

PRESS RELEASE

INTESA SANPAOLO: NEW ELITE LOUNGE 2022 DEDICATED TO START-UPS KICKS OFF

- **21 Italian start-ups in the new financial accelerator in cooperation with ELITE, focusing on innovation and sustainability.**
- **Selection made thanks to Intesa Sanpaolo's UP2Stars programme launched in 2022.**
- **Over four years, around 300 companies, including 60 start-ups, have been identified by the Intesa Sanpaolo Group.**

Milan, 23 September 2022 – A new Intesa Sanpaolo ELITE Lounge is kicking off, welcoming **21 Italian start-ups** to the financial acceleration programmes for highly innovative companies supported by Intesa Sanpaolo. The initiative is part of the broader partnership between Italy's leading banking group and ELITE, the ecosystem launched by Borsa Italiana in 2012 and now part of the Euronext Group, which helps small and medium-sized enterprises to grow and access private and public capital markets.

In the **four years** since the first lounge, the Group led by Carlo Messina has supported in this process **more than 300 companies** from all over Italy and operating in every sector, including **60 start-ups**.

Most of the start-ups selected for this new class come from **UP2Stars**, the programme launched in 2022 by Intesa Sanpaolo in collaboration with Intesa Sanpaolo Innovation Center dedicated to the growth, acceleration and networking of innovative start-ups. Many start-ups operating in the following sectors applied for the four selection calls: *Digital and Industry 4.0, Bioeconomy with focus on Agri Tech and Food Tech, Medtech and Healthcare and Aerospace*.

Innovation and sustainability will be the main themes of the training course for **start-ups from eight regions of Italy and hailing from various industrial sectors of excellence of the Italian economy**. The 21 protagonists of the new lounge will have the chance to gain access to integrated services and a network of international professionals and investors for ease of access to capital markets. The businesses will also be provided with tools to cope with the current delicate economic environment, with a view to the resources of the NRRP.

Transversal learning modules will focus on acceleration processes in line with the areas of intervention of **Motore Italia**, the strategic programme run by Intesa Sanpaolo to re-launch small and medium enterprises and with the more than €410 billion to be made available by the Intesa Sanpaolo Group from now to 2026, of which €120 billion intended for SMEs. Key issues 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.

Anna Roscio, Executive Director Sales & Marketing SMEs Intesa Sanpaolo: *"The launch of this ELITE Lounge, dedicated solely to start-ups, is a testament to our complete confidence in innovative companies and entrepreneurial initiative, even at a critical time. The course will enable the 21 participants to consolidate skills in finance and governance, expanding opportunities for growth in terms of size, management and competition – decisive factors for the entire business community. This initiative also marks the end of the cycle that began this year for the first time with Up2Stars, Intesa Sanpaolo's programme dedicated to the development of 40 start-ups chosen from a large number of applications, promoting the acceleration of these companies in collaboration with our partner Gellify and facilitating meetings with investors at two Demo Days."*

Marta Testi, CEO, ELITE: *"The new lounge, the result of the partnership between Intesa Sanpaolo and ELITE, is dedicated to a group of Italian start-ups and supports the financial acceleration of innovative companies that will become more competitive at national and international level thanks to a network of international professionals and investors and a training programme dedicated to expanding sustainable growth opportunities. Since ELITE's inception in 2012, innovation has always been one of the growth drivers we have identified as strategic for companies, and initiatives such as this deepen the process of interchange between traditional companies and start-ups. In fact, we imagine many innovation projects and new business relationships will take shape from conversations in the classroom."*

The 21 selected start-ups:

COMPANY	WEBSITE	SECTOR	REGION REGISTERED OFFICE
AUTOGNITY Srl	www.autognity.com	Business Products & Services, Manufacturing	Umbria
BitCorp Srl	www.bitcorp.it	Consumer Products & Services, Tech, Media & Telecoms / ICT	Lombardy
CoDe RTD	www.codertd.com	Tech, Media & Telecoms / ICT	Piedmont
ENDLESS Srl SB (Ogyre brand)	www.ogyre.com	Sustainability	Liguria
FG2 FOODLAB (Whimsy Kitchen brand)	www.whimsykitchen.com	Foodtech	Lombardy
FIDELIO MEDICAL	www.fideliomed.com	Healthcare	Piedmont
GEMATEG ITALIA Srl	www.gemateg.com	Digital/Industry 4.0	Umbria
InfinityID Srl	www.infinity-id.com	Manufacturing, Retail	Lombardy
ITTINSECT	www.ittinsect.com	Bioeconomy	Lazio
KRILL DESIGN Srl	www.krilldesign.net	Bioeconomy	Lombardy
LIOCREO Srl	www.opifrutta.com - www.liocreo.com	Bioeconomy	Emilia-Romagna
LOCAL GREEN	www.localgreen.it	Bioeconomy	Lombardy
NANOMNIA	www.nanomnia.eu	Bio-nanotechnology	Veneto
NDG Natural Development Group Srl	www.ndggroup.eu	Bioeconomy	Emilia-Romagna
PASCOL Srl	www.pascol.it	Bioeconomy	Lombardy
POLDO DOG COUTURE	www.poldodogcouture.com	Trade	Lombardy
PWNX Srl	www.pwnx.io	Digital/Industry 4.0	Lazio
ROBOSURF ITALIA Srl	www.robosurf.it	Digital/Industry 4.0	Umbria
ROCKIN'1000	www.rockin1000.com	Leisure	Emilia-Romagna
TimeFlow Srl SB	www.timeflow.it	IT, Tech	Apulia
ZAGO Srl	www.zagomilano.com	Lifestyle	Lombardy

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About Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is Italy's leading banking group – serving families, businesses and the real economy – with a significant international presence. Intesa Sanpaolo's distinctive business model makes it a European leader in Wealth Management, Protection & Advisory, highly focused on digital and fintech. An efficient and resilient Bank, it benefits from its wholly-owned product factories in asset management and insurance. The Group's strong ESG commitment includes providing €115 billion in impact lending by 2025 to communities and for the green transition, and €500 million in contributions to support people most in need, positioning Intesa Sanpaolo as a world leader in terms of social impact. Intesa Sanpaolo is committed to Net Zero by 2030 for its own emissions and by 2050 for its loan and investment portfolios. An engaged patron of Italian culture, Intesa Sanpaolo has created its own network of museums, the *Gallerie d'Italia*, to host the bank's artistic heritage and as a venue for prestigious cultural projects.

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