

PRESS RELEASE

ELITE BRVM LOUNGE and WAEMU COMPANIES ACCESS TO LONG-TERM FINANCING: THE FIRST COHORT OF BRVM PRESENTED

Abidjan, March 19, 2018: The West African Regional Stock Exchange (BRVM) launched the ELITE BRVM LOUNGE Program with the presentation of its first cohort of companies on Monday, March 19, 2018 in Abidjan under the chairmanship of the Ivorian Minister of Economy and Finance.

The ELITE BRVM LOUNGE program has effectively entered its active phase in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) on Monday, March 19, 2018 for an initial period of two (2) years.

The launching ceremony saw the presentation of the first set of ten (10) companies identified at the end of the selection process. The chosen companies are: AGETIP (Benin); IMPRIMERIE TUNDE (Benin); DAFANI SA (Burkina Faso); COFINA Group (Côte d'Ivoire); HYPERACCESS SYSTEMS (Côte d'Ivoire); MATA Holding (Côte d'Ivoire); PETRO IVOIRE SA (Côte d'Ivoire); PKL SA (Côte d'Ivoire); AZALAI Hotels (Mali) and SODIGAZ (TOGO). These companies come from various sectors such as distribution, hotels, finance, construction, printing, industry and ICT and could obtain the international label "ELITE" at the end of the certification process.

The ELITE Program is a dynamic and interactive ecosystem, built to support and foster innovation, entrepreneurship and growth. Through this program, the BRVM intends to contribute to strengthening the capacities of companies with high growth potential in the sub-region with a view to offering them a new source of financing through the WAEMU regional financial market through, in particular, its Third Board that was launched on December 19th, 2017.

The effective start of the ELITE Program in WAEMU follows the agreement signed between the BRVM, the London Stock Exchange Group and the Casablanca Stock Exchange on November 9th, 2017 in Abidjan.

Speaking on this occasion, Dr. Edoh Kossi AMENOUNVE, Chief Executive Officer of the BRVM, *"hailed the quality of the North-South-South Cooperation model that exists between the London Stock Exchange Group, the Casablanca Stock Exchange and the BRVM. He reaffirmed the desire of the BRVM to see several other companies join this program in the next cohorts from September 2018"*.

Luca PEYRANO, CEO, ELITE Program, *"expressed his pleasure at seeing the UEMOA SMEs benefit from this program and reaffirmed the commitment of London Stock Exchange Group to actively support the BRVM in its development"*.

The Casablanca Stock Exchange has also been pleased, through its Managing Director, Mr. Karim HAJJI, *"to be a stakeholder in this program which confirms the excellence of the quality of the relations that bind its Institution to the BRVM"*.

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