



ELITE surpasses 1000 company milestone: 19 new businesses join today

- **19 new companies join ELITE from across Europe**
- **New countries: Belgium, Czech Republic and Norway represented**
- **Ten companies join through UniCredit CEE Lounge framework**
- **Five Hungarian firms join through the BSE partnership framework**
- **More than 1000 companies, 200 advisors, and 200 investors now part of growing ELITE community**

London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) today welcomes a further 19 companies to ELITE, its innovative international business support and capital raising programme, bringing the total number of companies in the ELITE ecosystem to over 1000.

For the first time, ELITE welcomes companies from Belgium, Czech Republic and Norway to the community. The 19 new businesses come from across eight countries and represent a diverse range of industries including Technology, Industrials, and Consumer Goods.

Ten new companies from four CEE countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic and Slovakia) have joined today through the UniCredit CEE Lounge model. An agreement between ELITE and UniCredit, the Italian global banking and financial services company, with a strong presence in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), has resulted in close collaboration between the two parties in attracting new companies, specifically from CEE countries, to ELITE.

The five Hungarian companies have joined through the Budapest Stock Exchange (BSE) framework, following the successful launch of a customised ELITE programme for Hungarian businesses in 2016.

ELITE actively partners with the international financial community, including banks, asset managers and stock exchanges, in line with LSEG's Open Access philosophy and customer partnership approach.

Today, more than 1000 companies make up the growing international ELITE community. Companies come from across 35 countries, 35 sectors and are generating €72.5 billion in combined revenues. Together companies account for over 420.000 jobs across Europe and beyond.

Luca Peyrano, CEO, ELITE:

"I am proud to present the latest international group of companies from across Europe and celebrate with them ELITE's significant milestone; reaching over 1000 companies in the dynamic ELITE community. In



just six years ELITE has become a global programme spanning more than 30 countries, supporting the growth and internationalisation of SMEs around the world.

“ELITE continues to innovate and support the job creators and innovators of today and tomorrow. Together with our partners, we are committed to supporting the most ambitious companies, allowing them to scale and grow.”

Andrea Diamanti, Head of UniCredit Corporate and Investment Banking and Private Banking in CEE:

“Supporting the SME client segment, as the growth engine of the European economy, is one of our core activities. That is why I am extremely proud that for the fourth year in a row, we are providing our SME clients with all the benefits that participation in ELITE can offer: the possibility to connect directly to capital markets, have their business reviewed by experts, discover new areas for growth and have the opportunity to network, to name a few. This initiative is a valuable opportunity for us to continue learning about the SME segment and adapt our way of doing business with SMEs to match their needs. It allows us to further strengthen our role as a true partner and advisor to this client segment”

Richárd Végh, President and CEO, Budapest Stock Exchange:

“Serving as the most important financing platform of competitive, successful Hungarian companies is an important part of BSE’s strategy. Through the Programme, BSE is looking to implement a comprehensive capital market and stock exchange development programme which can contribute in the medium and long term to the growth of the Hungarian economy and to further improving its competitiveness. With the launch of the ELITE Programme in Hungary, the companies participating in the training – all defining actors in their own fields – not only acquire new knowledge, but also expand their networks, and decision makers will receive help in selecting the long-term, external financing mechanism most appropriate to their firm.”

New ELITE international companies

<u>Company</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Sector</u>
Auka	Norway	Software & Computer Services
Avtomotor Corporation	Bulgaria	Automobiles & Parts
Columbus	Hungary	Household Goods & Home Construction
DM-Ker	Hungary	Industrial Engineering
Elite Trading Business	Croatia	Industrial Metals & Mining
Emtest	Slovakia	Technology Hardware & Equipment
Euroins Insurance Group – Eurohold Group	Bulgaria	Nonlife Insurance
Gloster	Hungary	Software & Computer Services
Ivicom Consulting	Croatia	Oil Equipment, Services & Distribution
Metal Product	Croatia	Industrial Engineering
Oprema	Croatia	General Industrials
Perfect Care	Romania	Health Care Equipment & Services
Sport Depot	Bulgaria	Personal Goods
Szallas.hu	Hungary	Travel & Leisure
Textura	Hungary	Personal Goods
Triamant/Care for Life	Belgium	Health Care Equipment & Services

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Vaptech	Bulgaria	Industrial Engineering
Vnet	Slovakia	Fixed Line Telecommunications
Y Soft	Czech Republic	Software & Computer Services

- Ends -

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Notes to editors:

About ELITE

ELITE is a platform and ecosystem that helps private, ambitious companies grow, offering them access to education, business support and direct contact with the UK and international financial and advisory community. Management teams are guided on how best to fast-track their development, how to access the most suitable funding for their needs, whether private equity, venture capital or the bond or equity markets, and given advice on building their profile and reach. ELITE also operates its own funding platform to enable efficient access to capital from private, professional investors.

ELITE facilitates its vibrant international advisor and investor community the opportunity to engage with a pool of high quality, dynamic companies and entrepreneurs, all of whom are open to the advice, opportunities and connections that the programme offers.

There are over 1000 businesses from across 35 countries in the ELITE community. They are generating over €72.5 billion in combined revenues and employ approximately 420,000 people across Europe and internationally.

For further information on the programme, companies and the full list of partners, please go to: www.elite-network.com

About London Stock Exchange Group:

London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG) is an international markets infrastructure business. Its diversified global business focuses on capital formation, intellectual property and risk and balance sheet management. LSEG operates an open access model, offering choice and partnership to customers across all of its businesses. The Group can trace its history back to 1698.

The Group operates a broad range of international equity, ETF, bond and derivatives markets, including London Stock Exchange; Borsa Italiana; MTS (a European fixed income market); and Turquoise (a pan-European equities MTF). Through its platforms, LSEG offers market participants, unrivalled access to

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Europe's capital markets. The Group also plays a vital economic and social role, enabling companies, including SMEs, to access funds for growth and development.

Through FTSE Russell, the Group is a global leader in financial indexing, benchmarking and analytic services with approximately \$15 trillion benchmarked to its indexes. The Group also provides customers with an extensive range of data services, research and analytics through The Yield Book, Mergent, SEDOL, UnaVista, XTF and RNS.

Post trade and risk management services are a significant part of the Group's business operations. In addition to majority ownership of LCH, a multi-asset global CCP operator, LSEG owns CC&G, the Italian clearing house and Monte Titoli, a leading European custody and settlement business.

LSEG Technology develops and operates high performance technology solutions, including trading, market surveillance and post trade systems for over 40 organisations and exchanges, including the Group's own markets.

Headquartered in the United Kingdom, with significant operations in North America, Italy, France and Sri Lanka, the Group employs approximately 4,500 people.

Further information on London Stock Exchange Group can be found at www.lseg.com. The Group's ticker symbol is LSE.L