility in the worldwide financial markets, fluctuations in oil and commodity prices, supply chain disruptions and the increasing weakness of the global economy, which have been affected by, among others, the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine and ensuing sanctions against Russia, difficulties faced by several banks in the United States and Europe, increases in policy interest rates globally (including Korea) to combat rising inflationary pressures, and more recently, escalating hostilities in the Middle East following the Israel-Hamas war, have contributed to the uncertainty of global economic prospects in general and have adversely affected, and may continue to adversely affect, the Korean economy. The value of the Won relative to major foreign currencies has fluctuated significantly and, as a result of uncertain global and Korean economic, social and political conditions, there has been significant volatility in the stock prices of Korean companies recently. Future declines in the Korea Composite Stock Price Index (the “KOSPI”), and large amounts of sales of Korean securities by foreign investors and subsequent repatriation of the proceeds of such sales may adversely affect the value of the Won, the foreign currency reserves held by financial institutions in Korea, and the ability of Korean companies to raise capital. Any future deterioration of the Korean or global economy could adversely affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Developments that could have an adverse impact on Korea’s economy include:

- declines in consumer confidence and a slowdown in consumer spending, including as a result of severe health epidemics, such as COVID-19, and increases in market interest rates;
- rising inflationary pressures leading to increases in the costs of goods and services and a decrease in purchasing power;
- adverse changes or volatility in foreign currency reserve levels, commodity prices (including oil prices), exchange rates (including fluctuation of the Won against the U.S. dollar, Euro or Japanese Yen exchange rates or revaluation of the Chinese Yuan), interest rates, inflation rates or stock markets;
- adverse conditions or developments in the economies of countries and regions that are important export markets for Korea, such as China, the United States, Europe and Japan, or in emerging market economies in Asia or elsewhere, including as a result of deteriorating economic and trade relations between the United States and China and increased uncertainties in the global financial markets and industry;
- a continuing rise in the level of household debt and increasing delinquencies and credit defaults by retail or small- and medium-sized enterprise borrowers in Korea;
- the economic impact of any pending or future free trade agreements or any changes to existing free trade agreements;
- shortages of imported raw materials, natural resources, rare earth minerals or component parts, including semiconductors, due to disruptions to the global supply chain;
- a deterioration in economic or diplomatic relations between Korea and its trading partners or allies, including deterioration resulting from territorial or trade disputes or disagreements in foreign policy;
- increased sovereign default risks in select countries and the resulting adverse effects on the global financial markets;
- a deterioration in the financial condition or performance of small- and medium-sized enterprises and other companies in Korea due to the Government’s policies to increase minimum wages and limit working hours of employees;
- investigations of large Korean conglomerates and their senior management for possible misconduct;

- social and labor unrest;
- substantial changes in the market prices of Korean real estate;
- a substantial decrease in tax revenues and a substantial increase in the Government's expenditures for fiscal stimulus measures, unemployment compensation and other economic and social programs, in particular in light of the Government's ongoing efforts to provide emergency relief payments to households and emergency loans to corporations in need of funding in light of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as interest rate increases, which together would likely lead to a national budget deficit as well as an increase in the Government's debt;
- financial problems or lack of progress in the restructuring of Korean conglomerates, other large troubled companies, their suppliers or the financial sector;
- loss of investor confidence arising from corporate accounting irregularities and corporate governance issues concerning certain Korean conglomerates;
- increases in social expenditures to support an aging population in Korea or decreases in economic productivity due to the declining population size in Korea;
- geopolitical uncertainty and the risk of further attacks by terrorist groups around the world;
- political uncertainty or increasing strife among or within political parties in Korea;
- hostilities, political or social tensions involving Russia (including the invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the ensuing actions that the United States and other countries have taken or may take in the future, such as the imposition of sanctions against Russia) and the resulting adverse effects on the global supply of oil and other natural resources and the global financial markets;
- hostilities or political or social tensions involving countries in the Middle East (including those resulting from escalating hostilities in the Middle East following the Israel-Hamas war) and North Africa and any material disruption in the global supply of oil or sudden increase in the price of oil;
- natural or man-made disasters that have a significant adverse economic or other impact on Korea or its major trading partners; and
- an increase in the level of tensions or an outbreak of hostilities between North Korea and Korea or the United States.

***Escalations in tensions with North Korea could have an adverse effect on us and the market value of our common shares and ADSs.***

Relations between Korea and North Korea have been tense throughout Korea's modern history. The level of tension between the two Koreas has fluctuated and may increase abruptly as a result of future events. In particular, there have been heightened security concerns in recent years stemming from North Korea's nuclear weapon, ballistic missile and satellite programs as well as its hostile military actions against Korea. Some of the significant incidents in recent years include the following:

- North Korea renounced its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in January 2003 and has conducted six rounds of nuclear tests since October 2006, including claimed detonations of hydrogen bombs and warheads that can be mounted on ballistic missiles. Over the years, North Korea has continued to conduct a series of missile tests, including ballistic missiles launched from submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles that it claims can reach the United States mainland. North Korea has increased the frequency of such activities since the beginning of 2022, firing numerous ballistic missiles, including intercontinental ballistic missiles, and in November 2023, successfully launched its first spy satellite. In response, the Government has repeatedly condemned the provocations and flagrant violations of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. In February 2016, the Government also closed the inter-Korea Gaeseong Industrial Complex in response to North Korea's fourth nuclear



test in January 2016. Internationally, the United Nations Security Council has passed a series of resolutions condemning North Korea's actions and significantly expanding the scope of sanctions applicable to North Korea. Over the years, the United States and the European Union have also expanded their sanctions applicable to North Korea.

- In March 2010, a Korean naval vessel was destroyed by an underwater explosion, killing many of the crewmen on board. The Government formally accused North Korea of causing the sinking, while North Korea denied responsibility. Moreover, in November 2010, North Korea fired more than one hundred artillery shells that hit Korea's Yeonpyeong Island near the Northern Limit Line, which acts as the de facto maritime boundary between Korea and North Korea on the west coast of the Korean peninsula, causing casualties and significant property damage. The Government condemned North Korea for the attack and vowed stern retaliation should there be further provocation.

North Korea's economy also faces severe challenges, which may further aggravate social and political pressures within North Korea.

Although bilateral summit meetings between Korea and North Korea were held in April, May and September 2018 and between the United States and North Korea in June 2018, February 2019 and June 2019, there can be no assurance that the level of tensions affecting the Korean peninsula will not escalate in the future. Any further increase in tensions, which may occur, for example, if North Korea experiences a leadership crisis, high-level contacts between Korea and North Korea or between the United States and North Korea break down or military hostilities occur, could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations and the market value of our common shares and ADSs.

***Korea's legislation allowing class action suits related to securities transactions may expose us to additional litigation risk.***

The Securities-related Class Action Act of Korea (the "Securities-related Class Action Act"), enacted in January 2004, allows class action suits to be brought by shareholders of companies (including us) listed on the KRX KOSPI Market for losses incurred in connection with purchases and sales of securities and other securities transactions arising from (1) false or inaccurate statements provided in the registration statements, prospectuses, annual reports, audit reports, and semi-annual or quarterly reports or omissions of material information in such documents, (2) insider trading, (3) market manipulation and (4) unfair trading. The Securities-related Class Action Act permits 50 or more shareholders who collectively hold 0.01% of the shares of a company to bring a class action suit against, among others, the issuer and its directors and officers. Because of the relatively recent enactment of the Securities-related Class Action Act, there is not enough judicial precedent to predict how the courts will apply the law. Litigation can be time-consuming and expensive to resolve, and can divert management time and attention from the operation of a business. We are not aware of any basis upon which such suit may be brought against us, nor are any such suits pending or threatened. Any such litigation brought against us could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

***There are special risks involved with investing in securities of Korean companies, including the possibility of restrictions being imposed by the Government in emergency circumstances.***

As we are a Korean company and operate in a business and cultural environment that is different from that of other countries, there are risks associated with investing in our securities that are not typical for investments in securities of companies in other jurisdictions.

Under the Korean Foreign Exchange Transactions Act, if the Government deems that certain emergency circumstances, including a significant disruption in the international balance of payments and international financial markets or extreme difficulty in carrying out currency, exchange rate or other macroeconomic policies due to the movement of capital between Korea and other countries, are likely to occur, it may impose any

necessary restriction such as requiring Korean or foreign investors to obtain prior approval from the Ministry of Economy and Finance (the “MOEF”) for the acquisition of Korean securities or for the repatriation of interest, dividends or sales proceeds arising from Korean securities or from disposition of such securities or other transactions involving foreign exchange. See “Item 10.D. Exchange Controls – Korean Foreign Exchange Controls and Securities Regulations.”

#### **Risks Relating to Securities**

##### ***Sales of our shares by SK Inc. and/or other large shareholders may adversely affect the market value of our common shares and ADSs.***

Sales of substantial amounts of our common shares, or the perception that such sales may occur, could adversely affect the prevailing market value of our common shares or ADSs or our ability to raise capital through an offering of our common shares.

As of December 31, 2023, SK Inc. owned 30.0% of our total issued common shares and has not agreed to any restrictions on its ability to dispose of our shares. See “Item 7.A. Major Shareholders.” We can make no prediction as to the timing or amount of any sales of our common shares. We cannot assure you that future sales of our common shares, or the availability of our common shares for future sale, will not adversely affect the prevailing market value of our common shares or ADSs from time to time.

##### ***If an investor surrenders his or her ADSs to withdraw the underlying shares, he or she may not be allowed to deposit the shares again to obtain ADSs.***

Under the deposit agreement, holders of our common shares may deposit those shares with the ADR depositary’s custodian in Korea and obtain ADSs, and holders of ADSs may surrender ADSs to the ADR depositary and receive our common shares. However, under the terms of the deposit agreement, as amended, the depositary bank is required to obtain our prior consent to any such deposit if, after giving effect to such deposit, the total number of our common shares represented by ADSs, which was 13,512,383 shares as of March 31, 2024, exceeds a specified maximum, which was 73,861,029 shares as of March 31, 2024, subject to adjustment under certain circumstances. In addition, the depositary bank or the custodian may not accept deposits of our common shares for issuance of ADSs under certain circumstances, including (1) if it has been determined by us that we should block the deposit to prevent a violation of applicable Korean laws and regulations or our articles of incorporation or (2) if a person intending to make a deposit has been identified as a holder of at least 4.0% of our common shares. It is possible that we may not give the consent. Consequently, an investor who has surrendered his or her ADSs and withdrawn the underlying shares may not be allowed to deposit the shares again to obtain ADSs.

##### ***An investor in our ADSs may not be able to exercise preemptive rights for additional new shares and may suffer dilution of his or her equity interest in us.***

The Korean Commercial Code and our articles of incorporation require us, with some exceptions, to offer shareholders the right to subscribe for new shares in proportion to their existing ownership percentage whenever new shares are issued. If we offer a right to subscribe for additional new common shares or any other rights of similar nature, the ADR depositary, after consultation with us, may make the rights available to an ADS holder or use reasonable efforts to dispose of the rights on behalf of the ADS holder and make the net proceeds available to the ADS holder. The ADR depositary, however, is not required to make available to an ADS holder any rights to purchase any additional shares unless it deems that doing so is lawful and feasible and:

- a registration statement filed by us under the Securities Act is in effect with respect to those shares; or
- the offering and sale of those shares is exempt from, or is not subject to, the registration requirements of the Securities Act.