ICOP WINS THE EUROPEAN SMALL AND MID-CAP AWARD 2025 IN THE "SUSTAINABLE STAR" CATEGORY

European recognition in Copenhagen for the company's structural commitment to sustainability and responsible innovation

Basiliano (Udine), November 11, 2025 – ICOP S.p.A. Società Benefit, an underground engineering company and one of the leading European operators in the field of special foundations and microtunnelling, has won the **European Small and Mid-Cap Award 2025** in the **"Sustainable Star"** category.

The award ceremony, promoted by the European Commission, EuropeanIssuers, the Federation of European Securities Exchanges (FESE) and the European Investment Fund (EIF), took place in Copenhagen as part of the European Commission's **SME Assembly 2025.**

The "Sustainable Star" Award celebrates companies that place sustainability, corporate citizenship, and good governance at the core of their strategy. The independent European jury acknowledged ICOP for successfully integrating ESG principles across every area of its business, developing technical, organizational, and social solutions that create value for the environment, people, and communities.

ICOP was selected by Borsa Italiana to represent Italian companies nominated for the European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2025, with its candidacy sponsored for the company's outstanding ESG performance and integrated sustainability approach.

"For us, sustainability is not a separate goal but the very essence of our way of doing business," said **Piero Petrucco, CEO of ICOP**. *"Our core business, such as microtunnelling, was born to reduce the environmental impact of infrastructures, protect the soil, and improve the quality of life for communities. We thank Borsa Italiana for selecting us as a national model of sustainable enterprise and the jury for this recognition at the European level. This achievement rewards a collective journey built on the daily commitment of all our people and partners."*

The European Small and Mid-Cap Awards

The **European Small and Mid-Cap Awards** aim to promote best practices and encourage more small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access capital markets through IPOs. This is a joint initiative of the **European Commission's Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs**, **EuropeanIssuers**, **FESE**, and the **European Investment Fund (EIF)**.

SMEs represent the backbone of the European economy today and for the future: they account for over 98% of all European businesses, generate two-thirds of employment, and contribute to around 60% of the EU's gross value added. As a driving force for entrepreneurship, innovation, and growth, SMEs need a supportive financial environment that enables access to capital markets.

The Awards Ceremony, launched in **2013** as a joint initiative by **EuropeanIssuers** and **FESE** with the support of the **European Commission**, has since **2025** included the **EIF** as an official partner. Since 2020, the Awards have been an integral part of the European Commission's annual SME Assembly.

The European Small and Mid-Cap Awards not only highlight outstanding European companies but also showcase the diversity of Europe's capital markets. By promoting stock market listings of growth-oriented companies, the Awards contribute to the European Union's broader goals of fostering innovation, competitiveness, and long-term sustainable growth.

Borsa Italiana's selection to represent Italian companies

ICOP was selected by Borsa Italiana to represent Italian companies nominated for the **European Small and Mid-Cap Awards 2025** in the "Sustainable Star" category. The nomination was sponsored in recognition of ICOP's results in ESG performance and its integrated sustainability approach.

In **2024**, ICOP further improved its ESG performance, achieving an overall score of **96.4** in the **B Impact Assessment**, a significant increase from **93.5** in 2023, confirming the strength of its sustainable and responsible management path.

Among ICOP's main sustainability initiatives:

- **Reduction of greenhouse gas emissions:** target to reduce CO_2 emissions by 50% by 2030 compared to 2019.
- **Energy efficiency:** use of low-impact technologies such as microtunnelling, which reduces land consumption and emissions.
- **Corporate welfare:** free services including an on-site zero-km canteen and a summer camp for employees' children.
- **Social responsibility and international cooperation:** corporate volunteering and development projects in South Sudan, including schools, wells, hospitals, and community facilities.
- **Diversity and inclusion:** promotion of an inclusive culture and job placement programs for people with disabilities and refugees.

ICOP has embedded sustainability into every dimension of its business, reducing environmental impact and promoting responsible practices throughout the value chain**. These elements make ICOP a European model of sustainable enterprise.**

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ICOP

Founded in 1920 by the Petrucco family, ICOP is an underground engineering company active nationally and internationally in the fields of special foundations, microtunnelling and maritime works. As the first benefit company in the sector, ICOP operates in the United States through its subsidiary AGH and directly in major European markets, supporting both private and public players – with a strong focus on long-term partnerships – in highly engineered projects related to the development of critical infrastructures (such as the Paris and Copenhagen metro systems) and the strengthening of energy and water transport networks (gas pipelines, aqueducts). The group has its headquarters in Basiliano (UD) and employs over 1,000 people worldwide.

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