

April 30, 2018

Dear Plan Participant:

# Subject: Annual Funding Notice for the Ericsson US Pension Plan

Enclosed is the Annual Funding Notice for the Ericsson US Pension Plan which reports on the funding status of the Plan for 2017 and two prior years.

This notice is sent to you to comply with Section 101(f) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"). The Pension Protection Act (PPA) of 2006 amended ERISA to require that all employers that sponsor certain defined benefit pension plans, such as the Ericsson US Pension Plan, send an Annual Funding Notice to all plan participants, beneficiaries, alternate payees, and labor organizations representing plan participants, and for certain underfunded plans, to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC). This notice is required to be distributed and it provides administrative, funding and investment information about the Plan.

You do not need to take any action as a result of receiving the attached notice. It has been sent to you for informational purposes only to comply with federal law.

# Right to Request a Statement of Accrued Benefit

If you are an active participant, you have the right to request and obtain, free of charge, a paper version of a pension benefit statement detailing your current accrued benefit every 12 months. You can access your current accrued benefit and do additional pension modeling through the modeling tool at <u>https://ericssonbenefits.ehr.com</u>. Alternatively, you can request a statement by contacting Ericsson Benefits Center at 1-877-849-4605.

If you have any questions regarding your retirement benefits, please contact Ericsson Benefits Center at 1-877-849-4605, (Monday-Friday, except holidays, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. CT).

If you need additional information, please consult with the attached notice for the appropriate contact.

Sincerely,

Ericsson Inc. Retirement Plan Administration

> Ericsson Inc. 6300 Legacy Drive Plano, Texas 75024, USA Office 866 374 2272, Fax 972 583 1186 www.ericsson.com

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### ERICSSON INC. FAQs FOR USE WITH THE ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

### 1. Why is the Annual Funding Notice being provided?

Federal pension laws, specifically the Pension Protection Act (PPA) enacted in 2006, require that Ericsson Inc. (the Company) provide this notice each year to inform participants of the financial condition of the Ericsson US Pension Plan (Plan) and Trust. The notice also includes information about the benefits that are guaranteed by the federal government if the Plan were to terminate with insufficient funds to pay benefits. It takes the place of the Summary Annual Report that the Company has provided in previous years.

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# 2. What is the "Funding Target Attainment Percentage" and what does it mean to me?

The "Funding Target Attainment Percentage" (FTAP) is a measure of how well the Plan is funded as of a given valuation date. It is basically the Plan's assets divided by the Plan's liabilities (the benefits that have been earned so far by participants, including current and future retirees). In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the Plan. An FTAP below 100% does not mean that the Plan is unable to pay benefits; benefit payments are spread over many years, and future company contributions and investment earnings can improve this percentage.

# 3. How is the FTAP determined?

To measure the Plan's liabilities, the Plan employs actuaries – professionals who understand the laws and statistical and financial requirements of pension plans. Actuaries take into account the benefits that all plan participants have earned and project the timing and amounts of when those benefits will be paid in the future to determine the Plan's liabilities as of a given date. In measuring liabilities, actuaries take into account interest and mortality rates prescribed by the federal government pursuant to PPA. These liabilities are then compared to the Plan's assets.

For purposes of determining the FTAP, the Plan assets are reduced by "credit balances". The credit balances are generally created when the Company makes contributions to the Plan greater than those required by law. These credit balances can be used to reduce future required contributions to the Plan.

http://natct.internal.towerswatson.com/clients/603114/2018-RET/Documents/2018 FAQS - AFN.docx

# ERICSSON INC. FAQs FOR USE WITH THE ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

# 4. Why have the percentages increased or decreased over the past three years?

The same market conditions that have affected IRAs, personal savings accounts and 401(k) accounts have also affected pension plan investments. As the interest rates (used to measure the Plan's liabilities) and Plan assets changed, the FTAP or the Plan's funded status changed as well. However, the funded status of the Plan does not affect the amount of the pension benefit that a participant has earned. As mentioned above, benefit payments are spread over many years, and future Company contributions and investment earnings can improve the Plan's funded status.

5. Who decides how pension plan assets should be invested, and what criteria are used?

The Company as the Plan sponsor is responsible for investing Plan assets so that funds are available as benefit payments to participants come due. In this role the Company acts as a fiduciary and must act in the best interests of Plan participants. The Company consults with investment advisers to determine and implement an investment policy – a document that sets guidelines concerning various types of investment management decisions, such as the mix of equity and fixed-income instruments. The policy is designed to best and most safely meet the anticipated stream of benefit payments to participants over the short and long term.

The Plan's investment policy and current asset mix are summarized in the notice under the section titled "Funding & Investment Policies".

### 6. Will the Company be able to increase the Plan's funded status?

Every year, the Plan's actuaries, in addition to measuring the Plan's funded status, determine the contributions the Company must make to meet pension law requirements. These contributions are designed to maintain the Plan's funded status at 100% or greater. Market factors also affect the value of the Plan's assets and its funded status, and it is difficult to predict the effect market factors will have in the short term.

http://natct.internal.towerswatson.com/clients/603114/2018-RET/Documents/2018 FAQS - AFN.docx

# ERICSSON INC. FAQs FOR USE WITH THE ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE

### 7. Are my pension benefits secure?

Pension benefits earned to date are fully secure up to the maximum benefit limits guaranteed under current law. Benefits earned in excess of these limits are only secure to the extent the Plan has adequate assets to pay them. It is the Company's intention to pay all benefits when they become due.

# 8. Why does the Annual Funding Notice address plan termination and Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) guarantees?

This is part of the required disclosures that must be made each year for all pension plans. The inclusion of this language is not an indication that the Company is considering terminating the Plan or that PBGC protection will be necessary.

# 9. What if I would like to receive more information about the Plan?

You may make a request with the Ericsson Benefits Center by calling 1-877-849-4605.

# 10. What if I would like to receive more information about my pension benefits?

You can access information about your pension benefit or model your pension benefit at https://ericssonbenefits.ehr.com.



http://natct.internal.towerswatson.com/clients/603114/2018-RET/Documents/2018 FAQS - AFN.docx

### ANNUAL FUNDING NOTICE For ERICSSON US PENSION PLAN

### Introduction

This notice includes important information about the funding status of your single employer pension plan ("the Plan"). It also includes general information about the benefit payments guaranteed by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation ("PBGC"), a federal insurance agency. All traditional pension plans (called "defined benefit pension plans") must provide this notice every year regardless of their funding status. This notice does not mean that the Plan is terminating. It is provided for informational purposes and you are not required to respond in any way. This notice is required by federal law. This notice is for the plan year beginning January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017 ("Plan Year").

### How Well Funded Is Your Plan

The law requires the administrator of the Plan to tell you how well the Plan is funded, using a measure called the "funding target attainment percentage". The Plan divides its Net Plan Assets by Plan Liabilities to get this percentage. In general, the higher the percentage, the better funded the plan. The Plan's Funding Target Attainment Percentage for the Plan Year and each of the two preceding plan years is shown in the chart below. The chart also shows you how the percentage was calculated.

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	2017	2016	2015
1. Valuation Date	January 1, 2017	January 1, 2016	January 1, 2015
2. Plan Assets	un amployaba, 6,065 u Marina ang sadi na sa	nina avaita ta 615 wara and	ne aint in OEA Cr
a. Total Plan Assets	\$2,402,012,299	\$2,367,180,900	\$2,536,230,596
b. Funding Standard Carryover Balance	\$39,964,860	\$37,245,909	\$37,751,783
c. Prefunding Balance	\$12,716,507	\$11,851,358	\$12,012,323
d. Net Plan Assets (a) $-$ (b) $-$ (c) $=$ (d)	\$2,349,330,932	\$2,318,083,633	\$2,486,466,490
3. Plan Liabilities	\$1,852,120,421	\$1,826,452,378	\$1,782,565,758
4. At-Risk Liabilities	N/A	N/A	N/A
5. Funding Target Attainment Percentage (2d)/(3)	126.84%	126.91%	139.48%

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April 2018

### Plan Assets and Credit Balances

The chart above shows certain "credit balances" called the Funding Standard Carryover Balance and Prefunding Balance. A plan might have a credit balance, for example, if in a prior year an employer contributed money to the plan above the minimum level required by law. Generally, an employer may credit the excess money toward the minimum level of contributions required by law that it must make in future years. Plans must subtract these credit balances from Total Plan Assets to calculate their Funding Target Attainment Percentage.

### **Plan Liabilities**

Plan Liabilities in line 3 of the chart above are estimates of the amount of assets the Plan needs on the Valuation Date to pay for promised benefits under the plan.

#### Year-End Assets and Liabilities

The asset values in the chart above are measured as of the first day of the Plan Year. They also are "actuarial values". Actuarial values differ from market values in that they do not fluctuate daily based on changes in the stock or other markets. Actuarial values smooth out those fluctuations and can allow for more predictable levels of future contributions. Despite the fluctuations, market values tend to show a clearer picture of a plan's funded status at a given point in time. As of December 31, 2017, the fair market value of the Plan's assets was \$2,489,344,624. On this same date, the Plan's liabilities, determined using market rates, were \$2,222,734,285.

### Participant Information

The total number of participants and beneficiaries covered by the Plan on the Valuation Date was 12,439. Of this number, 1,615 were current employees, 6,965 were retired and receiving benefits, and 3,859 were no longer working for the employer and have a right to future benefits.

#### Funding & Investment Policies

Every pension plan must have a procedure to establish a funding policy for plan objectives. A funding policy relates to how much money is needed to pay promised benefits. The funding policy of the Plan is to contribute at least the minimum required contribution but not to exceed the maximum deductible contribution as permitted by law.

Pension plans also have investment policies. These generally are written guidelines or general instructions for making investment management decisions. The investment policy of the Plan focuses on the long term needs of the Plan and the long term risks and returns of various asset classes. It places a high priority upon maintaining a strong ratio of funded assets to vested and accrued liabilities as the Plan matures.

The investment policy establishes an investment mix that is intended to subject the principal to an acceptable level of volatility while still meeting desired return objectives and managing risk to surplus. The following target mixture of asset classes can reasonably be expected to produce a nominal rate of return consistent with the growth needs of the Plan and with acceptable price volatility:

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	Target	Acceptable Range
Fixed Income	90%	80% to 100%
Domestic Equities	5%	0% to 10%
International Equities	5%	0% to 10%
Alternatives*	0%	0% to 2%

\*The investment policy recognizes the illiquid nature of alternative investments and will seek to maintain the target allocation. However, it is recognized that it may not be possible to immediately reduce the allocation to these investments consistent with targets given financial market conditions and contractual commitments.

The investment policy requires that the Plan's assets include a cash reserve sufficient to meet its current benefit and expense obligations. Therefore, the investment managers should not accumulate a significant cash position of more than 10%. To diversify its risk alternatives, plan assets include multiple equity investment styles which relate to the degree of equity risk and the form in which return is earned (cash income or growth).

Under the investment policy, the Plan's assets were allocated among the following categories of investments as of the end of the Plan Year. These allocations are percentages of total assets:

Asset Allocations	Percentage
1. Cash (interest bearing and non-interest bearing)	0.75%
2. U.S. Government securities	25.85%
3. Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):	uch as monthly i
Preferred	4.15%
All other	51.27%
4. Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):	ag al baloolaa (a
Preferred	0.08%
Common	3.81%
5. Partnership/joint venture interests	0.23%
6. Real estate (other than employer real property)	0.04%
7. Loans (other than to participants)	0.00%
8. Participant loans	0.00%
9. Value of interest in common/collective trusts	3.08%
10. Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	0.00%
11. Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	0.00%
12. Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	0.00%
13. Value of interest in registered investment companies	
(e.g., mutual funds)	5.99%
14. Value of funds held in insurance co. general account	
(unallocated contracts)	0.00%
15. Employer-related investments:	
Employer Securities	0.00%
Employer real property	0.00%
16. Buildings and other property used in plan operation	0.00%
17. Other	4.75%



For information about the Plan's investment in any of the following types of investments common/collective trusts, pooled separate accounts, master trust investment accounts, or 103-12 investment entities - contact the Plan Administrator identified below under the "Where to Get More Information" section.

### Right to Request a Copy of the Annual Report

Pension plans must file annual reports with the US Department of Labor. The report is called the "Form 5500". These reports contain financial and other information. You may obtain an electronic copy of your Plan's annual report by going to <u>www.efast.dol.gov</u> and using the search tool. Annual reports also are available from the US Department of Labor, Employee Benefits Security Administration's Public Disclosure Room at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, Room N-1513, Washington, DC 20210, or by calling 202.693.8673. Or you may obtain a copy of the Plan's annual report by making a written request to the plan administrator. Annual reports do not contain personal information, such as the amount of your accrued benefits. You may contact your plan administrator if you want information about your accrued benefits. Your plan administrator is identified below under "Where To Get More Information" section, or access it online via <u>https://ericssonbenefits.ehr.com</u>.

### Summary of Rules Governing Termination of Single-Employer Plans

If a plan terminates, there are specific termination rules that must be followed under federal law. A summary of these rules follows.

There are two ways an employer can terminate its pension plan. First, the employer can end a plan in a "standard termination" but only after showing the PBGC that such plan has enough money to pay all benefits owed to participants. Under a standard termination, a plan must either purchase an annuity from an insurance company (which will provide you with periodic retirement benefits, such as monthly for life or, if you elect, for a set period of time when you retire) or, if the plan allows and you elect, issue one lump-sum payment that covers your entire benefit. Your plan administrator must give you advance notice that identifies the insurance company (or companies) selected to provide the annuity. The PBGC's guarantee ends upon the purchase of an annuity or payment of the lump-sum. If the plan purchases an annuity for you from an insurance company becomes unable to pay, the applicable state guaranty association guarantees the annuity to the extent authorized by that state's law.

Second, if the plan is not fully-funded, the employer may apply for a distress termination. To do so, however, the employer must be in financial distress and prove to a bankruptcy court or to the PBGC that the employer cannot remain in business unless the plan is terminated. If the application is granted, the PBGC will take over the plan as trustee and pay plan benefits, up to the legal limits, using plan assets and PBGC guarantee funds.

Under certain circumstances, the PBGC may take action on its own to end a pension plan. Most terminations initiated by the PBGC occur when the PBGC determines that plan termination is needed to protect the interests of plan participants or of the PBGC insurance program. The PBGC can do so if, for example, a plan does not have enough money to pay benefits currently due.

#### Benefit Payments Guaranteed by the PBGC

When the PBGC takes over a plan, it pays pension benefits through its insurance program. Only benefits that you have earned a right to receive and that cannot be forfeited (called vested benefits) are guaranteed. Most participants and beneficiaries receive all of the pension benefits they would have received under their plan, but some people may lose certain benefits that are not guaranteed.

The amount of benefits that PBGC guarantees is determined as of the plan termination date. However, if a plan terminates during a plan sponsor's bankruptcy, then the amount guaranteed is determined as of the date the sponsor entered bankruptcy.

The PBGC maximum benefit guarantee is set by law and is updated each calendar year. For a plan with a termination date or sponsor bankruptcy date, as applicable, in 2018 the maximum guarantee is \$5,420 per month, or \$65,045 per year, for a benefit paid to a 65-year-old retiree with no survivor benefit. If a plan terminates during a plan sponsor's bankruptcy, the maximum guarantee is fixed as of the calendar year in which the sponsor entered bankruptcy. The maximum guarantee is lower for an individual who begins receiving benefits from PBGC before age 65 reflecting the fact that younger retirees are expected to receive more monthly pension checks over their lifetimes. Similarly, the maximum guarantee is higher for an individual who starts receiving benefits from PBGC after age 65. The maximum guarantee by age can be found on PBGC's website, www.pbgc.gov. The guaranteed amount is also reduced if a benefit will be provided to a survivor of the plan participant.

The PBGC guarantees "basic benefits" earned before a plan is terminated, which include:

- pension benefits at normal retirement age;
- most early retirement benefits;
- annuity benefits for survivors of plan participants; and
- · disability benefits for a disability that occurred before the date the plan terminated or the date the sponsor entered bankruptcy, as applicable.

The PBGC does not guarantee certain types of benefits:

- The PBGC does not guarantee benefits for which you do not have a vested right, usually because you have not worked enough years for the company.
- The PBGC does not guarantee benefits for which you have not met all age, service, or other requirements.
- Benefit increases and new benefits that have been in place for less than one year are not guaranteed. Those that have been in place for less than five years are only partly guaranteed.
- Early retirement payments that are greater than payments at normal retirement age may not be guaranteed. For example, a supplemental benefit that stops when you become eligible for Social Security may not be guaranteed.
- Benefits other than pension benefits, such as health insurance, life insurance, death benefits, vacation pay, or severance pay, are not guaranteed.
- The PBGC generally does not pay lump sums exceeding \$5,000.

In some circumstances, participants and beneficiaries still may receive some benefits that are not guaranteed. This depends on how much money the terminated plan has and how much the PBGC recovers from employers for plan underfunding.

For additional general information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program guarantees, go to the "General FAQs about PBGC" on PBGC's website at www.pbgc.gov/generalfags. Please contact your employer or plan administrator for specific information about your pension plan or pension benefit. PBGC does not have that information. See "Where to Get More Information" below.

# Where to Get More Information

For more information about this notice, you may contact Ericsson Benefits Center, at 1-877-849-4605. For identification purposes, the official plan number is 007 and the plan sponsor's name and employer identification number or "EIN" are Ericsson Inc. and 06-1119960.

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How additional general information about the PBGC and the pension insurance program quarantees, go to the "General FAQs about PBGC" on PBGC's website at www.ubbcc.dov/ceneralfaqs. Please contact your employer or plan administrator for specific. Information about your pension plan or pension benefit. PBGC does not have that information. See Whare to Get More Information" below.