

UBI Banca and Confindustria (Confederation of Industry) invite twenty one companies to join Borsa Italiana's ELITE

The "ELITE UBI Banca Lounge" is presented today at Borsa Italiana: it will allow 21 companies from eight regions with aggregate sales of around €3 billion to gain access to a platform of special tools designed to accelerate their growth and meet the challenges, amongst other things, of innovation and digitalisation within the framework of "Piano Nazionale Industria 4.0" (National Industry Plan 4.0).

Milan, 1st March 2018 – A collection of companies with solid business and high growth potential has been selected by UBI Banca with assistance from Confindustria, to join ELITE, a Borsa Italiana programme specially designed to strengthen companies' growth strategies. The companies chosen will move into the "ELITE UBI Banca Lounge" and will access a programme which offers companies a series of tools specially designed to address key aspects of growth and international expansion.

Twenty one companies have been selected. They represent eight regions, have aggregate sales of around €3 billion, a total of approximately 11,000 employees and they belong to various industries: fashion, chemicals, machinery, automotive, food. These companies will be able to join a special programme which provides financing instruments, relations with operators on capital markets, thanks to access, amongst other things, to a wide range of potential Italian and foreign investors and special training to guide organisational and governance changes needed to face the challenge of international markets.

The search for the companies invited to the "ELITE UBI Banca Lounge" covered the whole of the country with close collaboration between UBI Banca's seven macro geographical areas, its Corporate and Investment Banking Division and Confindustria's local associations.

The initiative is the natural development of an agreement signed by UBI Banca and Confindustria last September to support companies working on innovation and digital transformation processes and to promote their growth in size as well as their access to capital markets. This agreement, which will last until December 2019, involved the creation of a loan pool amounting to €1 billion to be used for R&D and innovation through the grant of medium to long-term loans. On the basis of that same agreement companies have access through "Digital Innovation Hubs" to specialists in transformation processes, advice for access to European funds and concessions provided under the National Industry Plan 4.0.

“The goals of renewal and greater competitiveness in the world of industry”, said Letizia Moratti, Chairwoman of the Management Board of UBI Banca, “has led three protagonists of the country’s economy, represented by the world of industry, the capital market and the banking system, to work closely together to support companies’ innovation and digitalisation processes. This initiative represents above all a demonstration of confidence in our companies and, at the same time, a concrete example of how to support them in the pursuit of economic growth after years of crisis”.

“The launch of the ELITE UBI Banca Lounge, created in collaboration with Confindustria”, according to the President of Confindustria, Vincenzo Boccia, “represents an important step forward in the development and innovation of bank-company relationships, an indispensable condition for a strong and competitive national economy able to meet international challenges. The capitalisation of companies and their access to financial instruments that are alternatives to bank loans remain priorities. Our task is to promote and stimulate a leap in the culture and dimensions of SMEs in order to create growth without debt”.

“We strongly believe that the future of our country is closely linked to our ability to support our most virtuous companies and ELITE plays a crucial role in the achievement of this objective”, said Luca Peyrano, CEO of ELITE. “We are therefore very pleased to welcome this group of companies which, thanks to the lounge, will acquire all the tools it needs to grow even more and to consider access to growth capital. In this way ELITE shares a dedicated strategy with UBI Banca and Confindustria to support the fabric of Italian industry with an increasingly greater deployment of synergies”.

LIST OF COMPANIES ADMITTED TO THE ELITE UBI BANCA LOUNGE

COMPANY NAME	SECTOR	PROVINCE	REGION
Fiamma S.p.A	Chemicals	Varese	Lombardy
Mei	Electronics	Bergamo	Lombardy
Comerio Ercole	Plant	Varese	Lombardy
Lechler	Paints	Como	Lombardy
Fonderie di Torbole	Automotive	Brescia	Lombardy
Diadora	Fashion	Treviso	Veneto
OwensCorp	Fashion	Turin	Piedmont
Missoni	Fashion	Varese	Lombardy
Ficep	Carpentry	Varese	Lombardy
Noberasco	Food	Savona	Liguria
Comelz	Machinery	Pavia	Lombardy
Fintyre	Automotive	Bergamo	Lombardy
SIR Safety System	Safety systems	Perugia	Umbria
Bruno srl	Machinery	Avellino	Campania
Loccioni	Automated quality control systems	Ancona	Marches
La Piadineria, controlled by Fondi Permira	Catering	Brescia	Lombardy
Pedon Group	Food	Vicenza	Veneto
Gotha Cosmetics	Cosmetics	Bergamo	Lombardy
Cesi	Energy	Milan	Lombardy
FIAMM	Automotive	Vicenza	Veneto

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