

FORGITAL GROUP, NEXI AND PATTERN ARE THE WINNERS OF THE 2019 EDITION OF THE “EQUITA BEST STRATEGIES ON CAPITAL MARKETS” AWARDS

IN 2019 CAPITAL MARKETS CONFIRMED THEIR KEY ROLE IN SUPPORTING GROWTH AND STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT OF CORPORATES

Milan, 14th April 2020

Equita, the leading independent investment bank in Italy, today awarded the best strategies on capital markets in each of the following categories for 2019: debt fund raising, MTA fundraising and AIM Italia fundraising.

The prize “Equita best strategies on capital markets” – this year to its seventh edition, handed out under the long-standing partnership that Equita has with the Bocconi University and with which the two partners analyse and promote the development of capital markets in Italy – **awards the companies that distinguished in debt and equity fund raising activities and that exploited capital markets to implement their strategic plans and achieve business goals.**

The transactions awarded are clear examples of how **capital markets are key when corporates look for new capital to implement growth strategies**, without totally relying on the banking channel. Today more than ever, especially after the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic at a global level, it is **crucial to promote initiatives aimed at protecting and sustaining the development of capital markets, in order to ease corporates in raising new equity and debt capital when they need.** Looking at the capital raised on markets by corporates in 2019, thus excluding larger transactions and investment grade issues, it is obvious that fundraising activities on markets have consistently declined over the last few years.

Based on data provided by the fourth **Monitor on capital markets in Italy** – edited by Equita and with which it investigate equity and debt issues, intermediaries and investors active on markets –, **more than 20 capital raising transactions were selected as candidates for the awards over more than 130 executed transactions in 2019.** More in details, 10 transactions were selected among 69 in the debt category (Euro 26.6 billion of debt raised in 2019, largely coming from investment grade issues), 5 transactions on the MTA market out of a total of 25 (Euro 7.5 billion of equity raised in 2019), and 8 transactions on the AIM Italia market out of a total of 37 (Euro 200 million of equity raised in 2019).

The winners of the “Equita best strategies on capital markets” in each different category, awarded with the sponsorship of Bocconi University and Borsa Italiana, are the following:

FUND RAISING DEBT CAPITAL MARKETS	FUND RAISING EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS - MTA	FUND RAISING EQUITY CAPITAL MARKETS - AIM
1 ST FORGITAL GROUP	1 ST NEXI	1 ST PATTERN
2 ND ALERION CLEAN POWER	2 ND NEWLAT FOOD	2 ND ANTARES VISION
3 RD TAMBURI INVESTMENT PARTNERS	3 RD SALINI IMPREGILO	3 RD CYBEROO

Forgital Group, example of Italian excellence in the production of forged roller rings and components for the aerospace industry and with an international imprinting, ranked No. 1 in the “Fund raising in Debt Capital Markets” category. The debt issue is aimed at financing the acquisition of the group by the global investment firm Carlyle. **Alerion Clean Power** and **Tamburi Investment Partners** ranked No. 2 and No. 3 respectively.

Nexi, leading player in Italy in the digital payments industry and in several other segments of the financial industry, ranked No. 1 in the “Fund raising in Equity Capital Markets - MTA” category. The transaction was the largest IPO in Europe in 2019 and the proceeds are aimed at strengthening the financial and capital structure of the group. **Newlat Food** and **Salini Impregilo** ranked No. 2 and No. 3 respectively.

Pattern, another example of Italian excellence that has become the landmark for pattern-making, engineering, grading, prototyping and production for the most prestigious worldwide brands, ranked No. 1 in the “**Fund raising in Equity Capital Markets - AIM**” category. The transaction was the largest in the AIM segment involving an industrial player in 2019 and the proceeds are aimed at strengthening the financial and capital structure of the company. **Antares Vision** and **Cyberoo** ranked No. 2 and No. 3 respectively.

The winners were voted by a panel of highly regarded judges – chaired by **Francesco Perilli**, Chairman Equita Group – and composed by: **Paolo Basilico** (CEO, Samhita Investments), **Stefano Caselli** (Dean of International Affairs, Bocconi University), **Paolo Colonna** (Chairman, Creazione di Valore), **Claudio Costamagna** (Chairman, CC & Soci), **Rodolfo De Benedetti** (Chairman CIR-COFIDE Gruppo De Benedetti, Chairman Sorgenia and Sogefi), **Stefano Gatti** (Antin IP Associate Professor of Infrastructure Finance, Bocconi University), **Alessandra Gritti** (Vice-Chairman and CEO, Tamburi Investment Partners), **Raffaele Jerusalemi** (CEO, Borsa Italiana), **Paolo Marchesini** (Group CFO, Campari Group), **Gaia Mazzalveri** (Co-Head Investment Banking, Equita SIM), **Marina Natale** (CEO & General Manager, AMCO), **Umberto Nicodano** (Partner, Studio Legale Bonelli Erede), **Claudia Parzani** (Managing Partner, Studio Legale Associato Linklaters), **Fabrizio Viola** (CEO, DEPObank) e **Andrea Vismara** (CEO, Equita Group).

Gaia Mazzalveri, Co-Head of the Investment Banking of Equita, commented: “*The transactions that Equita awarded are clear examples of how the fund raising on capital markets has become crucial today: it eases businesses growth, organically as well as through M&A. Initiatives aimed at protecting and promoting capital markets shall be taken, in order to offer to small and medium enterprises an alternative source of funding, enabling growth of their business.*”

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Equita, the leading Italian independent investment bank, has been offering its expertise and insight on financial markets to professional investors, corporates and institutions for more than 45 years. The holding Equita Group, listed on the “STAR” segment of the Italian Stock Exchange, counts its managers and professionals among shareholders (with approximately 54% of the share capital) and this ensures a strong alignment of interests with investors. With its global markets activities, today Equita is the leading independent broker in Italy that offers to its institutional clients brokerage services on equities, fixed income, derivatives and ETFs. Moreover, thanks to the continuous engagement of the award winning research team – acknowledged for its top quality research – the trading floor supports investors’ decisions with valuable analyses and investment ideas on Italian and European financial markets. Equita also leverages on a unique investment banking platform that combines independent strategic advice with unparalleled access to capital markets. The wide offering proposed includes advisory services in M&A, other extraordinary financial transactions, along with equity and fixed income capital raising solutions. Our aim is to best serve all clients, from large industrial groups to small and medium enterprises, from financial institutions to the public sector. Lastly, Equita Capital SGR offers to institutional investors and banking groups its asset management competences and its deep understanding of financial markets, especially in mid and small caps. The strong focus on alternative assets like private debt and the asset management strategies based on distinctive areas of expertise of the Group make Equita Capital SGR the best partner for both investors looking for interesting returns and banking groups that would like to co-develop new products for their retail networks.