

22nd edition of the Claudio Dematté Private Equity of the Year® Award: 19 deals in the final

Milan, November 2025 - AIFI, together with main partner **Intesa Sanpaolo**, with the support of **EY** and with the participation of **Corriere della Sera**, **Il Sole 24 Ore**, **SDA Bocconi** and **Borsa Italiana**, promotes the 22nd edition of the Claudio Dematté Private Equity of the Year® Award.

This year, **19 deals** by **20** private equity and venture capital **investors** were selected for divestment between August 2024 and July 2025. The award ceremony will be held in attendance at the Museo della Scienza e della Tecnologia in Milan on 18 December, starting at 5.30 pm.

The Jury that proclaimed the finalists, chaired by Innocenzo Cipolletta, is composed of: Francesco Billari, Giampio Bracchi, Giovanni Brugnoli, Mirja Cartia d'Asero, Stefano Caselli, Silvana Chillelli, Stefano Firpo, Aldo Fumagalli, Marco Ginnasi, Gian Maria Gros-Pietro, Sandra Lanzi, Daniele Manca, Andrea Moltrasio, Roberto Nicastro, Umberto Nobile, Claudia Parzani, Angelo Provasoli, Andrea Sironi, Fabio Tamburini, Fabrizio Testa and Federico Visconti.

Prizes will be awarded for the best deal:

Venture Capital: venture capital investment made in the early stages of the life of a company (including seed, start-up and later stage ventures);

Expansion: minority investments aimed at supporting the development programmes of existing companies;

Buy Out: deals involving the purchase of a majority or full stake in the company by private equity funds in conjunction with the management (also includes Replacement deals);

This year too, an award will be presented for the **best ESG deal**, aimed at highlighting the investment that has most distinguished itself in the implementation of environmental, social or governance practices.

In detail, the finalists in the **Venture Capital category** are:

➤ **CDP Venture Capital and Zest** for the **Vikey** deal, a startup offering a property access and document management service via a self-check-in platform mainly dedicated to holiday apartments, B&Bs and hotels;

- **Doorway and CDP Venture Capital** for the **ACBC** deal, a startup that manufactures and markets footwear and accessories incorporating low-impact materials;
- **Vertis and Zest** for the **Checkmoov (Fitprime)** deal, a platform specialising in corporate wellbeing.

For the **Expansion category**, the finalists are:

- **Aurora Growth Capital** for the **Exacer** deal, a manufacturer of commercial catalyst supports;
- **Friulia and FVS** for the **Eliriulia** deal, a helicopter player whose main services are helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) and forest firefighting (AIB);
- **FSI** for the **Lynx** deal, a system integrator specialising in the design and implementation of solutions to support large organisations operating in the utilities, banking, insurance and public administration sectors;
- **FVS** for the **IQT** deal, an engineering and architecture firm specialising in the design of telecommunications, energy, water resources and building digitisation infrastructure;
- **SICI** for the **3M** deal, a company operating in the aluminium smelting sector and supplier of powertrain components for specific segments of the automotive market.

For the **Buy Out category**, the finalists are:

- **Aksia** for the **Content Group** deal, a contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) active in the development and contract manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and medical devices, with a focus on ophthalmology and inhalation solutions;
- **Aksia** for the **MIR – Medical International Research** deal, a company operating in the field of spirometry and telemedicine;
- **Alcedo** for the **Gourmet Italian Food** deal, a company specialising in the production of ready meals and snacks;
- **Alto Partners** for the **Millefili** deal, a company active in the production and distribution of fine yarns for knitwear;
- **Ambienta** for the **Namirial** deal, a buy-and-build project in the digital transaction management (DTM) sector;
- **Argos Fund** for the **Fulgard** deal, an Italian player active in the fields of fire safety, occupational medicine, training and safety consulting;
- **Azimut** for the **Sicer** deal, a company active in the production of mission-critical products necessary for the manufacture of high-end ceramic tiles;
- **Cinven** for the **Arcaplanet** deal, a brand active in the pet care retail sector in Italy;

- **Consilium and Progressio** for the **Gelit** deal, a company specialising in the production of high-quality frozen ready meals;
- **Gradiente** for the **Argos** deal, a company active in the supply of advanced industrial surface treatments offering solutions for metals, plastics and carbon fibre;
- **Nextalia** for the **Diagram** deal, a company specialising in technologies for the agricultural sector (agritech) that offers digital solutions to farmers, food processing companies, financial services and public administrations.

"In this 22nd edition, we have 20 players who have submitted a total of 19 deals, demonstrating the ability of private equity and venture capital to support initiatives with very different business models, sizes and strategic objectives, confirming their role in the development of the real economy" - stated **Innocenzo Cipolletta, Chairman of AIFI** - "The approximately 2,400 companies in the portfolios of private equity and venture capital funds, with a total historical value of more than 85 billion euros, demonstrate the depth and solidity of the Italian market. These figures highlight the still vast potential and the ability of alternative finance to have a concrete impact on the growth and competitiveness of businesses".

AIFI, the Italian Association of Private Equity, Venture Capital and Private Debt, was established in May 1986 and is internationally recognised as the institutional and promotional representative of private capital activity. AIFI associates financial institutions that, permanently and professionally, invest in unlisted companies, developing them and offering debt that are flexible and adaptable to the needs of individual companies. The Association also brings together an important network of institutions, institutional investors and professionals who are interested in the development of the industry. In addition to representing its members and being a point of reference for the main analysis and research in the field of alternative investments, AIFI plays an important role in the cultural dissemination of financial markets.

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