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Initiating a dynamic partnership with Deloitte and VdA

ELITE launches its second group of leading companies in Portugal, growing Euronext's large private market ecosystem

- **Seventeen companies already joined ELITE in Portugal to accelerate their sustainable growth and access private and public capital markets**
- **Successful launch of ELITE's second cohort supported by our leading partners Deloitte and VdA.**
- **Over 1500 companies and 200 partners in Europe part of the ELITE network.**

Lisbon – 6 March 2024 – Euronext, the leading pan-European market infrastructure, welcomes the second group of Portuguese companies into ELITE, Euronext's ecosystem dedicated to nurturing small and medium private enterprises in their path for sustainable long-term growth by connecting them to financial capital, knowledge capital and relational capital.

This newly inducted group comprises six companies from varied sectors including Health Care Equipment & Services, Technology, Food and Drug Retail, and Industrial Goods & Services generating over 200 million Euros in combined revenues and accounting for approximately 1.312 employees.

This step in expanding ELITE into Portugal marks a significant milestone, supported by Deloitte and VdA, leveraging a proven methodology tested across more than 2,200 companies worldwide. The collaboration extends to content and expertise provided by the NOVA Business School as academic partner.

These Portuguese companies embarking on their ELITE journey will undergo a meticulously structured program designed to aid businesses prepare structuring for their next phase of growth. Combining education, business support and mentoring, ELITE also connects business owners to vital sources of funding, be that through venture capital, private equity, an IPO or innovative Basket Bonds. These six Portuguese companies add to the eleven businesses from the country that joined ELITE in 2023, making Portugal home for our growing and vibrant ecosystem.

Marta Testi, CEO of ELITE, said: *"We celebrate a pivotal milestone today as we welcome six new Portuguese companies into ELITE. This achievement reflects our commitment to empowering European small and medium-sized enterprises for sustainable growth. ELITE serves as a bridge, connecting companies with the knowledge, relationships, and funding necessary for their expansion. With the support of our partners, Deloitte and VdA, we continue to demonstrate the power of collective action in driving the growth of our real economy and supporting the success of our companies."*

Carlos Caetano, Partner Deloitte, said: *"Deloitte has had the privilege of standing alongside Elite, a company within the Euronext group, since the beginning of its operations in Portugal. Driven by our purpose to create an impact that matters within the business community, we share the ambition to support SMEs in their growth journey and acquisition of new and distinctive*



competencies. This ecosystem has demonstrated unparalleled dynamism and ambition, showcased by both the leaders of the companies and partners involved, as well as by the leaders of Elite."

Pedro Cassiano, Partner Responsible for the Banking & Financial area at VdA, said: "The Elite Program enlarges horizons, forcing participating companies on how they may prepare themselves to grow, become International and institutionalize, making available contact and tools that prove rather helpful in such processes. This program is inspired in a program developed by the Milan Stock Exchange, having celebrated its 10th anniversary, and counting, corresponding certainly to a very useful support in the development and growth of many Italian companies. Do not be mistaken in think that it corresponds to an induction program for new Euronext Issuers, as it corresponds rather to a program to support the financial management of SMEs, aiming at helping participating companies to increase efficiency of their financial management, not necessarily through issuing and listing securities in organized markets. It is as well a great opportunity to meet and get to know other financial managers and to share experience with other SMEs engaging in many economic sectors and who face so many times similar problems."

Companies joining ELITE today:

Company	Sector	Description	Region
Calvalex	Textile & Garment	Calvalex is a garment manufacturer that specialises in high end womenswear. The company is based in Northern Portugal and was founded by fourth generation tailors, an excellent reflection of the rich tailoring history in Portugal.	Porto
CPO	Health Care Equipment & Services	CPO is a private ophthalmology clinic equipped with the most advanced technology of diagnosis and treatment with renowned professionals in the specialty of ophthalmology	Lisbon
Fapil	Manufacturing	The company develops, manufactures, and sells useful products for hygiene and cleaning, tidying up and organizing the home.	Venda do Pinheiro
Luis Vicente	Agri-Food Operator (Fruit & Vegetables)	Grupo Luis Vicente, founded in the 60's in the West area of Portugal, it is currently a recognized group in the wholesale of fruit and vegetables.	Torres Vedras
Meivcore	Industrial Goods & Services	Meivcore provides solutions for Industrial projects, preventive/corrective maintenance and service provision integrated in various areas of Industrial Maintenance	Viseu
Vieira de Castro	Food Manufacturing	Vieira de Castro SA has been around on the market for 80 years, establishing itself as a sustainable, competitive brand which is committed to quality and innovation, endowing it with unrivalled know-how in the production of biscuits, almonds and candies.	Vila Nova de Famalicão

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ELITE, launched in 2012 by Borsa Italiana and now part of Euronext Group, is the European network of private SMEs which accelerates the process to access private and public capital markets. ELITE's mission is to support companies by connecting them to capital, skills and network to drive their sustainable growth in the long-term. Based on a unique offer of services and solutions, ELITE combines a calendar of workshops and coaching sessions, supporting entrepreneurs and executives upskilling and empowering their strategic plan and business opportunities. ELITE Companies' management teams are also guided on how to fast-track their development and how to access the most suitable funding options for their needs, whether the Basket Bonds®, institutional investors, private equity, venture capital or equity markets.

With over 2000 companies and 200 partners admitted since the launch, about €20billion have been raised by ELITE businesses through 1200+ corporate transactions, highlighting how dynamic SMEs are once they are provided with an efficient access to private and public markets.

For more info please visit: www.elite-network.com and follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter using the hashtag #weareELITE

About Euronext

Euronext is the leading pan-European market infrastructure, connecting European economies to global capital markets, to accelerate innovation and sustainable growth. It operates regulated exchanges in Belgium, France, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal. With nearly 1,900 listed issuers and around €6.6 trillion in market capitalisation as of end December 2023, it has an unmatched blue-chip franchise and a strong diverse domestic and international client base. Euronext operates regulated and transparent equity and derivatives markets, one of Europe's leading electronic fixed income trading markets and is the largest centre for debt and funds listings in the world. Its total product offering includes Equities, FX, Exchange Traded Funds, Warrants & Certificates, Bonds, Derivatives, Commodities and Indices. The Group provides a multi-asset clearing house through Euronext Clearing, and custody and settlement services through Euronext Securities central securities depositories in Denmark, Italy, Norway and Portugal. Euronext also leverages its expertise in running markets by providing technology and managed services to third parties. In addition to its main regulated market, it also operates a number of junior markets, simplifying access to listing for SMEs.

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