



Press Release, Brussels, 29th June 2020

Launch of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2020

The 8th edition of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards will take place in November 2020 during the European Commission's SME Week in Berlin.

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.

EuropeanIssuers, FESE and the European Commission are delighted to announce that the following companies have been recognised within their national jurisdiction as some of the most outstanding listed companies within these categories:

Nominations for the category International Star:

- **Diaceutics PLC** listed on London Stock Exchange (LSE)
- **LeadDesk Oyj** listed on Nasdaq
- **PROEDUCA ALTUS S.A.** listed on Bolsa de Madrid (BME)
- **Sanlorenzo S.p.A.** listed on Borsa Italiana
- **SATS ASA** listed on Euronext

Nominations for the category Rising Star:

- **Fodelia Oyj** listed on Nasdaq
- **ML System S.A.** listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange
- **Plásticos Compuestos, S.A.** listed on BME
- **VOGO** listed on Euronext
- **Waturu Holding A/S** listed on Nasdaq

Nominations for the category Star of Innovation:

- **BBS-Bioactive Bone Substitutes Oyj** listed on Nasdaq
- **FREQUENTIS AG** listed on Frankfurt Stock Exchange

- **Holaluz** listed on BME
- **Norbit (ASA)** listed on Euronext

Nominations for the category Star of 2020:

- **Harvia Oyj** listed on Nasdaq
- **Izertis S.A.** listed on BME
- **Uniphar Public Limited Company** listed on Euronext
- **Ten Square Games** listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange

Nominations for Special Mention:

- **Interessenverband kapitalmarktorientierter kleiner und mittlerer Unternehmen e.V. (Kapitalmarkt KMU)** listed on Börse München
- **Light House- IEAF** listed on BME

Florence Bindelle, Secretary General of EuropeanIssuers, said: *“Supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and equity financing are essential to fuel Europe’s economy. This acquires even greater importance in light of the current crisis triggered by the COVID-19 outbreak. To build stronger European equity capital markets we need to endorse SMEs in accessing finance through public markets and improve the IPO ecosystem. The European Small and Mid-Cap Awards showcases SMEs that recently went through an IPO. As EuropeanIssuers, we congratulate the nominated companies and wish them a successful future.”*

Rainer Riess, Director General of FESE, said: *“Listing on public markets provides companies with a platform to raise funds and thereafter be traded in the marketplace by investors. One of the key activities of a stock exchange is to organise activity on primary markets, especially for SMEs. Exchanges play a crucial role in bringing SMEs to public markets and provide access to equity financing, allowing resilience to companies in times of crisis as well as ample opportunities for fast growth. This is an important and necessary contribution towards financing a more resilient, innovative and sustainable European economy. Congratulations to all the nominated companies.”*

Details on those companies that reach the shortlist will be announced following our Jury meeting in July and the eventual winners will be announced at the Awards ceremony in November.

Information for the editor:

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 close to 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 70
bade.kizilaslan@europeanissuers.eu

FESE:

Tracey Robert
Senior Communications Officer
Tel.: +32 2 551 01 87
roberts@fese.eu