



Pan-European ELITE platform dedicated to SMEs is presented in Spain

- *ELITE is a pan-European platform accelerating companies' growth by connecting them with advisors and investors, and providing qualified training*
- *Over 200 companies, 150 advisors, and 70 investors are already part of the ELITE community*
- *Exclusive programme for growth-oriented European companies*
- *Collaboration with FT – IE Corporate Learning Alliance, to create dedicated Spanish programme*

Today ELITE, the London Stock Exchange Group's pan-European platform dedicated to SMEs, has been presented at IE Business School in Madrid.

Launched in 2012, ELITE is designed to sustain and accelerate companies' growth through an innovative two year programme of managerial development, helping to foster competitiveness, visibility, and attractiveness toward investors.

The ELITE companies create a community of more than 200 European businesses brought together by the programme with the ultimate ambition of facilitating their growth and creating a new cultural approach to financial markets.

150 advisors (banks, financial advisers, legal firms, etc.) and 70 investors help make up the ELITE community and contribute to create a vibrant environment where companies can access visibility and networking opportunities.

Press Release

4 March 2015



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In Spain, the programme is tailored to the local and highly-diversified economic structure of the country, to offer to SMEs the capabilities required to interact with the international financial community.

ELITE partners in Spain are: FT – IE Corporate Learning Alliance; Cepyme; UK Trade & Investment; Instituto de la Empresa Familiar, Informa, and a number of advisers and investors who are keen to support companies in their growth path.

Barbara Lunghi, Head of the ELITE programme, said:

“ELITE in Spain addresses ambitious companies with a strong desire to grow and internationalize. It is positioned at the centre of a broader pan-European ELITE structure, helping SMEs cooperate and prepare to raise capital to face international challenges. Spain’s industrial and geographical diversification, and panoply of small to medium sized, often family-run businesses with growing ambitions to play a role on the international stage, will strongly benefit from the access to such a dynamic community.”

How ELITE works

ELITE aims to enhance the growth prospects of companies through a unique three stage package including education, business support, coaching and access to advisers, investors and business leaders:

Stage 1

A comprehensive training programme, delivered by FT – IE Corporate Learning Alliance and coordinated by Academy, London Stock Exchange, to stimulate organisational review and change.

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Stage 2

Companies progressively adopt new management practices in order to be prepared to access long term financing opportunities.

Stage 3

Companies capitalise on the benefits of the first two phases to support the development of new business opportunities and to prepare for access to a broader set of advisers and investors.

To find out more about ELITE: www.elite-growth.com

To find out more about the ELITE programme in Spain: www.elite-growth.es

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About ELITE:

ELITE offers an innovative approach to business development, including a training program, an online working zone supported by a tutorship model and direct access to the financial community through dedicated digital community facilities.

In keeping with LSEG's Open Access policy, ELITE offers companies introductions to all financing options, including Private Equity and Venture Capital, debt products as well as stock market listings. The programme's long term goal is to help build a truly joined up, pan-European funding ladder for ambitious, growing businesses.

The ELITE community today includes more than 150 advisers and investors and as part of their journey through ELITE, management teams will be guided on how to adapt and shape their businesses for further long-term growth and how to increase their visibility and attractiveness to potential investors. First launched in Italy in 2012 and the UK in 2014, there are now over 200 companies that have joined the programme.

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For advisers, investors and academics the ELITE programme presents a screened pool of exciting, dynamic companies and entrepreneurs open to advice, opportunities and connections that the programme is designed to provide.

Notes to Editors:

About London Stock Exchange Group:

London Stock Exchange Group (LSE.L) is a diversified international exchange Group that sits at the heart of the world's financial community. The Group can trace its history back to 1801.

The Group operates a broad range of international equity, bond and derivatives markets, including London Stock Exchange; Borsa Italiana; MTS, Europe's leading fixed income market; and the pan-European equities platform, Turquoise. Through its markets, the Group offers international business, and investors, unrivalled access to Europe's capital markets.

Post trade and risk management services are a significant and growing part of the Group's business operations. LSEG operates CC&G, the Rome headquartered CCP and Monte Titoli, the significant European settlement business, selected as a first wave T2S participant. The Group is also a majority owner of leading multi-asset global CCP, LCH.Clearnet.

The Group offers its customers an extensive range of real-time and reference data products, including SEDOL, UnaVista, Proquote and RNS. FTSE calculates thousands of unique indices that measure and benchmark markets and asset classes in more than 80 countries around the world.

London Stock Exchange Group is also a leading developer of high performance trading platforms and capital markets software. In addition to the Group's own markets, over 40 other organisations and exchanges around the world use the Group's MillenniumIT trading, surveillance and post trade technology.

Headquartered in London, United Kingdom with significant operations in Italy, France, North America and Sri Lanka, the Group employs approximately 2,800 people.

Further information on London Stock Exchange Group can be found at www.lseg.com