

PRESS RELEASE

Gardant is Servicer of a three-year EUR 100 million basket bond plan to support Italian SMEs

The plan was launched by Sella, Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Medio Credito Centrale. The bond issues will be listed on ExtraMOT PRO3, the segment of Borsa Italiana dedicated to minibonds.

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Gardant, market leader in Italy in the credit management sector both as servicer and investor, with over EUR 40 billion (GBV) under management and a primary focus on SMEs and corporates, has been appointed *servicer, corporate servicer, calculation agent, paying agent, monitoring agent and representative of the noteholders* as part of a basket bond programme for a total value of EUR 100 million aimed at financing the growth projects of Italian SMEs and strengthening their competitive positioning at international level.

"We are very proud to take part in an operation that aims at supporting the productive fabric of our country," **Mirko Briozzo, CEO of Gardant**, explains, *"As well as to provide our partners with our skills and our professionals, in an ambitious and technically complex project; Gardant has thus confirmed itself as a pole of excellence in Italy in the securitisation sector and in the structuring of complex operations."*

"This is the first operation in which we participate as a service provider since Gardant was founded," **Paolo Peruzzetto, Head of Business Development**, says. *"We will obviously take advantage of all the skills and track record that our team has built up over the years as servicers of over EUR 40 billion of securitised loans, and we confirm ourselves as a partner capable of accompanying clients in the design and implementation of plans that require a high degree of technicality and expertise."*

The bond issues will be listed on ExtraMOT PRO3, the segment of Borsa Italiana dedicated to minibonds, which provides market visibility for SMEs and Mid-Caps that adhere to the initiative. The first operation has a total value of EUR 24.5 million and was structured through two bonds, the first of EUR 20 million and the second of EUR 4.5 million.

The programme was promoted by Banca Sella as arranger through its Corporate & Investment Banking division. Cassa Depositi e Prestiti and Medio Credito Centrale act as anchor investors, each underwriting 40% of the issues, while Banca Sella will underwrite the remaining 20%. The law firm Chiomenti is participating in the initiative as deal counsel.

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