ELITE
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PRESS RELEASE

ELITE exceeds 50 companies in Portugal, strengthening its growth ecosystem with a new Northern cohort

- **This marks the eighth edition of the programme in Portugal and the third developed in partnership with AEP – Portuguese Business Association**
- **Since the programme launched in Portugal in 2023, ELITE has brought together 53 Portuguese companies across 19 sectors, employing more than 43,000 people and generating €4.6 billion in annual revenue**
- **ELITE now brings together more than 2,000 companies and 200 partners, with businesses across the network having raised approximately €20 billion through more than 1,200 financing and corporate transactions**

Lisbon, 24 September 2026 – Euronext today announced that ELITE hascrossed the threshold of 50 Portuguese companies, following the launch of its eighth Portuguese cohort. ELITE, Euronext's international ecosystem for ambitious private companies, supports businesses in accelerating growth, strengthening leadership and improving access to capital and international opportunities.

The Portuguese ELITE community now includes 53 companies across 19 sectors, employing more than 43,000 people and generating a combined €4.6 billion in annual revenue, highlighting the growing importance of the programme in supporting Portugal's entrepreneurial ecosystem.

This latest edition is the third programme delivered in partnership with AEP - Portuguese Business Association, reinforcing the shared commitment of Euronext and one of Portugal's leading business organisations to help Portuguese companies scale nationally and internationally. The initiative also continues to benefit from the support of BBVA Portugal, a long-standing partner in fostering the international growth of local businesses.

The new cohort welcomes six companies from Northern Portugal, representing a diverse range of industries: **Beyond Motors Car**, **D. Figueiredo Irmão**, **Nautilus**, **Santos & Vale Sul - Distribuição**, **Simoldes Plásticos**, and **Mendes Gonçalves** which joins ELITE through **PortugalFoods**, marking the beginning of a collaboration with one of Portugal's most internationally recognised industry clusters and reinforcing ELITE's commitment to export-oriented businesses.

Participating companies will begin an immersive development journey through ELITE, including executive education delivered in partnership with Católica Porto School of Business and Economics, specialised workshops across Europe, peer learning and networking opportunities with more than 2,000 companies in the ELITE ecosystem.

Marta Testi, CEO of ELITE-Euronext Group, said: *"We are proud to welcome this new group of Portuguese companies to ELITE, strengthening our presence in the country as an accelerator of growth for local businesses. In line with our partnerships with AEP and BBVA Bank, we continue to support the next generation of Portuguese business leaders and we remain committed to our mission of connecting companies to capital. With this aim we are bringing together local businesses for the upcoming launch of the Basket Bond Portugal[1], an innovative mechanism that will provide small and mid-sized Portuguese companies with alternative long-term financing opportunities through the issuance of minibonds, enhancing both their development and market visibility."*

Luís Miguel Ribeiro, **CEO of AEP – Portuguese Business Association, said: "***The partnership with Euronext is of particular value to AEP. It is about promoting the tools and opportunities that will enable Portuguese companies to grow, scale up and realise their development ambitions – and, in doing so, contribute to a stronger and more internationally competitive economy."*

Pedro Pereira, Head of Business & Institutional Banking of BBVA Portugal said: *"We are proud to support this initiative and help Portuguese companies turn international ambition into sustainable growth. At BBVA, we combine innovative financial solutions with strategic insight and global reach to help businesses capture opportunities beyond Portugal. This project underscores our commitment to being a trusted partner as companies expand into new markets and build for long-term success."*

[1] **Basket Bond Portugal** is an innovative financing programme dedicated to Portuguese SMEs and MidCaps, designed to bridge the gap between growing companies and capital markets - unlocking funding solutions previously accessible only to large corporates. Find out more: ELITE > Basket Bond Portugal.

The new Portuguese cohort of ELITE:

Company name	Sector	Description	City
Beyond Motors Car	Retail	Founded in 1994, BMcar Group is the exclusive BMW Group partner in northern Portugal. The company specialises in the retail and distribution of BMW and MINI vehicles, accessories and after-sales services, and also provides motorcycle servicing, premium used vehicles and financial services.	Braga
D. Figueiredo Irmão	Industrial	Founded in 1920, D. Figueiredo Irmão is a wholesale distributor of beverages and food products serving the HoReCa sector. The company offers a broad range of products, including beers, wines, spirits, soft drinks, coffee and confectionery.	Póvoa de Varzim
Mendes Gonçalves	Food & Beverage	Founded in 1982 and headquartered in Golegã, Mendes Gonçalves is a Portuguese food manufacturer and distributor. Its portfolio includes vinegars, olive oil, sauces, pasta and condiments, marketed under brands such as Paladin, Peninsular, Acetum and Gran Cucina.	Santarém
Nautilus	Industrial	Founded in 1996, Nautilus is a Portuguese manufacturer of furniture and technology solutions for learning and working environments. The company serves educational institutions, offices, libraries, training centres, collaborative spaces and corporate environments, offering a broad range of solutions that combine design, ergonomics, technology, durability and innovation.	Aveiro
Santos & Vale Sul - Distribuição	Transport & Logistics	Founded in 1985, Santos & Vale Sul provides road freight transport and logistics services across Portugal. The company specialises in collection, sorting, transportation and distribution, supported by its own fleet and technology-enabled operations.	Lisboa
Simoldes Plásticos	Industrial Goods & Services	Part of the Simoldes Group, Simoldes Plásticos develops and manufactures plastic components for the automotive industry. Its capabilities include thermoplastic injection moulding, engineering, prototyping, decoration and assembly for vehicle interior and exterior applications.	Aveiro

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About ELITE

ELITE, launched in 2012 by Borsa Italiana and now part of Euronext Group, is the European network of private SMEs which accelerates the process of accessing private and public capital markets. ELITE's mission is to support companies by connecting them to capital, skills and its 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 in upskilling and empowering their strategic plans and business opportunities. Management teams at ELITE Companies are also guided on how to fast-track their development and how to access the most suitable funding options for their needs, whether through Basket Bonds®, institutional investors, private equity, venture capital or equity markets. With over 2,000 companies and 200 partners admitted since its launch, about €20 billion has been raised by ELITE businesses through over 1,200 corporate transactions, highlighting the dynamism SMEs can unlock when given efficient access to private and public markets. For more information please visit elite-network.com and follow us on LinkedIn using the hashtag #weareELITE.

About Euronext

Euronext is the leading European capital market infrastructure, covering the entire capital markets value chain, from listing, trading, clearing, settlement and custody, to solutions for issuers and investors. Euronext runs MTS, one of Europe's leading electronic fixed income trading markets, and Nord Pool, the European power market. Euronext also provides clearing and settlement services through Euronext Clearing and its Euronext Securities CSDs in Denmark, Italy, Norway and Portugal. In November 2025, Euronext acquired a majority stake in the Athens Stock Exchange (ATHEX), reinforcing its pan-European footprint and further extending its fully integrated market infrastructure with the addition of an exchange, a CSD and a clearing house.

As of June 2026, Euronext's regulated exchanges in Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway and Portugal host over 1,800 listed issuers with €7 trillion in market capitalisation, a strong blue-chip franchise and the largest global centre for debt and fund listings. With a diverse domestic and international client base, Euronext handles 29% of European lit equity trading. Its products include equities, FX, ETFs, bonds, derivatives, commodities and indices.

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