



Press Release, Brussels, 9 June 2021

Launch of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2021

The 9th edition of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards will take place in November 2021 during the European Commission's SME Week in Portorož, Slovenia.

Small and mid-cap companies are vitally important in supporting the European economy. Equity is needed to buffer exogenous shocks and will be needed more than ever following the recent crisis so that public equity capital markets can perform to the best of their ability in helping businesses refinance their growth once the situation has subsided.

Our Awards this year are even more significant as it is exactly these types of companies that will be key to re-equitising the European economy. We therefore need to recognise and congratulate them on their successes to date.

European Issuers, the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) and the European Commission are delighted to announce that the following companies have been recognised within their national jurisdictions as the most outstanding listed companies across five categories:

Nominations for the category Rising Star:

- **Almagro Capital** listed on BME
- **Bilot PLC** listed on Nasdaq Helsinki
- **Dadelo SA** listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange
- **Ecomiam** listed on Euronext
- **FOM Technologies** listed on Nasdaq First North Growth Market

Nominations for the category Star of 2021:

- **Aluflexpack AG** listed on SIX Swiss Exchange
- **Compleo Charging Solutions AG** listed on Deutsche Börse AG
- **eMan AS** listed on Prague Stock Exchange
- **Entersoft SA** listed on Athens Stock Exchange
- **Labomar SPA** listed on Borsa Italiana
- **LeadDesk Oyj** listed on Nasdaq Helsinki
- **Making Science** listed on BME
- **Nacon SA** listed on Euronext

Nominations for the category International Star:

- **CZG - Česká zbrojovka Group SE** listed on Prague Stock Exchange
- **Meritus ulaganja d.d.** listed on Zagreb Stock Exchange
- **Pexip Holding AS** listed on Euronext
- **Soluciones Cuatroochenta S.A.** listed on BME

Nominations for the category Star of Innovation:

- **CY4GATE SPA** listed on Borsa Italiana
- **Epsilon Net SA** listed on Athens Stock Exchange
- **Inzile AB** listed on Nasdaq First North Growth Market
- **Marinomed Biotech AG** listed on Vienna Stock Exchange
- **Nanofarm Finland PLC** listed on Nasdaq Helsinki and Nasdaq Stockholm
- **Pilulka Lékárný a.s.** listed on Prague Stock Exchange
- **Soltec Power Holdings S.A.** listed on BME
- **Unifiedpost Group SA/NV** listed on Euronext

Nominations for Special Mention:

- **beamUp lab** nominated by Bulgarian Stock Exchange
- **Enlight Research OÜ** nominated by Nasdaq Riga

Florence Bindelle, Secretary General of EuropeanIssuers, said: *“SMEs are the backbone of our economy and therefore supporting them is essential to fuelling Europe’s economy, particularly in the context of economic recovery. To build back better European capital markets we need to endorse SMEs in accessing finance through public markets and improve the IPO ecosystem. As EuropeanIssuers, we congratulate all the nominated companies and wish them a road full of success.”*

Rainer Riess, Director General of FESE, added: *“The Awards showcase successful IPOs from all over Europe and provide clear examples of the benefits of listing. Stock exchanges are designed to ensure the highest levels of safety, integrity, fairness and transparency, delivering unparalleled investor protection. It is rewarding to see these companies thrive after having listed on public exchanges, and FESE congratulates them wholeheartedly on their nominations.”*

Details on those companies that reach the shortlist will be announced following the jury meeting in mid-June and the eventual winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony in November.

Notes to editors:

Please note that the nominated companies for each category are listed in alphabetical order.

About the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards

The objective of the Awards is to promote best practices and highlight the best European Small and Mid-Sized Companies that have gained access to capital markets via an Initial Public Offering (IPO). They showcase the diversity of European markets, and aim to promote stock listings, in particular targeting SMEs and growth companies. These companies are critical to accomplishing the EU's goals of job creation, competitiveness and growth.

The European Small and Mid-Cap Awards advocate the benefits of equity financing and encourage smaller companies to consider this financing option. Equity market financing plays a key role in the creation of jobs and growth and in the overall competitiveness of a company.
<http://europeansmallandmidcapawards.eu/>

The Awards Jury

The shortlisted companies are chosen by an independent jury:

- *Detlef Fechtner, EU Correspondent, Börsen-Zeitung*
- *Martin Hock, Finance Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.)*
- *Jean-Pierre Paelinck, President and Secretary General, World Federation of Investors*
- *Phaedon Tamvakakis, Vice Chairman, Alpha Trust Investment Services*
- *James Wood, Small Cap Specialist, Winterflood Securities*

About the European Commission

The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) of the European Commission develops and implements a range of policies to improve access to finance for SMEs in the EU. SMEs are critical to European economic recovery and to accomplishing the EU's goals of job creation, competitiveness and growth. For more information, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance_en.

About EuropeanIssuers

EuropeanIssuers is a pan-European organisation representing the interests of publicly quoted companies across Europe to the EU Institutions. We seek capital markets that serve the interests of their end users, including issuers. For more information, please visit www.europeanissuers.eu.

About FESE

The Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) represents 36 exchanges in equities, bonds, derivatives and commodities through 18 full members from 30 countries, as well as one Affiliate Member and one Observer Member. For further information please visit www.fese.eu.

For further information please contact:

EuropeanIssuers:

Bade Kizilaslan
Communication Officer
Tel: +32 2 289 25 73
bade.kizilaslan@europeanissuers.eu

FESE:

Stephen Gilmore
Communications Officer
Tel.: +32 2 551 01 87
gilmore@fese.eu