

CME Group 4Q 2025 Earnings Introductory Script

February 4, 2026

Adam Minick

Good morning, and I hope you're all doing well today. We released our earnings commentary earlier this morning, which provides extensive details on the fourth quarter and full-year results for 2025. I will start with the safe harbor language, then I'll turn it over to Terry.

Statements made on this call and in the other reference documents on our website that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance. They involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or implied in any statement. Detailed information about factors that may affect our performance can be found in the filings with the SEC, which are on our website.

Lastly, in the earnings release, you will see a reconciliation between GAAP and non-GAAP measures following the financial statements.

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

Terrence Duffy

Thanks Adam and thank you all for joining us this morning. I'll keep my opening remarks brief to highlight what was, quite simply, the most successful year in CME Group's history. Following that, Lynne will provide an overview of our financial results and our 2026 guidance. In addition to Lynne, we have other members of our management team present to answer questions after the prepared remarks.

2025 marked our fifth consecutive year of record volume, with average daily volume increasing 6% to 28.1 million contracts. This growth was broad-based, including all time volume records in our interest rates, energy, metals, agricultural and crypto complexes. It was also a record year for our International business, which averaged 8.4 million contracts per day, up 8% from the previous record set in 2024. Global participants continue to choose the deep and liquid markets at CME Group to manage their risk.

In addition to our record volume results, we continue to deliver unmatched capital efficiencies for our customers. In the most recent quarter, our customers' average daily margin savings

reached \$80 billion across all six asset classes, representing an increase of approximately \$20 billion over the past year. The ability to offset margin across asset classes isn't just a nice benefit, it's a necessity for our clients. Due to the diversity of our asset classes, this offering is a unique benefit for our market participants.

In December we received approval from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for CME Securities Clearing. We are on track to launch this new clearing house later this year, in advance of the SEC's U.S. Treasury clearing mandate. This, combined with our work to extend CME-FICC cross-margining to end-user clients in early 2026, will unlock even more capital efficiencies for the industry.

Innovation continues to accelerate our growth and in Q4 we expanded our retail footprint through the launch of event contracts on financial and commodity products, economic indicators, and sports. This initiative represents the next step in our multi-year strategy to expand our customer base by providing greater access to markets for the next generation of traders. While still early days, these products are delivering promising initial results

and generating traction with a previously untapped customer segment. Over 68 million of these event contracts have traded in the six weeks since launch, including over 7 million markets-related contracts. Other retail-focused products also drove strong growth in 2025 with micro products up 59% in Q4 to a record 4.4 million contracts per day. The 1-ounce gold contract that we launched last year has been very successful with Q4 volume of 66,000 per day. Next week we will be launching a 100-ounce silver contract which will help the retail community manage exposure or invest in that commodity at a time when the precious metals markets are very active.

Finally, 2025 was a record-breaking year for cryptocurrency trading at CME Group. In the 4th quarter, average daily volume across the complex of 379,000 was up 92% and represented over \$13 billion in notional value traded per day. This strength has continued into 2026 and next week we will be expanding our cryptocurrency offering with the launch of Cardano, Chainlink, and Stellar futures on February 9. We will begin offering 24/7 trading for our entire crypto suite next quarter to enable our customers to hedge exposure to the underlying cash markets for these products which currently trade throughout the weekend. As

markets continue to evolve, we will strategically evaluate whether other asset classes would also benefit from 24/7 trading.

We've carried the momentum from a record setting year into 2026, with a new volume record in January. While the macro landscape grows increasingly complex, we remain focused on providing the premier risk management tools our clients need to navigate market shifts.

With that, I'll now turn the call over to Lynne to review our financial results in more detail.

Lynne Fitzpatrick

Thanks, Terry and thank you all for joining us this morning. In addition to the volume records Terry discussed, we delivered our fourth consecutive year of record revenues and adjusted net income in 2025. Our revenue of \$6.5 billion grew 6% compared to 2024 and included annual revenue records in five out of our six asset classes. Our market data revenue surpassed \$800 million for the first time, up 13% from 2024. Annual adjusted expenses, excluding license fees, were approximately \$1.625 billion and our

adjusted operating margin for the year was 69.4%, up 110 basis points from 2024. We delivered \$4.1 billion in adjusted net income resulting in 9% adjusted earnings per share growth for the year.

During the fourth quarter CME Group generated revenue of \$1.65 billion, an 8% increase from Q4 2024. The average rate per contract for the quarter was 70.7¢, driving clearing and transaction fees of \$1.3 billion, up 8% from last year. Market Data reached a new record level, up 15% to \$208 million.

Adjusted expenses were \$543 million for the quarter and \$447 million excluding license fees. Our adjusted operating income was \$1.1 billion, or a 67.0% operating margin for the quarter. CME Group had an adjusted effective tax rate of 23.7%.

Adjusted net income and adjusted diluted earnings per share attributable to CME Group came in at \$1.0 billion and \$2.77 per share, 10% higher than Q4 2024.

Cash at the end of the quarter was approximately \$4.6 billion including \$1.3 billion in remaining OSTTRA proceeds. Our Board approved the use of these proceeds towards share repurchases over time. We repurchased \$256 million in shares during the fourth quarter and an additional \$276 million in shares thus far in 2026. CME Group paid dividends of \$455 million in the fourth quarter, and approximately \$3.9 billion in 2025. As announced last

year, the annual variable dividend declaration and payment dates have been aligned with our Q1 regular dividend, and will be declared next week.

Earlier this week we published transaction fee changes which will be effective April 1st. Taken in aggregate with the market data fee change which took effect January 1st and incentive program revisions, the fee adjustments would increase total revenue by approximately 1.0%-1.5% on similar activity to 2025. We will be evaluating transaction fees on a regular basis going forward and may make changes as conditions warrant versus aggregating in December as in past years.

For 2026 guidance, we expect total adjusted operating expenses, excluding license fees, to be approximately \$1.695 billion. This includes our typical core expense growth as well as reinvestment related to the new initiatives ramping up this year including 24/7 crypto trading, securities clearing, and event contracts. To best serve our clients, we are dedicated to continuously evolving our product set and offerings, a commitment that requires strategic investments for growth. Total capital expenditures net of leasehold improvement allowances are expected to be approximately \$85 million, and the adjusted effective tax rate should come in between 23.5% and 24.5%.

We are proud of the record breaking results the firm has delivered this year, driving 6% revenue growth and 9% adjusted earnings growth on top of the records set in 2024. We are encouraged by the strong activity to date in 2026 and remain focused on helping our clients navigate this complex environment.

We'd now like to open up the call for your questions. Thank you.

Closing Comments Following Q&A

Terrence Duffy

While 2025 was a landmark year for CME Group, our record performance in January provides a solid foundation as we move into 2026. We are delivering on our strategic roadmap - launching CME Securities Clearing, expanding our event contracts, and introducing 24/7 trading to meet the evolving needs of our clients. These investments reinforce our leadership as the world's premier risk management destination and will drive sustained growth for years to come. Once again, thank you all for joining our call today.

Statements in this document that are not historical facts are forward-looking statements. These statements are not guarantees of future performance and involve risks, uncertainties and assumptions that are difficult to predict. Therefore, actual outcomes and results may differ materially from what is expressed or implied in any forward-looking statements. We want to caution you not to place undue reliance on any forward-looking statements. Except as required by the federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement, release publicly any revisions to any forward-looking statements or report the

occurrence of unanticipated events, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. Among the factors that might affect our performance are increasing competition by foreign and domestic entities, including increased competition from new entrants into our markets and consolidation of existing entities; our ability to keep pace with rapid technological developments, including our ability to complete the development, implementation and maintenance of the enhanced functionality required by our customers while maintaining reliability and ensuring that such technology is not vulnerable to security risks; our ability to continue introducing innovative and competitive new products and services on a timely, cost-effective basis, including through our electronic trading capabilities, and derive revenues that are commensurate with our efforts and expectations, and our ability to maintain the competitiveness of our existing products and services; our ability to adjust our fixed costs and expenses if our revenues decline; our ability to manage variable costs relating to CME Group's transition to the Google Cloud and minimize duplicative costs during the transition between maintaining the on-premise environment and the Google Cloud environment; the resilience of our electronic platforms and the soundness of our business continuity and disaster recovery plans, including in the event of cyberattacks and cyberterrorism or as impacted by a failure of or disruption at one of our suppliers; our ability to maintain existing customers at substantially similar trading levels, develop strategic relationships and attract new customers; our ability to expand and globally offer our products and services; changes in regulations, including the impact of any changes in laws or government policies with respect to our products or services or our industry, such as any changes to regulations and policies that require increased financial and operational resources from us or our customers, as well as the impact of tariffs and tax policy changes and the related uncertainty thereof, restrictions on our ability to offer CME Group products and services in specific geographies or to specific customers or limitations or changes in underlying/physical product flows across geographies; the costs associated with protecting our intellectual property rights and our ability to operate our business without violating the intellectual property rights of others; decreases in revenue from our market data as a result of decreased demand or changes to regulations in various jurisdictions; changes in our rate per contract due to shifts in the mix of the products traded, the trading venue and the mix of customers (whether the customer receives member or non-member fees or participates in one of our various incentive programs) and the impact of our tiered pricing structure; the ability of our credit and liquidity risk management practices to adequately protect us from the credit risks of clearing members and other counterparties, and to satisfy the margin and liquidity requirements associated with the BrokerTec matched principal business; the ability of our compliance and risk management programs to effectively monitor and manage our risks, including our ability to prevent errors and misconduct and protect our infrastructure against security breaches and misappropriation of our intellectual property assets; our dependence on third-party providers and exposure to risk through third parties, including risks related to the performance, reliability and security of technology used by, or facilities provided by, our third-party providers and third-party providers that our clients and third-parties rely on; our reliance on third-party distribution partners, including independent software vendors (ISVs), Futures Commission Merchants (FCMs), introducing brokers, broker-dealers, regulatory reporting and data distributors and platform operators, and other partners, for facilitating trading and for market data information, and potential impacts from changes in their business models and priorities; volatility in commodity, equity and fixed income prices, and price volatility of financial benchmarks and instruments such as interest rates, equity indices, fixed income instruments and foreign exchange rates; economic, social, political and market conditions, including new and existing geopolitical tensions or conflicts, the volatility of the capital and credit markets and the impact of economic conditions on the trading activity of our current and potential customers; our ability to accommodate increases in contract volume and market data and order transaction traffic across the entire trade cycle and the ability to implement enhancements meeting our regulatory obligations and customer needs without failure or degradation of the performance of our trading and clearing systems; our ability to execute our growth strategy and maintain our growth effectively; our ability to manage the risks, control the costs and achieve the synergies associated with and benefits from our strategy for acquisitions, investments and alliances, strategic partnerships

and joint ventures; variances in earnings on cash accounts and collateral that our clearing house holds; impact of CME Group pricing/fee level and structure and incentive changes; impact of aggregation services and internalization on trade flow and volumes; any negative financial impacts from changes to the terms of intellectual property and index rights; our ability to continue to generate funds and/or manage our indebtedness to allow us to continue to invest in our business; industry, channel partner and customer consolidation and/or concentration; decreases in trading and clearing activity; the imposition of a transaction tax or user fee on futures and options transactions and/or repeal of the 60/40 tax treatment of such transactions; increases in effective tax rates, borrowing costs, or changes in tax policy; our ability to maintain our brand and reputation; and the unfavorable resolution of material legal proceedings. For a detailed discussion and additional information concerning these and other factors that might affect our performance, see our other recent periodic filings, including our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2024, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC") on February 27, 2025, under the caption "Risk Factors".