

PRESS RELEASE

INTESA SANPAOLO: FIRST ELITE LOUNGE 2021 KICKS OFF FOR START-UPS

- **Twenty Italian start-ups access the financial acceleration programme in collaboration with ELITE and Piccola Industria Confindustria**
- **Collaboration with ELITE continues: more than 200 companies have received support from the Intesa Sanpaolo Group in the programme with more than €130 million subscribed in basket bonds for their growth plans**

Milan, 11 October 2021 - Intesa Sanpaolo ELITE Lounge kicks off, welcoming to its financial acceleration mechanism **20 start-ups** identified among the programmes supported by Intesa Sanpaolo designed to develop companies with high innovation content. The initiative is part of the wider long-term partnership between Italy's leading banking group, ELITE and Piccola Industria Confindustria, to support SMEs in training programmes, growth in size and opening to the capital market. In particular, a number of start-ups have gone through the entire selection and acceleration process envisaged by the B Heroes 2021 programme, which aims to support the growth of new companies. More than **three years** since the first Lounge, Intesa Sanpaolo has supported **over 200 companies** in this process, from all over Italy. For some of them, in collaboration with ELITE, Intesa Sanpaolo subscribed basket bonds of €130 million.

Innovation and sustainability will be the main themes of the training programme for **start-ups from 9 regions of Italy and various sectors of industry of excellence for the Italian economy**. The new 20 protagonists of the new Lounge, which will be held in digital form, will also have the possibility to access integrated services and a network of international professionals and investors to make it easy for them to access to the capital market. Businesses will also be provided with tools to help them reorganise their strategies and financial needs in a resilient way as they face the new economic environment of the emergence from the pandemic.

Transversal in-depth analysis modules linked to acceleration programmes are also planned, in line with the areas of intervention of **Motore Italia**, the strategic programme launched this year by Intesa Sanpaolo to relaunch small and medium-sized enterprises thanks to a ceiling of new credit of up to €50 billion. Key themes will also include sustainability in the social, environmental and governance domains, with the aim of demonstrating how the correct implementation of ESG practices is useful for ensuring long-term growth as well as improving attractiveness to the financial community.

A further tool to support the growth and investment plans of virtuous SMEs is the **Intesa Sanpaolo Basket Bond**, a programme in partnership with ELITE which, in addition to offering companies the opportunity to access Intesa Sanpaolo's ELITE Lounge, allows companies to raise their visibility with institutional investors and enhance their reputation and financial culture. Since the launch of the initiative, Intesa Sanpaolo has issued Basket Bonds of €130 million, confirming its position as market leader in the captive basket bond asset class.

Anna Roscio, Executive Director Sales & Marketing Imprese Intesa Sanpaolo: *“With today's initiative we are consolidating the historic collaboration with ELITE and Piccola Industria Confindustria. In particular, thanks to this lounge dedicated to start-ups, we confirm our confidence in new and innovative companies. We are renewing our traditional support for SMEs and start-ups, expanding their opportunities for growth to give them access to a highly qualified programme that*

allows them to increase competitiveness and accelerate size and management growth. The 20 start-ups recruited for the new lounge are an example of the newfound vitality of the Italian enterprise that is starting up again in a scenario marked by strong signs of recovery, including in light of the NRRP stimuli”.

Marta Testi, Chief Executive Officer ELITE - Euronext Group: “Thanks to the strategic partnership with Intesa Sanpaolo, over the last three years we have welcomed over 200 companies to ELITE and mobilised resources of €130 million to support growth through the ELITE Intesa Sanpaolo Basket Bond® programme. Today we are pleased to welcome a group of 20 Italian start-ups to ELITE. Our job is to expedite their growth and create value by connecting them with new expertise, with over 1,600 ELITE companies with whom they can grow their businesses and partners and finance solutions to support their growth. We hope that ELITE will be a virtuous environment for these 20 companies and can contribute to their managerial skills, performance and consolidation of new expertise, in the certainty that finance is not the end, but the best means, to transform the best ideas into successful companies”.

The 20 start-ups of the second Intesa Sanpaolo ELITE Lounge are:

Company	Website	Sector	Region
A.L.B.A. ROBOT SRL	https://it.alba-robot.com/	Medical instruments	Piedmont
AIRCNC SRL	https://www.aircnc.it/	Industrial goods and services	Lombardy
B&C Srl (BARBERINO'S)	https://barberinosworld.com/	General trade	Lombardy
BIOVA PROJECT SRL	https://www.biovaproject.com/	Beverages	Piedmont
CONTENTS SPA	https://contents.com/it	Software and IT services	Lombardy
FLYING BASKET SRL	https://flyingbasket.com/it/	Aerospace and Defence	Trentino - South Tyrol
FRATELLI DESIDERI SRL	https://fratellidesideri.com/	Food producers	Piedmont
GIOIELLERIA ITALIANA Srl	www.gioielleriaitaliana.com	Personal products	Liguria
GLE HOLDING Srl	https://golee.it/	Software and IT services	Lombardy
ITALY REFUND SRL	https://www.italiarimborso.it/	Travel and Leisure	Sicily
ITALIA33 SRL (MEETERS)	https://meeters.org/	Travel and Leisure	Lombardy
NTERILIZER SRL	https://www.nterilizer.com/	Healthcare	Emilia-Romagna
OUT OF SRL	https://out-of.com/	Leisure Time	Lombardy
PATCHAI SRL	https://www.patchai.io	Pharmaceuticals and biotechnology	Veneto
SARDEX SPA	https://www.sardexpay.net/	Financial Services	Sardinia
THUJA: ETHICAL ANTIDOTE	https://www.thujantidote.com/	Textiles	Lombardy
TRACKING SRL	www.trackting.com	Computer hardware and tools	Marches
VLAB SRL	https://www.timelapselab.it/	Software and IT services	Lombardy
WE STUDENTS SRL	www.westudents.it	Personal products	Piedmont
WODPOD SRL	https://wodpod.com/	Software and IT services	Piedmont

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Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is the leading Bank in Italy and one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe. It offers commercial, corporate investment banking, asset management and insurance services. The Intesa Sanpaolo Group has approximately 13.5 million customers in Italy who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels and 7.2 million customers abroad with subsidiaries operating in commercial banking in 12 countries in Central Eastern Europe and Middle Eastern and North African areas and an international network of specialists in support of corporate customers across 25 countries. Intesa Sanpaolo is recognized as one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver for growth, for the benefit of both society and the economy. As regards the environment, the Group has set up a 6-billion-euro fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of 1.5 billion euro for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by the Bank or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the Bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples, Vicenza and soon Turin.

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