

CDP VENTURE CAPITAL LAUNCHES THE ITALIAN CYBERTECH ACCELERATOR FOR INNOVATIVE START-UPS TOGETHER WITH LEADING INDUSTRY AND TECHNOLOGY PLAYERS

Today marks the start of the call for the selection of start-ups operating in the cybertech and artificial intelligence sector to take part in the Acceleration process scheduled to be launched in autumn in Cosenza, a centre of excellence in IT security.

Rome, 17 June 2021 – **CDP Venture Capital Sgr announces the start of the selection call for CyberXcelerator**, a three-year acceleration programme dedicated to start-ups operating in the cybertech and artificial intelligence sector, **supported by total investments of over 5 million euros**. The launch of CyberXcelerator is **part of the strategy of CDP National Accelerators Network**, which is implemented in the main technology districts across the Italian territory to support the development of skills and entrepreneurship in the innovation sector.

CyberXcelerator will be managed by Startup Wise Guys, one of Europe's most active Accelerators in collaboration with the **University of Calabria** through its **TechNest** incubator, and involves the presence of **leading industrial partners** including **Leonardo**, as the **main partner**, which will make available its skills and technologies for the selection, acceleration and investment phases of the start-ups selected in the early stage, identifying the technological issues of interest in order to build a national supply chain capable of supporting the country's technological independence and the **corporate partner Italgas**, a leader in gas distribution, with over 73,000 kilometres of managed network and approximately 8 million users served. **NTT DATA will be the Accelerator's technology partner**.

The **total assets under management of CyberXcelerator will exceed 5 million euros, 2.5 million euros of which being allocated by the CDP Venture Capital Sgr Accelerators Fund together with Startup Wise Guys**, for the acceleration phase, in addition to **2 million euros for the subsequent follow-ons**, which are added to the **600 thousand euros made available by the industrial partners** of the project.

The **start-ups concerned will be able to apply from today on the website <https://www.cyberxcelerator.com>**, to take in part in the selection of the **programme**, which will **last 22 weeks and will be based** in NTT DATA's offices in **Cosenza**, the world's third research pole in cybersecurity, after the one in Tokyo, Japan, and in Palo Alto, California, and at the facilities made available by the University of Calabria together with its incubator TechNest.

CyberXcelerator will select 30 Italian and international start-ups, which intend to open an office in Italy, with the possibility of accessing financial resources and an acceleration programme with over 250 mentors of the Startup Wise Guys network from all over the world.

CDP Venture Capital SGR

is an asset management company (70% owned by CDP Equity and 30% owned by Invitalia) with over 1 billion euros of assets under management. It aims to make Venture Capital a strategic pillar to Italy's economic development and innovation, creating the conditions for a comprehensive and sustainable growth of the Venture Capital ecosystem. It operates through a series of funds that aim to support start-ups in all their life cycle stages, making both direct and indirect investments.

Startup Wise Guys

is one of the most active Accelerators in Europe and, thanks to a portfolio of over 185 start-ups and over 86 investments made since January 2019, it represents a key player in Italy and Europe. With this major transaction in Italy, Startup Wise Guys consolidates the experience gained with CyberNorth, the only full-time and on-site European CyberSecurity acceleration programme, which in 20Q1 attracted 23.5 million euros of total investments in its portfolio.

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