

# WILLSCOT ■ MOBILE MINI

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## TRANSCRIPT

Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call

WillScot Mobile Mini Holdings Corp. (Nasdaq: WSC)

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## WILLSCOT MOBILE MINI PARTICIPANTS

Brad Soutz, Chief Executive Officer

Tim Boswell, President & Chief Financial Officer

Nick Girardi, Sr. Director of Treasury and Investor Relations

## MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Andrew Wittmann, Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated

Brent Thielman, D.A. Davidson & Co.

Dillon Cumming, Morgan Stanley

Faiza Alwy, Deutsche Bank

Manav Patnaik, Barclays Bank PLC

Maggie Grady, Jefferies LLC

Scott Schneeberger, Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.

Steven Ramsey, Thompson Research Group, LLC

### TRANSCRIPT

#### Operator

Welcome to the Second Quarter 2022 WillScot Mobile Mini Earnings Conference Call. My name is Paul, and I will be your operator for today's call.

Please note that this conference is being recorded. I will now turn the call over to Nick Girardi, Senior Director of Treasury and Investor Relations. Nick, you may begin.

#### Nick Girardi

Good morning, and welcome to the WillScot Mobile Mini Second Quarter 2022 Earnings Call. Participants on today's call include Brad Soultz, Chief Executive Officer; and Tim Boswell, President and Chief Financial Officer. Today's presentation material may be found on the Investor Relations section of the WillScot Mobile Mini website.

Slide 2 contains our safe harbor statement. We will be making forward-looking statements during the presentation and our Q&A session. Our business and operations are subject to a variety of risks and uncertainties, many of which are beyond our control. As a result, our actual results may differ materially from today's comments. For a more complete description of the factors that could cause actual results to differ and other possible risks, please refer to the safe harbor statement in our presentation and our filings with the SEC.

With that, I'll turn the call over to Brad Soultz.

#### Brad Soultz

Thanks, Nick. Good morning, everyone, and thank you for joining us today. I'm Brad Soultz, CEO of WillScot Mobile Mini. We continue to execute our idiosyncratic growth strategy across multiple organic and inorganic levers irrespective of end markets. And this quarter was no exception. Before we dive into our performance in Q2, I'd like to start with our capital allocation. Capital allocation is fundamental to our strategy. From the Board to our executive leadership team to our branches, our jobs are to identify opportunities where we can drive the greatest value and returns across our portfolio. This is not just financial capital, it is human capital. We have to orient over 5,000 colleagues and our supply chain partners across 300 locations towards the projects that have the biggest bang for their buck. It is an extreme luxury to have a plethora of opportunities in front of us that if reliably executed will continue to drive sustainable growth and returns irrespective of market conditions.

First, and based on strong demand, we are fully funding organic CapEx. That means we're investing in new portable storage units, modular refurbishments and our innovative Flex product and value-added products and services to keep pace with our demand. We anticipate landing about 13,000 new storage containers in 2022 and have increased modular production to support the increased modular deliveries, which were up 10% year-over-year. And following the successful rollout during the first half of the year, all of our storage branches can now offer VAPS furniture for our ground level office fleet.

Second, we are fully funding our tuck-in acquisition strategy. Over the last 12 months, we've acquired approximately 21,000 portable storage units and approximately 4,500 modular units, which demonstrates the scalability of our business. We expect that our tuck-in acquisitions from the last 12 months will contribute approximately \$25 million of

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

adjusted EBITDA year-over-year in 2022. So these are compounding powerfully with our organic growth initiatives and bring a host of other strategic operational and financial benefits.

Finally, we've employed our share repurchase authorization to great effect. Over the last 12 months, we repurchased \$481 million of our common stock and stock equivalents. As of June 30, 2022, that represents almost 7% of our market cap. Recognizing our compounding free cash flow, our Board of Directors proactively replenished our share repurchase authorization back up to \$1 billion in July of 2022. We often talk about the trifecta as it relates to operations, specifically pricing, value-added products and volumes. While there's also a trifecta for capital allocation. And over the last 12 months, we are right in line with that framework that we laid out at our Investor Day in November of 2021 with over \$1.1 billion of capital generated and allocated to net CapEx, M&A and returns to shareholders. Thank you for trusting us as stewards of your capital.

Now focusing on Q2. Quotes and delivery levels were above prior year throughout the quarter for NA modular and NA storage. Modular volumes in NA modular were up 2.1% year-over-year and 2.4% year-to-date from the beginning of the year. About half of the year-to-date volume increase is organic and the other half is from M&A. Portable storage units combined across North America modular and North America storage were up 24% year-over-year. End market strength continues to be broad-based. The Architectural Billings Index has now expanded for 17 months in a row, giving us confidence in the non-resi markets well into 2023.

We've won multiple projects across our diverse end markets, with continued expansion with existing customers and orders from new customers for facility examples such as chip production, health care and education. Retail remodels continue, and we are supporting incremental inventory storage needs to accommodate the unpredictable timelines between receipt and consumption of inventory. Manufacturing also remained strong as we alluded to in the last quarter, partially driven by reshoring projects in the U.S.

Combined with the immediate strength we're seeing in our year-over-year delivery volumes and all of our objective market indicators suggest end markets will remain supportive as we wrap up '22 and position for '23. And the multitrillion dollar U.S. infrastructure bills would certainly further extend and provide additional tailwinds across our end markets starting in 2023.

Again, regardless of end market performance, we're taking practical steps to engage our customers with combined strength of WillScot and Mobile Mini brands. We recently implemented strategies and tools to leverage our industry-leading data warehouse and transaction history to target cross-selling opportunities from our M&A transactions. And although we'll continue to improve the automation and lead sharing when we combine our 2 instances of Salesforce.com in 2023, we're already seeing tangible results from our organic market penetration initiatives as evidenced in the 24% growth in volumes in portable storage units in North America. Value-added products penetration is also expanding in North America modular and continues to roll out as planned under our Mobile Mini brand, in aggregate, representing a \$500 million organic revenue opportunity that is entirely within our control.

Tim is going to spend some time unpacking our rate performance during the quarter, but suffice it to say, modular is progressing in line with historical performance, and our team continues to exceed our high expectations in storage. Given the predictability and lease duration in our portfolio, we'll enjoy the benefits from today's rate trajectory and our results for years to come. Finally, given our performance throughout the first half of 2022, we're raising our guidance by \$40 million to adjusted EBITDA of \$900 million to \$940 million for 2022. At the midpoint, the new guidance

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

represents a 24% increase relative to 2021. I'm thrilled with our team's performance and excited about our outlook for the remainder of the year and beyond.

With that, I'll turn the call back to Tim.

### **Tim Boswell**

Thank you, Brad, and good morning, everyone. Page 20 shows a high-level summary of the quarter. Our commercial momentum continues to accelerate, driven by strong leasing fundamentals and execution across all operating segments. Leasing revenue was up 25% year-over-year, driven by pricing, value-added products and volume growth, supported by a steady cadence of acquisitions. Adjusted EBITDA was up 33% year-over-year and adjusted EBITDA margins expanded approximately 200 basis points both sequentially and year-over-year as we had indicated they would. Our updated adjusted EBITDA guidance of \$900 million to \$940 million implies increases between 22% and 27% versus 2021. And we continue to expect adjusted EBITDA margins to be up about 200 basis points for the full year as leasing revenues compound predictably and SG&A continues to stabilize.

Return on invested capital in the quarter of 14.6% was up 430 basis points year-over-year. So our strategy to drive sustainable growth and returns is clearly working. And because we have a high degree of visibility into continued growth and ROIC expansion, we love our stock. We repurchased \$250 million of shares and equivalents in the second quarter. And over the last 12 months, we repurchased \$481 million of shares and equivalents, representing a 5.6% reduction of our economic share count.

Overall, our business continues to perform ahead of expectations. We have a clear formula to drive sustainable growth and returns, and we are reinvesting accordingly in our business and in our stock.

Page 21 lays out revenue and adjusted EBITDA for the quarter. Year-over-year, we delivered a 26% increase to \$582 million of revenue and a 33% increase to \$233 million of adjusted EBITDA. Adjusted EBITDA margins expanded 200 basis points year-over-year and 240 basis points sequentially, and we saw strong margin expansion both at the gross margin and EBITDA margin level across all of our segments as well as at the consolidated net income level, driven by the steady compounding of pricing, value-added products and volumes at rates well in excess of cost inflation.

As we've said for the past few quarters, we expect EBITDA margins will be up approximately 200 basis points for the full year. And based on the acceleration in our lease revenue run rate, we're confident that margins will be up meaningfully again in 2023. Pricing, in particular, will provide powerful revenue tailwinds for the next 18 to 24 months based on our forward visibility. In Q2, rental rates continued to progress predictably and the inflationary environment is supporting highly attractive spot rates that we will enjoy in future periods given our long lease durations. Average rental rate increased by 16% year-over-year, inclusive of value-added products for modular units in North America Modular and by 23% year-over-year for portable storage units in North America storage. Delivered spot rates over the last 12 months are roughly 30% higher than average rates across the portfolio in the North America Modular segment, and we have an approximately 25% spread in North America storage on our most recently delivered units relative to the portfolio average.

Together, in North America modular and North America storage the natural convergence from average rates to recently delivered rates over our 3-year lease duration represents about a \$200 million predictable organic revenue growth opportunity irrespective of market conditions. While we are capitalizing on the inflationary pressures and

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

supply chain constraints impacting our industry, it takes time for these benefits to compound in our lease revenues due to our long lease durations, which is why we are incrementally more confident today in our ability to deliver future pricing growth. In the immediate term, we are still experiencing significant cost inflation on inputs such as building materials and labor which continue to be up over 15% versus prior year and fuel prices remain up approximately 60% versus 2021.

That said, our margins are up in all segments and on all revenue streams in Q2 despite the natural lag in our lease revenues. It is, therefore, reasonable to expect that our input cost inflation will begin to slow while our lease revenue continues to compound, which is why we're confident in our revenue growth and margin expansion outlook heading into 2023.

Turning to Page 22. We generated \$188 million of cash from operations, up 34% year-over-year. Net capital expenditures totaled \$119 million, representing a \$60 million increase year-over-year as we invest for growth. This increase was demand-driven as volumes continue to ramp and on a year-over-year basis and relative to our original expectations, we are seeing at least a 15% increase to our CapEx, which is attributable to input inflation. Modular refurbishment of approximately \$50 million in Q2, effectively doubled versus Q2 of 2021, supporting over 1,000 units of organic volume growth year-to-date as well as inventory readiness. In the 3 months ended July, so our most recent data, modular work orders were up approximately 28% year-over-year and modular deliveries were up approximately 10% versus the same period in 2021. So we're seeing elevated activity levels well into the third quarter. And while we are continuing to prioritize production in our branches to stay ahead of demand, these investments are entirely discretionary and within our control.

On the storage side of the business, we invested approximately \$27 million for additional portable storage units in Q2 as our utilization exceeds 85%. We originally planned to purchase 8,000 new containers in 2022, all 8,000 units landed and were deployed in the first half of the year. Utilization remains elevated and rental rates are accelerating. So we're landing an additional 5,000 units primarily in Q3 to support both core and seasonal demand. So in total, that represents approximately \$70 million of growth capital into our storage segment in 2022, which is a record level for the legacy Mobile Mini business.

We invested approximately \$20 million in value-added products to support continued growth in the modular segment and continued VAPS rollouts in our storage segment. We invested another \$10 million across both the Tank and Pump and U.K. segments, and we invested approximately \$10 million in infrastructure, which includes our branch network and the early phases of our CRM consolidation, which is planned for the first half of 2023.

Overall, it was a strong quarter for organic reinvestment and these investments are supporting a lease revenue run rate heading into 2023 that is roughly 10% ahead of where we originally planned for 2022.

Even with these record reinvestment levels, free cash flow is inflecting positively, up 25% sequentially from the first quarter. And based on the continued growth of operating cash flows and the tapering of capital expenditures in the second half of 2022, which I expect will be more in line with the second half of 2021, we have clear line of sight to achieving \$500 million of free cash flow run rate heading into 2023.

Turning to Page 23. We maintained a constant leverage in the quarter given the continued favorable operating environment. In addition to net CapEx, we invested \$46 million in 4 acquisitions. We also repurchased \$250 million of common stock and warrants, retiring 7.2 million shares and share equivalents. Over the last 12 months, we reduced

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

our economic share count by 5.6%, and in July, our Board replenished our share repurchase authorization to \$1 billion, giving us flexibility to continue returning substantial value to shareholders. On June 30, we closed the fourth amendment to our asset-backed credit facility. We increased the facility size from \$2.4 billion to \$3.7 billion to support the growth of our business, and we have approximately \$1 billion of liquidity currently available under the facility and in addition to our own internally generated cash flow. We extended the term of the credit facility for 5 years now maturing in June 2027, and we reduced the interest rate spread by about 50 basis points, which partly offset broader benchmark rate increases. At current rates, our annual cash interest expense is approximately \$130 million. We are incredibly grateful to our lenders for your support and I think the process was an incredible vote of confidence in our team, our strategy and our execution, and the outcome is an incredibly flexible and cost-effective source of financing that supports our long-term growth plans.

Turning to Page 24, still my favorite page in the deck. As Brad discussed, our capital allocation over the last 12 months is consistent with our long-term framework. Our outlook suggests that our capacity to deploy capital will continue to grow, with continued compelling opportunities in organic CapEx, acquisitions and the repurchases of our own stock. In the last 12 months, on a leverage-neutral basis, we generated and allocated over \$1.1 billion of capital, 31% or \$358 million went to organic capital expenditures, 22% or \$251 million has gone towards tuck-in acquisitions, and we used \$481 million or 42% to repurchase approximately 5.6% of our economic share count. Executing our growth strategy, driving return on invested capital and smart capital allocation together will allow us to continue compounding shareholder returns predictably over time.

And to illustrate this predictable compounding, our updated outlook is on Page 25. Our leasing fundamentals of pricing, value-added products and volumes continue to exceed expectations. As such, we raised our adjusted EBITDA guidance by \$40 million to \$900 million to \$940 million of adjusted EBITDA. At the midpoint of our guidance, it still implies about 200 basis points of margin expansion relative to 2021. Sequentially, we expect margins will expand modestly into Q3 as work order activity levels remain elevated, and margins should then expand significantly into Q4 of this year as modular work order activity slows down, and we get the full contribution of seasonal retail revenues in our storage segment. As I mentioned earlier, we expect capital expenditures to taper in the second half of the year and be more in line with the second half of 2021, but obviously, this is a significant year for growth investment and above our original expectations. As I think about the midpoint of the CapEx range of \$350 million, approximately \$150 million of the total represents growth investments and approximately \$175 million represents maintenance CapEx. And there is another \$25 million or so of integration-related CapEx that should taper off in 2023. So our investments this year are roughly balanced between growth and maintenance and we have a very high degree of discretion over even the maintenance components given the long-lived nature of our assets.

Looking into the second half of the year, as margins expand into Q4 and CapEx tapers, we expect our free cash flow run rate to accelerate to a \$500 million run rate as we enter 2023, and then that run rate will grow through the course of 2023. Our rental revenue and EBITDA run rate for Q4 heading into 2023, is running approximately 10% ahead of where we expected at the outset of the year. So we're capitalizing upon a favorable operating environment, accelerating growth, expanding ROIC, repurchasing our stock and establishing a stronger foundation from which we will build heading into 2023.

With that, Brad, I'll hand it back to you.

### **Brad Soultz**

Thanks, Tim. We'll continue to be thoughtful and diligent as we invest in our uniquely durable and resilient business and its powerful idiosyncratic growth levers. I'm pleased with our progress in the first half of 2022, and I'm excited with the outlook for the remainder of the year and beyond. Thank you to all of our stakeholders for their continued support. I wish all of you listening today continued safety and good health. This concludes our prepared remarks.

Operator, would you please open the line for questions?

### **Operator**

Your first question comes from the line of Faiza Alwy from Deutsche Bank.

### **Faiza Alwy – Deutsche Bank**

So you've had great results so far. I'm curious, as you know, there is macro uncertainty and recession risks heading into 2023. So could you give us a little bit more color in terms of how we should think about the resiliency of your business in a downside scenario, the flexibility that I think is inherent in your business and what the downturn model might look like for you?

### **Tim Boswell**

Sure, Faiza, this is Tim. Thanks for the question. And it's clearly one that's been top of mind for many investors over the past couple of months. And frankly, I think it's a scenario where WillScot's likely performance is not well understood. First, I think you can assume from today's commentary that we do not see anything in our leading indicators that would be consistent with an imminent recession. And we'll enter 2023 with a lease revenue run rate that is roughly 10% higher than we originally expected, as I mentioned in my prepared remarks.

We think we've put in place growth initiatives that would grow through any reasonable recession scenario, just like we did through the pandemic. The pace of compounding could slow in a recession, but we believe we have a formula to deliver sustainable growth and returns irrespective of market conditions. So the best thing we can do to prepare for a recession is exactly what we're doing today and is evident in our Q2 results. We're growing our lease revenue run rate by driving pricing, volumes, and value-added products. We're consolidating our markets and revisiting capital allocation using our regular quarterly process.

So as we think about recession scenarios and the possibilities for 2023, there are basically 5 levers that we're managing actively. The first is pricing. So the current spread between delivered spot rates and average monthly rates, creates massive insulation and visibility into future growth. If we just hold spot rates flat where they are today, we have a \$200 million organic lease revenue opportunity. And based on that favorable spread, our pricing power, and the impact of lease duration, it is difficult to conceive a recession scenario where pricing detracts from our lease revenue run-rate, so it is going to be a tailwind in all of our scenarios.

The second lever is value-added products. We continue to grow value-added products penetration on our modular and storage volumes regardless of whether we're in a recession or an expansion. We're still taking over a massive inconvenience in the supply chain for our customers and offering a highly differentiated value proposition. So our

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

targets to drive VAPS revenue per delivered unit to \$600 per unit per month in modular would not change in a recession nor would our rollout plans for storage VAPS. So this is a \$500 million organic growth opportunity. It would be unchanged in a recession, and it represents another very powerful tailwind.

The third lever that everybody worries about is volume. In recessions, deliveries correlate with economic activity and would likely slow, but units on rent lag based on 3-year lease duration. So deliveries might decline in line with GDP or nonresidential construction starts, but units on rent with customers remain on rent for their planned project duration, such that any unit on rent decline will lag the contraction. This is why our lease revenues are so stable and predictable. We saw this play out repeatedly, including the global financial crisis, peak oil in 2014 and through the pandemic. And more importantly, we're better positioned than ever to capture market share organically through cross-selling and to defend our market position with acquisitions.

The fourth lever that you alluded to is our cost structure, which is roughly 50% variable. While we're currently structured for growth, we can pivot very quickly as you saw during the pandemic. You'll recall in 2020, our adjusted EBITDA margins expanded by 350 basis points year-over-year on a pro forma basis because we took variable cost out of the P&L while continuing to grow our lease revenues. In contrast, we're incurring variable cost headwinds today impacting both our gross margin and our SG&A. However, we can reverse those in a recession scenario.

And then the last lever that we've talked a lot about today is capital allocation. Our business has a strong countercyclical free cash flow profile. So as deliveries slow in a recessionary environment, CapEx and variable costs come down through our 90-day zero-based capital allocation process. And this opens up more capacity for deleveraging, acquisitions and share repurchases. In our most recent experience, free cash flow margin during the peak of the pandemic was approximately 20% versus 12% currently. And we have clear line of sight to returning to that level even in a growth environment.

So those are the levers we're managing. We've managed them all before and it's a normal part of our operating cadence here at WillScot Mobile Mini. We'll enter any recession with more market share, a stronger value proposition, greater scale and better management tools relative to any prior cycle. And as we discussed today, our leading indicators like the Architectural Billings Index, prospects for infrastructure spending, near-term reshoring and manufacturing as well as our own sales initiatives have us quite confident in the volume component of our model well into 2023. So that's a long response. Thanks for your patience, but it is very important that investors understand the levers that we have to drive growth and returns even in a macroeconomic contraction.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Andy Wittmann from Baird.

### **Andrew Wittmann – Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated**

I guess I wanted to just kind of ask on the storage segment in particular here. The 23% AMR growth really stood out. Obviously, over the last couple of quarters, you've been ramping it, but this 20% number almost seems like an outlier. So Brad, I was hoping you could talk a little bit about the market dynamics that are affording this and the sustainability of those and talk about any level of pushback that you're getting on that, if any?



### **Brad Sultz**

Yes. Thanks, Andy. I think you have to start with the fact that up to the merger, container pricing had been flat for years. So there was certainly let's say, pent-up opportunity. While I wouldn't represent 20% can continue forever, I'm starting to get more comfortable with double digit for a long time. We're not receiving a lot of pushback. Again, the rates at which we're delivering basically secure warehouse solutions to our customers' location are still very affordable versus any alternative.

Indeed, utilization is relatively high that is supportive of continuation. New container prices are up 40% to 50% versus a couple of years ago, that's very supportive of continued pricing. So I think it was a little bit of an untapped opportunity. The product positioning is another important one, Andy. If you think back relative to the pre-merger Mobile Mini, we were offering only a premium product with the patented Tricam doors, a differentiated and very unique storage delivery and logistics capability while as the majority of the balance of the industry was offering basically ISO containers often delivered through third parties.

So we're offering both products as we go forward. We'll continue to expand and scale our logistics capability to make sure whether a customer takes the standard product or our premium product, they'll get the same white glove service, if you will. So I feel quite good. I think I get increased confidence every time I look at this every quarter. The team's laser focused on it. Tim mentioned our 90-day sales and operating process. We talk a lot about the financial capital allocation. It's a fully integrated also sales, pricing, and VAPS, as well as human capital allocation, keeping everyone focused on the right levers. So I feel quite good about it, and I'm very proud of the team and all they've accomplished thus far.

### **Andrew Wittmann – Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated**

Got it. I guess for my follow-up question, maybe for Tim. You made some comments in the prepared remarks about orders and work orders being higher than deliveries, I guess that implies or suggests that repair, maintenance expenses are running ahead of the deliveries that obviously shows that you've got some baked-in demand that you're trying to cater, but it also has the effect, I guess, of I guess, weighing on margins in the near term. Can you talk about how different today's level of repair and maintenance expense is compared to maybe historical averages, so we can maybe get a better sense of how that is affecting the margins that you reported here in the quarter?

### **Tim Boswell**

Yes, Andy, I'm happy to. And this gets to the inherent flexibility that we have in the cost structure of the business, which I don't think is well understood. So on the storage side of the business, we're running north of 85% utilization. And it is all hands-on deck to get every viable container in rent-ready condition and delivered to customers, right?

So we're incurring, frankly, as much of that repair and maintenance expense as we can support through the availability of labor and materials. It's running to the tune of about 10% of revenue in the storage business. You could easily see that dropping in half to 5% of revenue in a slower volume environment, and if you think about the quantity of fleet that is actually unavailable, we're going to be pushing those levels, I think, below 5% of the total fleet by the end of the year, which is an extremely low level and extremely high fleet quality in the storage segment. We've got a

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

similar dynamic in modular, and that's where my prepared remarks were really, really focused with modular work orders up 28% year-over-year in the 3-month period ended July.

And to your point, that means we're building rent-ready inventory, and that is a headwind in our Q2 results for leasing gross margin and the overall EBITDA margin in the business, which itself was up 200 basis points year-over-year. So as I mentioned in my remarks, we're delivering these results, we're delivering margin expansion despite kind of a volume-driven variable cost headwind and despite 15% input inflation in materials and labor. So all of that together makes me a lot more confident about margin expansion heading into future periods because we're only beginning to see the real pricing benefits that we're seeing in this environment.

### **Andrew Wittmann – Robert W. Baird & Co. Incorporated**

That makes a lot of sense. If I'm afforded a follow-up to my follow-up. Does the -- in the modular side of the business, does the work orders or the repair and maintenance expense that you're investing today, does that start to subside at all into 3Q or 4Q? Or do you feel like you're setting up where you're going to continue to have to work at elevated levels, and maybe that's more of a '23 dynamic where you get all the revenue -- the rental revenue from that and maybe a bit of a tailwind if the work orders were to drop off?

### **Tim Boswell**

Yes. So I expect work order activity remains elevated in Q3. Work order activity in the modular business would typically come down a bit in Q4, just in terms of the nuance in our business. That's why Q4 tends to be a seasonally stronger EBITDA margin quarter that's a seasonal factor that's not a commentary on our macroeconomic outlook. And then 2023 will be what it will be from a macro standpoint and a volume standpoint. So if the backdrop supports delivery levels at today's level, then no, you wouldn't get that margin expansion yet. If delivery levels were to come down, then absolutely, you would get a variable cost tailwind in the business, which, again, provides us a lot of insulation and then contributes to the countercyclicality of the free cash flow in the business.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Manav Patnaik from Barclays Capital.

### **Manav Patnaik – Barclays Bank PLC**

I guess you've answered all of the key questions here, but maybe just the guidance raise on the revenue and, I guess, EBITDA side, can you just break that down by how much was the incremental M&A that you've done in there, just maybe parse that out a bit?

### **Tim Boswell**

Yes, Manav, this is Tim. So the incremental M&A is actually not a huge contributor. So in our original guidance for the year, I think we had about \$17 million of EBITDA in the original guidance of, what was it, about \$850 million of EBITDA at the midpoint of the original guide. And as Brad mentioned, we've got about \$25 million of EBITDA for the

year in the current guide. Now some of those transactions have taken place through the course of the year. So that \$25 million is not a full annualized run rate of those acquisitions. But order of magnitude, you're only talking about \$8- or-so million of incremental EBITDA in the revised guidance coming from acquisitions, and the rest is organic and quite strong at that.

### **Manav Patnaik – Barclays Bank PLC**

Got it. And then just maybe to follow up, just on -- I think you mentioned a few times the strong acquisition pipeline going through that. Can you just talk about how you would adjust that in the event of a slowdown or would that power through even faster?

### **Tim Boswell**

Look, we've said repeatedly that we will not miss a quality tuck-in acquisition, and quality to us means quality fleet, quality people, and quality customers. And that's what we're looking at when we're evaluating M&A transactions. The cadence of those transactions is often dictated by the sellers. These tend to be smaller, private, family-owned businesses. Maybe they have estate planning considerations, things of that nature. And we just want to make sure that we've got the right relationships so that we're ready to partner with them when the time is right for the sellers. So our appetite is there currently. Our appetite would certainly be there in a recessionary environment, and we won't miss a good deal out there.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Scott Schneeberger from Oppenheimer.

### **Scott Schneeberger – Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.**

I was hoping to speak a little bit on VAPS kind of on a fundamental level. Obviously, we can see what you report in the deck. But just curious how penetration is looking and how you think about it? I know you don't necessarily share numbers on this. But in second quarter of the modulars that went out, roughly what percent had at least 1 item of VAPS? And how does that compare to years past? And then how many had 2 items of VAPS, 3 items of VAPS, just some anecdotes about how you think about that and how you're progressing there? And if multiple items of VAPS and going up the menu level could potentially push you ultimately higher in the numbers that you provided from the Investor Day?

### **Brad Sultz**

Yes, Scott, it's Brad and Tim can jump in here if needed. The reality is almost every unit going out has some level of VAPS. They've got steps and ramps, right, to get in the building, they've got insurance. What's really been driving the growth is furniture. We tend not to talk about penetration by number of chairs and tables because it gets a bit nonsensical. And remember, we have a like a good, better, and best tiered offering, right, across that portfolio. So if you back up to when we IPO-ed, we identified a target of achieving \$400 of VAPS value per month. And we said, based upon the portfolio of furniture we had at the time, that would represent about 80% of our units going out with

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

VAPS. We're now at \$430. We're probably not quite at 80%. We're probably more than 60% to 70%, I would say, balanced penetration of units going out with furniture like a full accompany of furniture. But we've also seen pricing improvement and probably a shift across the tiers. So the \$430 would imply, okay, we've clearly achieved the \$400 target. We're probably in that 60% to 70% of delivered opportunity for the penetration on the modular units.

And as Tim referenced, we've set the target now from \$400 up to \$600. We've already got reps and in fact, full cities and MSAs that are riding at that level, so we know it's achievable. Again, it's the same game. If you contrast that to kind of the average of the portfolio right now, which is at \$266 on North America Modular, right, that's the spread that we've articulated that's been evident over the -- frankly, the course of the last 5 years. And what we'll expect over time is the \$430 delivered rate in modular converges, the \$260 up to the \$430, now across about 87,000 units on rent.

So you can watch that chart. It's -- it was one of my favorite charts as well. It's Page 12 in our investor deck, and it's been very consistent every quarter. And the exciting part now is you're going to see the same playbook executed on the storage side.

### **Scott Schneeberger – Oppenheimer & Co. Inc.**

Excellent. I appreciate that. For my follow-up, you all mentioned a little bit incremental, I think, 5,000 more storage containers for core and seasonal. Curious if you can just share what you're seeing in seasonal this year, how it compares to last year, and what it may mean for future years?

### **Tim Boswell**

Scott, this is Tim. I think if you recall our commentary maybe 12 months ago, based on the strength in all of our core markets, we actually acknowledged at the time that we were going to miss some of the seasonal demand, and that will continue to be the case this year. although we're capturing more of it because of the driving fleet readiness, like I talked about and because we're adding fleet to the storage branch network. So year-over-year, I'd expect contribution from seasonal could be \$10 million or so of EBITDA higher than last year, and that will be spread between Q3 and Q4. One thing we are seeing from the retailers is they are taking equipment earlier some delivering even here at the end of Q2, than in years past and holding on to it longer. And we have also pushed through meaningful and appropriate rental rate increases for those customers.

The other thing I would just highlight because most of the seasonal focuses on our retail customers, is that as we have deeper and more thoughtful discussions with the likes of Walmart and Target and Home Depot and Lowe's, et cetera, we're finding more opportunities for both our storage and our modular value proposition that are kind of separate and distinct than traditional seasonal and store renovation demand. So seasonal will be up this year as we look into 2023. I'm actually equally excited about deepening the relationships with some of those national accounts.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Phil Ng from Jefferies.

**Maggie Grady – Jefferies LLC**

It's Maggie on for Phil. I guess, first, going back to storage pricing. I know you've been doing a lot of good things there, getting the units on to your price optimization platform and doing some segmentation tools. Do you kind of see the next few quarters as a onetime step-up as you reset base rates and then getting back to that mid-single-digit cadence that you've talked about at your Investor Day or is a double-digit growth rate sustainable? And then kind of adding on to that, I know the storage VAPS rollout started this quarter. So maybe if you could talk about what the customer response has been and the uptake you're seeing relative to modular?

**Tim Boswell**

Maggie, this is Tim. I'll start by addressing -- providing a bit more detail on your storage pricing question. And then Brad, maybe you can provide some color around storage value-added products, given it's so early. As far as storage pricing goes, there are a lot of internal operational initiatives that you alluded to that are in place today: centralized quarterly pricing reviews as part of the sales and operating planning process that we do quarterly; Brad alluded to product positioning, again, we've got basically a good, better, best tiered offering now within the storage fleet; and we are driving price differentiation with our Mobile Mini branded Tri-Cam's and specialty products. And that's really what's been driving results since the merger through the end of Q2. We are not yet on a technology-enabled segmentation platform.

As we consolidate our CRMs heading into the first part of 2023, we will also be combining our quoting tools and our pricing technology tools. So I do think that is a potential opportunity as we look into 2023.

In terms of pricing guidance for the rest of the year on storage, I'm always a little bit careful here. But I do think we should see some sequential gains as we go into Q3 and Q4. And that's going to be at least driven by the seasonal volume that will be flowing through the results. We'll have to think about then how we set expectations for kind of Q1 and Q2 of 2023 as that seasonal volume likely rolls off. I'd expect there could be some sequential stabilization there of pricing as seasonal volume comes off in the first half of 2023, but fully expect it will be up meaningfully year-over-year. So that's probably the best we can do on storage pricing for now. Brad, maybe you want to talk about Storage VAPS?

**Brad Sultz**

Yes. I think we mentioned in the prepared commentary, all the branches now can offer the furniture for the ground level offices, and we're seeing that take off, I would say, in line with our expectations and the \$50 million of opportunity we had attributed to furniture in GLOs feels very attainable. And then probably more exciting from my perspective as we begin to roll out the VAPS offering, if you will, for storage. We've introduced our basic package, that's just being implemented through the network, if you will. So we're just really beginning to build the inventory required for that. And then as we've mentioned in prior calls, we'll follow that next year with proprietary shelf and racking system.

So we mentioned in the Investor Day, we thought there was another \$50 million of VAPS opportunity associated with VAPS and containers themselves, again, I think that's very attainable. Just keeping in mind it takes several years to achieve it on a leading edge or a spot rate and then kind of 30 months, if you will, for the fleet to roll over on itself. So

all these together are the kind of the underpinning, if you will, of that \$500 million of organic growth opportunity that I mentioned in the prepared comments, that's completely within our control.

### **Maggie Grady – Jefferies LLC**

Great. That's super helpful. And then, Tim, on the CapEx guide, thanks for giving the color between maintenance and growth. But I guess, just the incremental increase for the full year. Can you kind of size up which categories you're stepping up investments. And then looking out to next year, is there any pull forward this year we should be mindful of? Or how should we be thinking about CapEx in the next few years compared to the guide this year?

### **Tim Boswell**

Yes. There's certainly no pull forward. We are basically investing and growing and maintaining utilization levels in storage. And really, the bulk of the modular investments going to refurbishment, which I talked about on -- in my prepared remarks and in some of the Q&A. So the biggest increases are modular refurbishment and buying storage containers, that is entirely demand-driven and entirely volume driven. And the guidance for next year is going to be dependent on what is the demand equation that we think that we're facing. So I mentioned that \$70 million, for example, of container purchases this year is a company record for the legacy Mobile Mini business. If environments stay as they are right now, we will absolutely be expanding the fleet organically in 2023.

So I think the current guidance for this year is reflective of the macroeconomic and demand backdrop for this year. And we've given some different goalposts, right? I mean you saw where CapEx was back during 2020 during the height of the pandemic, and that was a pretty meaningful reduction from current levels. And we've also given you guideposts around approximately 25% of our available capital as the company grows, we think we can deploy to organic CapEx. So we've tried to give you and investors kind of some goalposts and we'll operate within those goalposts depending on the demand backdrop.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Brent Thielman from D.A. Davidson.

### **Brent Thielman – D.A. Davidson & Co.**

Tim, you seemed to hint this earlier in your comments about the retailers wanting to get the product a bit sooner. I'm just wondering if you're seeing any indications more broadly in terms of a change in your lease duration for either of your major product categories, it seems like supply chain, labor disruptions are extending time frames to get things done. So just wondering if that's having a knock-on effect on keeping the assets in the field longer?

### **Tim Boswell**

Brent, this is Tim. I can't say I can point to anything in our immediate results. I mean there has been a long -- a decades-long trend in our modular business towards a lengthening of effective duration. And I think that is driven by a lot of factors, end markets that we serve, lengthening of construction projects, some of the incentives in our own structure in terms of duration-based pricing and compensation of our sales reps. But other than maybe the order

## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

activity from the retailers, which is kind of a unique segment that's primarily served by our storage business currently, I can't point to anything else from a duration standpoint, Brent.

### **Brent Thielman – D.A. Davidson & Co.**

Okay. Fair. And then the dynamics in the U.K., I think you've talked before about the mix shift in favor of containers. You had some previous COVID demand on modular. I just look at the quarter-over-quarter comparisons and not quite as strong as what you're seeing here in the U.S. Just curious maybe the dynamics you're seeing in that market, recognizing it's smaller?

### **Tim Boswell**

Yes, it's smaller. And actually, I'm quite pleased with the U.K. results. And remember, there is a pretty meaningful year-over-year foreign currency impact if you're looking at the U.K. results in U.S. dollars. If I look at U.K. results in British pounds, we have revenue that was up about 4% year-over-year, EBITDA is up 10% year-over-year, EBITDA margins are up 250 basis points year-over-year, so actually ahead of the company average. To your point, container utilization is pushing 90%, so very highly utilized, and we're getting pricing again in British pounds.

The one area of softness is the modular utilization in the U.K. That did taper off primarily around the Q4 and Q1 time frame. But that's the only weaker metric in the U.K. business. Overall, it's doing extremely well and very pleased for how they're navigating a challenging market in the U.K. right now.

### **Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Steven Ramsey from Thompson Research.

### **Steven Ramsey – Thompson Research Group, LLC**

In May, you talked about the strongest order book that you've ever seen. Maybe can you clarify if it's gotten incrementally stronger since then? And within that order book, have you seen any pickup in cancellations?

### **Brad Sultz**

Yes. This is Brad. I mean I'd characterize the order book is still at very high levels, probably record levels if we could actually go back on pro forma. It's been more stable as we would have expected from second and third quarter, right? Tim mentioned before, there's a little bit of a seasonality aspect of the modular business, and I'm commenting primarily and initially on the modular side of the house. So the third quarter has progressed as we would have expected. Order rates continue to be in line with our expectations. So we -- again, that's the basis upon which we say we feel good about demand on the modular side for the balance of the year and heading into next year.

I think Tim's covered off kind of the nuances, if you will, with respect to storage, particularly as retail is kind of on the opposite cycle there heading into the fourth quarter. So very solid order books, as we said before, and certainly in line with our expectations and the basis for our outlook as we head into 2023.

**Steven Ramsey – Thompson Research Group, LLC**

Okay. Helpful. And then second thing on leverage currently, over the high end in a modest way, but EBITDA and free cash flow rising into the second half. Does this leverage level you're at now, does it mean you will slow acquisitions or share repurchases or keep the foot on the gas?

**Tim Boswell**

We'll keep the foot on the gas to the extent there's -- we've got visibility into where we're headed, right? And we absolutely feel that way right now. The way to think about leverage is in any given quarter, if we want to be below 3.5, we could be there, right? So whether or not we do that is going to be a function of what acquisition opportunities do we have in front of us. I've already said we won't miss one that we like. What organic opportunities do we have in front of us, and we see a lot of that right now.

And frankly, Q2 represented a pretty attractive opportunity to accelerate the share repurchases, right? So we'll be looking at all of those things as we decide, okay, do we want to stay at 3.7, should we let it tick down to 3.6 or lower. But just know that, that decision is 100% at our discretion. We've got a very high degree of control over CapEx, the M&A pipeline, and obviously the share repurchase appetite. And if any period, we want to be within that 3.0x and 3.5x leverage range, we can be there.

**Operator**

Your next question comes from the line of Dillon Cumming from Morgan Stanley.

**Dillon Cumming – Morgan Stanley**

If I can just ask one of the guidance. I think the midpoint kind of implies that the rate of year-on-year margin expansion kind of only improved slightly in 2H, considering you already did about 200 bps in 2Q. Just given there's clearly a strong level of cost execution in the business, right, the lease run rate is improving through year end. I would think delivery and installation comps are also be getting easier in the back half. I guess what else has to go right for you in terms of generating kind of margin expansion greater than that 200 bps for the full year? And I guess like related to that, how conservative would you kind of characterize that revised guidance in that respect?

**Tim Boswell**

Dillon, this is Tim. I feel good about the 200 basis points for the full year that we've been pretty consistent really going back to November on that point. The reality is Q1 was down a bit, right? And so now we've recouped 200 basis points or 240 sequentially in Q2. And I expect that remains kind of margins remained flattish going into Q3, and that's predicated on modular refurbishments in particular, staying at a pretty elevated level. If modular refurbishments were to actually come down, that would be a margin opportunity.

And if modular refurbishments were to accelerate from here, that could actually pressure the Q3 margin. But our base case is for modest EBITDA margin expansion going into Q3 and then pretty strong expansion going into Q4. And



## WSC Q2 2022 Earnings Conference Call Transcript

that's, again, predicated on modular refurbishments slowing down seasonally in Q4, and executing on the retail business in the storage segment, which we've talked a lot about today. It's still overall retail and wholesale trade is only like 11% of revenue, so I don't want to blow it out of proportion, but it is going well this year.

### **Dillon Cumming – Morgan Stanley**

Okay. That's helpful. And then maybe just a longer-term question, I guess, on the infrastructure side. You guys mentioned in the prepared remarks that you were pretty bullish kind of going into next year. Just kind of curious where you're seeing the nearest term opportunities on that front in terms of your end market mix and whether you're expecting the kind of activity on the infra side to kind of step up more significantly in 4Q and into next year from a time perspective?

### **Tim Boswell**

This is Tim, Dillon. So on the infrastructure side, we're having planning discussions with our larger national general contractor clientele. They are booked through the end of 2022. They are beginning to have planning discussions around infrastructure-related projects, but they are not in our results in 2022, and we don't expect them to start in 2022. So at best, I think we're looking at mid-2023 project starts, which then translate into volume tailwinds for both sides of our business.

And as you think about our end market exposure, it's roughly 40% by customer SIC code will be construction related. Clearly, those customers will be pulled into infrastructure-related projects, and then they will pull us into those projects. But if you look across commercial and industrial, manufacturing clearly is a strong end market right now. I expect that continues in 2023. We've talked a lot about retail, wholesale trade and distribution. Energy and Natural Resources, obviously, there's a U.S. investment directed in that area. The larger utilities and even some of the green infrastructure players would be among our clientele. As I look top to bottom across our end markets, I think it's easy to pick out key customers that will benefit from that type of spending in 2023. It's just a little bit hard sitting here today to pinpoint when the projects are going to start.

### **Operator**

We have now reached the end of today's call. I will now turn the call back over to Nick.

### **Nick Girardi**

Thank you very much for your interest in WillScot Mobile Mini. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you.

### **Operator**

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. This concludes today's conference. You may now disconnect.