



Press Release, Brussels, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020

## ‘Winners of the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2020’

FESE and EuropeanIssuers in cooperation with the European Commission (DG GROW) are delighted to announce the winners of the ‘European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2020’. The Awards aim to promote best practices and to highlight the best European Small and Mid-Sized Companies that have gained access to capital markets via an Initial Public Offering (IPO). They showcase the diversity of European markets, and aim to promote stock listings, in particular targeting SMEs and growth companies.

These four companies were chosen amongst a very high standard of nominations from across Europe.

### International Star

**Diaceutics**  
Better Testing, Better Treatment

At Diaceutics we believe that every patient should get the precision medicine they deserve. We are a data analytics and end-to-end services provider enabled by DXRX - the world’s first Network solution for the development and commercialization of precision medicine diagnostics. Diaceutics has worked on every precision medicine brought to market and provides services to 36 of the world’s leading pharmaceutical companies. We have built the world’s largest repository of diagnostic testing data with a growing network of 2500 labs in 51 countries.

Diaceutics is listed on the [London Stock Exchange](#), UK

### Rising Star

 **Fodelia**  
Kotimaista kasvuvoimaa

Fodelia grows Finnish food companies into flourishing international success stories so that consumers can enjoy locally and responsibly produced clean food. We own food-industry pioneers who invest in innovative products, value-adding customer concepts and advanced manufacturing processes. Our portfolio includes ready meal manufacturer Feelia, snack food manufacturer Real Snacks, meat and vegetarian food manufacturer Beofood and our joint venture with Bravedo Group, Fodbar, which provides a cost-effective all-in-one solution for outsourcing food services.

Fodelia is listed on [Nasdaq](#), Finland



### Star of Innovation



Frequentis, headquartered in Vienna, Austria, is an international supplier of communication and information systems for control centres with safety-critical tasks. Such 'control centre solutions' are developed and marketed by Frequentis in the business sectors Air Traffic Management (civil and military air traffic control, air defence) and Public Safety & Transport (police, fire brigade, ambulance services, shipping, railways).

Products and solutions from Frequentis can be found in over 30,000 operator working positions and in approximately 140 countries.

Frequentis is listed on **Deutsche Börse**, Germany

### Star of 2020



We help our customers through their digital transformation processes.

We understand digital transformation as a deep and cross-cutting change that influences companies beyond processes, changing them forever. Each project is a challenge we face with passion. The technological revolution we live in has brought with it a vast list of challenges. Challenges that we assume as our own with the goal of offering our customers the most avant-garde solutions of the moment. We currently have 750 employees with offices in 9 countries and have implemented projects in more than 50 countries.

Izertis is listed on **BME**, Spain

The Awards also assigned a 'Special Mention'. The objective of this category is to recognise an initiative, an individual or a company which has had a significant impact on small and mid-cap issuers accessing capital markets.

### Special Mention



Lighthouse is a fundamental analysis project of the Spanish Institute of Financial Analysts (IEAF; a non-profit organisation) aimed at the secondary equity market. However, it is not a conventional project as Lighthouse only analyses "orphan stocks" of the Spanish market (including the Growth Market). Very small and/or illiquid companies that the market would never cover spontaneously.

Lighthouse is a "service" for the market which, since it began at the end of 2018, has already initiated coverage of c.20 stocks, reducing the rate of orphan stocks on the Spanish market by over 10 p.p. (to below 30% vs 40% -2y).



The Federation of European Securities Exchanges, European Issuers and the European Commission are proud to have established these annual Awards together.

Petr Kobic, President of FESE said: *“The Awards showcase successful IPOs from all over Europe and provide clear examples of the benefits of listing. Stock exchanges are designed to ensure the highest levels of safety, integrity, fairness and transparency delivering the highest levels of investor protection which is why as rightly identified by the Commission some years ago, we need to showcase the advantages listing on an exchanges offers companies when seeking to access finance. We, the stock exchanges are fully supportive of the drive to support the EU economy and are ready and prepared to enable companies to access finance.”*

Luc Vansteenkiste, Chairman of European Issuers said: *“During the first half of 2020, as one of the members of the expert group advising the European Commission on how to speed up the process of Capital Markets Union, we insisted on two important actions; financing of the European companies and review of the regulations. It is a fact that in Europe bank financing is the mostly selected solution by companies, whereas it is the stock markets in the US. In the past years, we have seen a significant drop in the number of IPOs in Europe due to the heavy regulations and subsequent cost for small and medium enterprises entering for the first time in the stock markets. Our recommendation was to foresee a transition period for IPOs for couple of years combined with ‘a comply or explain principle’, so that companies can gradually scale up to the required level. In this respect, I want to welcome all companies that are present today at the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards ceremony, and not only the winners. These companies are an example of vision and courage to go for stock quotation in order to make their companies grow and prosper, which is for me the best long-term solution.”*

Kristin Schreiber, Director at the Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs said: *“Now more than ever, European SMEs and growth companies need easier EU-wide access to stock markets. Improved access to finance through stock markets creates opportunities for firms seeking to broaden their capital base on competitive terms. SMEs that have successfully become listed are role models for many other companies that will hopefully follow their lead in the future. The awards, which are a joint initiative of the European Commission, the Federation of European Securities Exchanges and European Issuers, showcase success stories that represent the considerable number of European enterprises that thrive at European capital markets. In 2020, the awards particularly well highlight the diversity of successful SMEs and growth companies listed at European markets. These companies are critical to the economic recovery, and they play an important role in helping us accomplish the EU’s goals of job creation, competitiveness and growth.”*



#### Further information for the Editor:

The runners-up were the following:

##### Category 'International Star'

Proeduca listed on BME (Spain)

SanLorenzo listed on Borsa Italiana (Italy)

##### Category 'Rising Star'

ML System listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange (Poland)

Kompuestos listed on BME (Spain)

##### Category 'Star of Innovation'

Holaluz listed on BME (Spain)

Norbit listed on Euronext Oslo (Norway)

##### Category 'Star of 2020'

Harvia listed on Nasdaq (Finland)

Ten Square Games listed on Warsaw Stock Exchange (Poland)

#### The Awards Jury

The winners were chosen by an independent jury:

- Detlef Fechtner, Chief Editor, Börsen-Zeitung
- Martin Hock, Finance Editor, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.)
- Jean-Pierre Paelinck, President and Secretary General, World Federation of Investors
- Phaedon Tamvakakis, Vice Chairman, Alpha Trust Investment Services
- James Wood, Small Cap Specialist, Winterflood Securities

#### About FESE

The Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) represents close to 36 exchanges from 30 different countries within the EU, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland. For further information please visit [www.fese.eu](http://www.fese.eu).

#### About EuropeanIssuers

EuropeanIssuers is a pan-European organisation representing the interests of publicly quoted companies across Europe to the EU Institutions. We seek capital markets that serve the interests of their end users, including issuers. For more information, please visit [www.europeanissuers.eu](http://www.europeanissuers.eu).

#### About the European Commission

The Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs (DG GROW) of the European Commission develops and implements a range of policies to improve access to finance for SMEs in the EU. SMEs are critical to European economic recovery and to accomplishing the EU's goals of job creation, competitiveness and growth. For more information, please visit [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/access-to-finance_en).

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