

October launches “Grow Together”, a large-scale operation aimed at small businesses, in collaboration with 11 major groups

Under the patronage of Mr. Bruno Le Maire, French Minister for the Economy and Finance, AccorHotels, The Adecco Group, Allianz France, Arkéa, Edenred, ENGIE, Iliad, JCDecaux, SUEZ, Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield and Webhelp are participating in this operation to enable their ecosystems of very small and small businesses to access new sources of funding.

Large groups have long been able to borrow outside the traditional banking system and thus diversify their sources of funding. Credit disintermediation is a reality for them; they have simple, easy access to credit. However, disintermediation is still in its early stages for small businesses.

“Since October 2014, a breach in the banking monopoly enables small businesses to borrow directly from private and institutional investors, as well as from their banks. They now have access to the same tools as large companies. However, knowing this and daring to do it are another matter!” adds Olivier Goy, President of October.

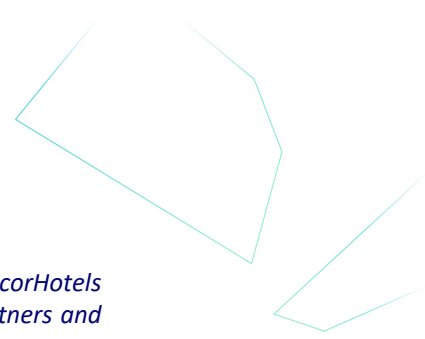
Thanks to the *Grow Together* operation, these 11 leading sponsors, by each borrowing €100,000 via the October loan platform, will enable their customers and suppliers to borrow from the platform too, exempt of administrative fees¹.

In practice, following its own loan via the October platform, each large group gives the right to borrow up to €1,000,000 to its partner small businesses. The goal is to release up to €11,000,000 in funding for the small businesses concerned.

Why did they agree to participate in this operation?

“AccorHotels is proud to be the first participant to launch the “Grow Together” operation. The group has many partners and it is important that we all progress

¹ *Subject to acceptance of the financial project by October. Administrative fees waived up to €1M per large group. Above this threshold, special conditions will apply.*



together to be able to achieve our objectives and fulfil our ambitions. AccorHotels wanted to be part of this facilitation initiative to continue to support its partners and encourage a positive dynamic for us all.” - AccorHotels

“We are proud to support the “Grow Together” initiative because we believe that small businesses located in the regions have a major role to play in the French economy. At Adecco, we help small businesses throughout France with their development projects by enabling them to recruit their future talents.” - The Adecco Group

“Allianz France supports the real economy in close proximity to its customers. We are proud to be part of October’s “Grow Together” initiative and to help French and European young, innovative businesses to develop, to support sustainable economic growth for alternative economic models that encourage the development of small businesses, which is a large market for Allianz France.” - Allianz France

“Encouraging the development of very small and small businesses in its geographic sectors is a major challenge for ARKEA. The “Grow Together” project, in collaboration with October and 10 other well-known partners, fits perfectly with this strategy.” - Arkéa

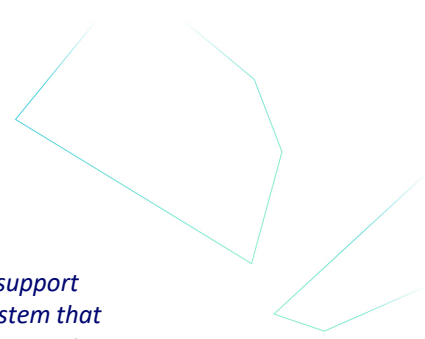
“Inventor of the Ticket Restaurant program and world leader in payment solutions for the workplace, whether in terms of employee benefits, professional mobility or transactions between companies, Edenred is a privileged observer of the economic world. Being mid-way between fintech and regtech, we have observed that the main obstacle to the development and innovation of very small and small businesses, notably in the catering industry, is related to project funding difficulties, due to deadlines, administrative problems and the amounts borrowed. This is why Edenred supports October’s initiative.” – Edenred

“ENGIE is proud to support October’s initiative and to contribute to the development of new sources of funding for entrepreneurs. The “Grow Together” operation corresponds to ENGIE’s commitment to contribute to more harmonious progress, by bringing together those who want to implement collective actions combining performance and durability.” – ENGIE

“Access to certain markets (banks, debenture loans, etc.) is not always possible for very small and small businesses. Crowdfunding offers these companies a new means of finance, along with more traditional methods, to fund their growth. We are therefore delighted to be a part of October’s initiative and to support this innovative project.” - Iliad

“At JCDecaux, we naturally use multiple sources of funding. This is obviously not a possibility for the small businesses that we work with throughout France, in the regions where our presence is strong. We are pleased to be able to open up new perspectives for such businesses and to show that safe possibilities exist for all entrepreneurs.” – JCDecaux

“The circular economy causes traditional business models to change and relies on the development of a multiple, collaborative ecosystem. SUEZ, due to the very nature of its activities, is a committed player in the real and circular economy, encouraging the development of companies, citizens and regional territories.” – SUEZ



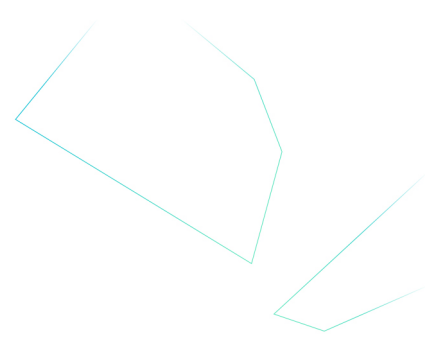
“For Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield, innovation is in our DNA and our actions to support it also take place outside the company’s borders. We have developed an ecosystem that helps innovative companies grow and develop, and ensures that promising ideas receive the resources they deserve. We strongly believe that access to finance should not be an obstacle for projects of growth, that is why Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield has partnered with October to support the diversification of funding sources for SMEs, and to bring audacity back to the heart of entrepreneurship..” – Unibail-Rodamco-Westfield

“Since it was founded in 2000, Webhelp has grown thanks to the faith of its many financial partners. 18 years ago, Webhelp was a small business and so we know just how important it is to offer small businesses easy access to diversified, solid sources of funding. Webhelp supports the "Grow Together" operation in the hope that many projects will develop, helping to strengthen the economic fabric in France. Webhelp already helps various start-ups through its incubation programme, "The Nest by Webhelp", and intends to promote October’s ecosystem among its customers and partners.” - Webhelp

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About October

October is the new name of Lendix. October is a European platform for small business loans, number 1 in continental Europe (source Altfi) and was cited among the top 50 “Leading Established Fintech” in the global “FinTech 100” classification by KPMG and H2 Ventures in 2018 for the third year in a row. October enables small businesses to borrow directly from private and institutional investors. The investors put their savings to good and profitable use while facilitating the funding of the real economy and companies find new, simple and efficient sources of finance outside the bank sector. October has already loaned €240 million to more than 500 development projects proposed by small businesses of all sizes and in all sectors. October operates in France, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands.

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