

Private Debt Award 2024: 13 finalists for the seventh edition

The award ceremony will take place on June 26 at the Centro Svizzero in Milan

Milan, June 2024 - The seventh edition of the Private Debt Award is reaching its final stages with **13** private debt and distressed debt/turnaround investing **deals** competing for awards during the ceremony scheduled for the 26th of June at the Centro Svizzero in Milan.

Promoters of the award are **AIFI** and **Deloitte**, with the collaboration of **Economy** and **Il Sole 24ORE**.

This year, prizes will be awarded for the best deals in 2023 in the following categories:

Development (growth projects by internal lines and/or acquisitions aimed at expanding the company's business by entering new segments, geographical areas or by developing new products and/or technologies);

Leveraged buyout/M&A (financing of extraordinary deals, supporting private equity fund managers in leveraged buyouts, or other parties, including structuring the deal directly with the entrepreneur);

Distressed debt/turnaround investing (plans for the redevelopment of financially distressed companies through corporate turnaround deals, in single name, with a predominant injection of new debt by fund operators and similar).

A prize dedicated to Fabrizio Saccomanni will be presented again this year, for governmental commitment that fostered the growth of private debt in our country.

The **Jury**, presided over by Innocenzo Cipolletta and composed of Luigi Abete (honorary president, FeBAF), Andrea Azzolini (head of debt advisory, Deloitte), Guido Corbetta (management and technology professor, Bocconi), Giancarlo Giudici (corporate finance professor, Politecnico Milano), Morya Longo (head of service, Il Sole 24ORE), Sergio Luciano (director, Economy), Giovanni Maggi (president, Assofondipensione), Antonella Mansi (sales and logistics director, Nuova Solmine), Luca Manzoni (head of corporate banking, Banco BPM), Emanuele Orsini (chairman, Confindustria), Dario Voltattorni (general secretary, Confindustria Lombardia) brought to the finals 13 deals closed by eight private debt funds and two distressed debt/turnaround investing funds.

In detail, the finalists in the **development** category are:

- **Anthilia Capital Partners SGR** for the deal **Clevertech**, a company active in the design, production and marketing of machinery and systems for process automation for manufacturers of consumer goods;
- **Anthilia Capital Partners SGR** and **Clessidra Capital Credit SGR** for the deal

Florence Group, a group that consolidates Italian companies active in contract manufacturing of high-end clothing for global luxury brands;

- **Finint Investments SGR** for the deal **Lefay Resorts**, a company active in the development and management of luxury resorts;
- **Finint Investments SGR** for the **Selini** deal, resin moulded thermoplastics supplier, specialised in the conception, design, development and production of customised and finished products made of polymeric and technopolymer materials;
- **SICI SGR** and **Gepafin** for the deal **Birra Flea**, a company operating in the production and marketing of craft beer;
- **SICI SGR** for the deal **Tenute Piccini**, a company active in production, ageing, bottling and wholesaling of wine.

For the **leveraged buyout/M&A** category, the finalists are:

- **Anima Alternative SGR** for the **Gnutti Cirillo** deal, a mechanical company for the construction of equipment and moulds, specialised in hot forging and mechanical processing of brass and other non-ferrous metals;
- **Finint Investments SGR** and **Anthilia Capital Partners SGR** for the deal **Business School24**, a company active in training services for students, professionals and companies;
- **Green Arrow Capital SGR** for the deal **Primo**, a network of dental clinics located in urban centres;
- **Green Arrow Capital SGR** for deal **Z1**, investment vehicle used by managers of a club deal to make investments in target companies operating in different sectors including aerospace and nutraceuticals;

- **Riello Investimenti SGR** for the **Omnia Advanced Materials** deal, group operating in the 'Specialty Paper' sector, producing impregnation, gasket and filtration papers.

Finally, for the **distressed debt/turnaround investing** category, the finalists are:

- **illimity SGR** for the deal **Noberasco**, a company active in the organic segment of dried, soft and dehydrated fruit;
- **Nextalia SGR** for the **Energy Green City** deal, a company retailing electricity and gas to residential, commercial and industrial customers.

"In 2023, the private debt market saw funding grow to over one billion, the system therefore believes in this tool for the growth and development of companies," says **Innocenzo Cipolletta, president of AIFI**. "This year, as last year, we have a good number of finalists, 13, well distributed even in the different categories, demonstrating the variety of practical applications that private debt can have. One last piece is missing: a system action that allows funds to be larger in size so as to strengthen a market that has enormous growth potential".

"The year 2023 has shown a strong interest from international operators who are increasingly present on domestic Mid Cap deals, the cut in rates and a more expansive economic policy will lead to a reduction in the cost of Alternative lending making it increasingly competitive given the greater flexibility and leverage it can offer compared to traditional bank financing," says **Antonio Solinas CEO of Deloitte Financial Advisory**

AIFI, the Italian Association of Private Equity, Venture Capital and Private Debt, was established in May 1986 with the aim of developing, coordinating and representing, at institutional level, the players active on the Italian venture capital investment market. The Association is an organisation of financial institutions that permanently and professionally carry out investments in companies, in the form of venture capital, through the assumption, management and disposal of shareholdings mainly in unlisted companies, with an active development of the investee companies.

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