



Press Release, Brussels, 13 July 2023

Launch of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2023

The 11th edition of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards will take place in Bilbao, Spain, as part of the European Commission's annual SME Assembly (13th – 15th November 2023).

The Awards showcase the resilience and innovation of Small and Mid-Cap Enterprises across the European Union, as well as recognizing their contributions to the region's economic growth.

Despite the challenging economic environment, many SMEs have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability. Nominated as some of the best small and mid-caps to have gone public between January 2021 and December 2022, it is these companies that have demonstrated their ability to adjust and thrive. By recognizing their achievements, the Awards aim to provide inspiration, foster innovation, and drive economic growth.

EuropeanIssuers, the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE), and the European Commission are delighted to announce the nominations of the following companies, picked out for their outstanding achievements across the five Awards categories:

Nominations for the category Rising Star:

- **Altea Green Power (AGP)** listed on Euronext Italy
- **BOA Concept** listed on Euronext France
- **LapWall** listed on Nasdaq Finland
- **LumenRadio** listed on Nasdaq Sweden
- **Pyrum** listed on Deutsche Börse
- **Scandinavian Medical Solutions** listed on Nasdaq Denmark
- **TTS** listed on Bucharest Stock Exchange
- **VAS** listed on Vienna Stock Exchange
- **Vytrus** listed on BME, SIX Group

Nominations for the category Star of 2023:

- **Aquila** listed on Bucharest Stock Exchange
- **NX Filtration** listed on Euronext Netherlands
- **Sngular** listed on BME, SIX Group

- **Waga Energy** listed on Euronext France

Nominations for the category International Star:

- **Axon Partners Group** listed on BME, SIX Group
- **Gevorkyan** listed on Prague Stock Exchange
- **Kempower** listed on Nasdaq Finland

Nominations for the category Star of Innovation:

- **Arteche** listed on BME, SIX Group
- **Cantourage** listed on Deutsche Börse
- **Green Hydrogen** listed on Nasdaq Denmark
- **HARDWARIO** listed on Prague Stock Exchange
- **SolidWorld Group** listed on Euronext Italy

Nominations for Special Mention:

- **Starteepo** listed on Prague Stock Exchange

Rainer Riess, Director General of FESE, commented:

“As FESE, we are delighted to see the success of small and mid-cap businesses that have accessed financing opportunities via EU public markets. These companies are the backbone of Europe’s economy, and their growth and success are crucial for the region’s economic development. The SME Awards provide well-deserved recognition to these businesses, highlighting the benefits of listing on public exchanges. We congratulate the nominated companies on their achievements and encourage other SMEs to follow their lead in accessing public markets for growth opportunities.”

Florence Bindelle, Secretary General of EuropeanIssuers, added:

“EuropeanIssuers extends its sincere congratulations to these remarkable companies, applauding their exceptional contributions towards the EU’s goals of job creation, competitiveness, and sustainable growth. Their achievements highlight the diverse landscape of European markets and exemplify the value of stock listings for SMEs and growth companies. May their journey be marked by continued success and prosperity.”

Details on those companies that reach the shortlist will be publicised after the summer break, with the winners to be announced at the Awards ceremony in Bilbao 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. <https://europeansmallandmidcapawards.eu/>

The Awards Jury

The shortlisted companies are chosen by an independent jury:

- Detlef Fechtner, EU Correspondent, Börsen-Zeitung
- Eglè Fredriksson, Portfolio Manager, East Capital
- Ekaterina Gianelli, Partner, Inventure
- Martin Hock, Finance Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.)
- Phaedon Tamvakakis, Vice Chairman, Alpha Trust Investment Services

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 https://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 35 exchanges in equities, bonds, derivatives and commodities through 16 full members and 1 affiliate member from 30 countries. For further information, please visit www.fese.eu.

For further information, please contact:

EuropeanIssuers:

Véronique De Hertogh
Membership/Event/Office Manager
veronique.dehertogh@europeanissuers.eu
+32 2 216 92 47

FESE:

Marián Caro
Communications Officer
caro@fese.eu
+32 2 551 01 87