

**THE “BASKET BOND - SUSTAINABLE ENERGY” PROGRAMME KICKS OFF
WITH THE FIRST TWO MINIBONDS STRUCTURED AND UNDERWRITTEN BY ILLIMITY
AND ISSUED BY EGEA AND COMAL FOR A TOTAL OF 17 MILLION EURO**

Milan, 29 July 2022 – The first two minibond issues carried out as part of the “Basket Bond - Sustainable Energy” programme, conceived by Eni S.p.A. (“**Eni**”) and developed and promoted, for their respective areas, by **ELITE** and illimity Bank S.p.A. (“**illimity**” or the “**Bank**”) as a means of fostering energy transition and improving the sustainability profiles of the issuers, have been finalised over the past few days.

The issuing companies, EGEA S.p.A. (“**EGEA**”) and Comal S.p.A. (“**Comal**”), were backed by illimity which acted as underwriter and arranger, coordinating and structuring both operations.

The first minibond, worth 10 million euro, was issued by EGEA, the state-owned-private multiservice company operating in the energy and environment sectors and having a significant local and national presence. EGEA, headquartered in Alba, is a leader in the so-called “*Italia di provincia*” thanks to a “*Glocal*” approach that combines strong global industrial expertise with attention to the local area and the communities in which it operates. The company bases its growth on the sustainable breakthrough, digital innovation and inclusive development through the various services it offers, ranging from the sale of electricity and gas to environmental health, sustainable mobility and the production of renewable energy with more than 30 technological state-of-the-art sites built into the surrounding setting.

The second minibond, worth 7 million euro, was issued by Comal, a company listed on the Euronext Growth Milan exchange (previously AIM Italia), which operates in the plant engineering sector for the production of energy from renewable sources and specialises in the construction of high power photovoltaic plants using the EPC (Energy Performance Contract) and O&M (Operations & Maintenance) formula.

Consistent with the objectives of the “Basket Bond - Sustainable Energy” programme, the issuing companies provided the arranger with a detailed plan of the investments required to achieve the sustainability objectives, and it was therefore possible to ensure that both will use a significant portion of the new financing for projects supporting energy transition and sustainable growth.

The “Basket Bond - Sustainable Energy” programme is intended for SMEs having projects and investment programmes that contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, thereby improving the company's sustainability profile. Businesses involved in an energy transition path and having the ambition of improving their industrial processes and business models will therefore be able to fund, for example, practical initiatives such as plant renovation to improve energy efficiency and the environmental impact improvement, access to renewable energy sources, sustainable mobility, the introduction of circular economy models, the safeguarding of workers' health and safety and the formation and creation of new skills.

Fabiano Lionetti, Head of Investment Banking in **illimity**, commented: *“We are pleased to have supported EGEA and Comal in structuring the operations, in this way giving the official launch to the ‘Basket Bond – Sustainable Energy’ programme in practice. As always, we are on the side of the SMEs on their path towards innovation and sustainability”.*

Enrico Fagioli, Head of Growth Credit Division in **illimity**, stated: *“For us this is an especially significant programme, in terms of both the quality of the partners involved in the project and the possibility of further supporting the sustainable growth of Italian businesses and their energy transition, of particular importance in such a complex period as the current one. We will therefore continue to work with commitment in this direction backed by a pipeline that will see us close new deals soon”.*

Rossano Francia, Head of Vendor Management & Development in **Eni**, added: *“In what is a complex macroeconomic and geopolitical scenario, energy transition represents a growth opportunity for all companies. We therefore follow with considerable interest businesses which, by taking part in the ‘Basket Bond – Sustainable Energy’ programme, show that they want to commit themselves to sustainable growth and invest in practical initiatives which are not only a means of setting their sights on achieving the SDGs but also of supporting Eni’s path towards energy transition”.*

Marta Testi, CEO of **ELITE** remarked: *“These first two issues are an important part of the ‘Basket Bond – Sustainable Energy’ programme, an initiative created together with Eni and illimity and forming part of the sustainability projects of ELITE and of the Euronext group, of which we are a member. ELITE has always been committed to supporting the sustainable growth of small and medium businesses, key assets of the real economy. Investing in the sustainable growth of the supply chains means investing in the country’s entrepreneurial fabric as a way of having more solid businesses capable of innovating and competing at an international level”.*

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illimity Bank S.p.A.

illimity is the high-tech banking group founded and headed by Corrado Passera that was created with the aim of responding to specific market needs by way of an innovative and specialist business model. More specifically, illimity extends financing to high-potential SMEs, purchases distressed corporate loans and services these through its platform neprix, and provides digital direct banking services through illimitybank.com. illimity SGR, which sets up and manages alternative investment funds, the first of which dedicated to UTP loans, is also a member of the Group. The story of the illimity Group began in January 2018 with the launch of the special purpose acquisition company SPAXS S.p.A., which ended with a record 600 million euro being raised on the market. SPAXS subsequently acquired Banca Interprovinciale S.p.A., with the resulting merger between the two giving rise to “illimity Bank S.p.A.” which has been listed on the Italian Stock Exchange since 5 March 2019 (ticker “ILTY”), first on the MTA exchange and since September 2020 on the Star segment (now Euronext Star Milan). The banking group, headquartered in Milan, can already count on over 760 employees and ended the first quarter of 2022 with assets of around 4.9 billion euro.