# First edition of the Executive in Private Equity Award: CEO and Management Team of Namirial win

- *Special Buy&Build Award: CEO and Management Team of DGS, a deal by H.I.G. European Capital Partners;*
- *Special Mention Finance: CFO of Beautynova, a deal by Bluegem Capital Partners;*
- *Special Mention Human Resources Management: CHRO of Namirial, a deal by Ambienta SGR;*
- *Special Mention Technology/IT: CIO/CTO of DGS, a deal by H.I.G. European Capital Partners.*

**Milan, 12 October 2026** – **AIFI**, in collaboration with **EY-Parthenon** and **Onexecutive** and with the participation of **Corriere della Sera**, **Il Sole 24 Ore** and **SDA Bocconi**, promotes the first edition of the Executive in Private Equity Award.

The Award was established with the aim of recognising the most significant value creation experiences in the Private Equity and Venture Capital context, with particular attention to the teamwork of the CEO and the Management Team as a whole, with reference to their execution capabilities during the investment period, the quality of strategic decisions and their ability to carry out transformation processes. The Award aims to recognise not only the economic and financial results achieved, but also the transformation process undertaken by the company and teamwork as an enabling factor in achieving the objectives of growth, competitive strengthening and medium- to long-term sustainability.

The winners were selected from **nine CEOs and Management Teams** of portfolio companies backed by **eight private equity investors** and involved in finalist deals in the 2023, 2024 and 2025 editions of the Claudio Dematté Private Equity of the Year® Award.

The **Jury**, chaired by Innocenzo Cipolletta, is composed of Alessandro Bonacina, Stefano Caselli, Carlo Festa, Alberto Moro, Andrea Moschetti, Umberto Nobile, Stefano Pileri, Stefania Piredda and Nicola Saldutti.

After analysing the profiles of the finalist CEOs and Management Teams and their contribution to value creation, the Jury awarded the **Executive in Private Equity Award 2026 to the CEO and Management Team of Namirial**, a deal by **Ambienta SGR**. Namirial is a buy-and-build project in the digital transaction management (DTM) sector.

The **Special Buy&Build Award** was presented to the CEO and Management Team of **DGS**, a deal by **H.I.G. European Capital Partners**. DGS is a company specialising in providing digital solutions for the transformation of business processes, cybersecurity services and management consulting.

The Jury also awarded three Special Mentions dedicated to specific management functions. The **Special Mention Finance** was awarded to the CFO of **Beautynova**, a deal by **Bluegem Capital Partners**, a company operating in the professional hair care products sector;

the **Special Mention Human Resources Management** to the CHRO of **Namirial**, a deal by **Ambienta SGR**;

the **Special Mention Technology/IT** to the CIO/CTO of **DGS**, a deal by **H.I.G. European Capital Partners**.

“With this first edition, we want to put at the centre the people who, together with investors, concretely lead companies' growth and transformation processes. Capital is essential, but it is the quality of management, execution capabilities and the sharing of a strategic vision that translate an investment project into value creation over time. Rewarding CEOs and Management Teams therefore means recognising the decisive role of human capital in the success of private equity deals and in the development of portfolio companies,” said **Innocenzo Cipolletta, Chairman of AIFI**.

“In private equity deals, value creation depends on management's ability to translate the investment plan into concrete and lasting results. This Award recognises the contribution of CEOs and management teams who have led transformation processes, strengthening the competitiveness of portfolio companies and laying the foundations for sustainable growth over time,” said **Umberto Nobile, Head of Private Equity at EY Italia**.

“This first edition has allowed us to observe closely how, among companies involved in private equity deals, it is essential to evolve in terms of leadership, skills and organisation. The stories of the finalist companies show different paths, but one common element: management's ability to support change, make complex decisions, integrate diverse businesses and build structures capable of fostering growth over time, without losing the assets and strengths they started with. It is this dimension, less immediately apparent but which is then reflected in the figures and becomes decisive for the sustainability of growth, that we wanted to recognise with this award,” said **Stefania Piredda, Managing Partner of Onexecutive**.

**AIFI**, *the Italian Private Equity, Venture Capital and Private Debt Association, was established in May 1986 and is internationally recognised for its institutional representation and promotion of private capital activities. AIFI brings together financial institutions that regularly and professionally invest in unlisted companies, supporting their development and offering flexible debt instruments tailored to the needs of individual companies. The Association also brings together an extensive network of institutions, institutional investors and professionals interested in the development of the industry. In addition to representing its members and serving as a reference point for major analyses and research on alternative investments, AIFI plays an important role in promoting financial market awareness and knowledge.*

*As part of EY's broader global strategy,* "All in", **EY-Parthenon** *brings the expertise of 25,000 Strategy and Transactions professionals to the strategic transformations of companies, Private Equity firms and institutions, together with the unparalleled multidisciplinary expertise of more than 400,000 EY professionals and specialists across 150 countries worldwide, integrating auditing, technology consulting, risk management, tax and legal advisory services, providing innovative, multidisciplinary and cross-functional solutions that are unique in the market.*
*At a time of geopolitical uncertainty and technology-driven accelerated transformation, demand for consulting services is evolving. EY-Parthenon responds to these new needs by providing strategic and M&A advisory services with concrete and measurable value, with significant capabilities in managing execution and implementation phases, developing solutions that work in practice, with the aim of helping to shape the future with confidence.*

**ONEXECUTIVE** *is an independent, B Corp-certified boutique specialising in Governance and Executive Search. It supports entrepreneurs and investors in strategic decisions regarding organisation, leadership and corporate structures, with in-depth knowledge of the market and economic dynamics and particular attention to the culture and values that define their identity.*

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