



Press Release, Brussels, 12th November 2019

‘Winners of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2019’

FESE and EuropeanIssuers in cooperation with the European Commission (DG GROW) are delighted to announce the winners of the ‘European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2019’. The Awards aim to promote best practices and to 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 four companies were chosen amongst a very high standard of nominations from across Europe.

International Star



Carel is a world leader in control solutions for air-conditioning, refrigeration and heating, and systems for humidification and evaporative cooling. Carel’s products are designed to bring energy savings and reduce the environmental impact of machinery and systems; their solutions are used in commercial, industrial and residential applications.

Carel is listed on [Borsa Italiana](#), Italy

Rising Star



Immersive VR Education Ltd is a virtual reality software company dedicated to creating quality educational experiences for all students. The company’s vision for the future is to see virtual reality become a staple tool for education and corporate training.

VR Education is listed on [Euronext](#), Ireland

Star of Innovation



Atlantic Sapphire is pioneering Bluehouse™ (land-raised) salmon farming, locally, and transforming protein production, globally. Atlantic Sapphire has been operating its innovation centre in Langsand, Denmark since 2011 with a strong focus on R&D and innovation to equip the company with technology and procedures that enable the company to commercially scale up production in end markets close to the consumer.

Atlantic Sapphire is listed on [Oslo Børs](#), Norway

Star of 2019



Admicom is a Finnish provider of cloud-based ERP solutions for construction, building services engineering and manufacturing companies and a comprehensive partner in software and accounting services. They are a profitable and rapidly growing company, largely owned by their staff.

Admicom is listed on [Nasdaq](#), Finland



The Awards also assigned a 'Special Mention'. The objective of this category is to prize an initiative, an individual or a company which has had a significant impact on small and mid-cap issuers accessing capital markets.

Special Mention



CEPYME500 is a Cypyme (the most representative business association of crafts and SMEs in Spain) initiative that identifies, selects and promotes all of the 500 Spanish companies that are leaders in business growth, both for their results and their ability to generate added value, employment, innovation and international projection.

The main function of this initiative is to grant recognition and national and international projection to the companies that have been selected, contributing to boost their growth potential.

The Federation of European Securities Exchanges, European Issuers and the European Commission are proud to have established these annual Awards together.

Petr Kobic, President of FESE said: *"The Awards showcase successful IPOs from all over Europe and provide clear examples of the benefits of listing. During this event, we heard the stories from the shortlisted companies of their growth journeys and expansions enabled since their IPO. In this context, it is very encouraging to hear that the new Commission is planning targeted actions to support IPOs. We, as exchanges, very much look forward to contribute to these initiatives. I would like to congratulate all the companies that were nominated for these Awards. This evening we presented Awards to the best performing companies of their different categories but in the broader picture, their success is one of our societies as listed companies favour wealth distribution and job creation and in that way we are all winners."*

Luc Vansteenkiste, Chairman of European Issuers said *"Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have a major role in contributing towards long-term economic growth and employment. However, as over the past four years, stock exchanges have reported a significant decrease in the number of initial public offerings being issued as well as a decrease in the number of listed companies. Therefore, we expect from the newly elected Commission and the President Ms. Ursula von der Leyen to devise a work programme that allows corporates to grow, invest and create jobs whilst achieving a vibrant ecosystem where companies of all sizes can raise capital and grow. Today's awards ceremony showcases examples of successful small and mid-cap companies that recently went through an IPO. We congratulate them for their performance and wish them a successful future."*

Kristin Schreiber, Director at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said: *"The European Commission fosters an ecosystem, where SMEs can successfully grow within Europe and have better access to capital markets, including to a broader range of investors. This year's winners of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards originate from different areas in Europe but share one common goal: to boost their enterprises by scaling up in the EU and thereby showcasing European entrepreneurship and innovation. I am pleased that these enterprises demonstrate that capital markets work for SMEs in Europe, and I hope that many other companies will be inspired by these role models."*



Further information for the Editor:

The runners-up were the following:

Category 'International Star'

Harvia listed on Nasdaq (Finland)

Solarpack listed on BME (Spain)

Category 'Rising Star'

Tier1 listed on BME (Spain)

Xpediator listed on London Stock Exchange (UK)

Category 'Star of Innovation'

2CRSi listed on Euronext (France)

Medartis listed on SIX Swiss Exchange (Switzerland)

Category 'Star of 2019'

Alfen listed on Euronext (Netherlands)

Fjordkraft listed on Oslo Børs (Norway)

The Awards Jury

The winners were 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 FESE

The Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) represents close to 36 exchanges from 30 different countries within the EU, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. For further information please visit www.fese.eu.

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 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.

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