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## 5th Annual "MoneyGram Award" Call for Entries

### Annual award honors entrepreneurship of immigrants living in Italy

**ROME (March, 13, 2013)** – [MoneyGram](#) (NYSE: MGI), a leading global money transfer company, is accepting submissions for its fifth annual MoneyGram Award, which honors the entrepreneurship of immigrants living in Italy. The deadline for nominations is Monday, May 20, 2013. Details for submitting nominations are available online at [themoneygramaward.com](http://themoneygramaward.com).

The awards ceremony will be Thursday, June 20 in Rome at the Casa del Cinema Villa Borghese.

MoneyGram created the award in 2009 to promote and honor the entrepreneurial spirit and success of companies in Italy founded and run by immigrants. It is the only high-profile award in Italy that recognizes the 3.5 percent of Italian businesses that, according to the Statistical Dossier on Immigration, are founded and run by people born outside of Italy.

According to the Statistical Dossier on Immigration, an annual report studying migration flows in Italy:

- Businesses run by immigrants contribute to Italy's overall economic growth, tallying € 76 billion, representing about almost 6 percent of the national wealth.
- Nearly 70 percent of immigrant entrepreneurs are aged between 30 and 49 years and nearly 13 percent are under 29 years.
- The most popular sectors among immigrants starting their own businesses are retail trade, construction, catering and wholesale

"For five years, our MoneyGram Award has celebrated the entrepreneurial spirit that plays an important part of our country," said Massimo Canovi, vice president of Southern Europe, MoneyGram. "We look forward to judging this year's contestants and celebrating their achievements."

According to Dossier Statistico Caritas Migrantes 2012 and UnionCamere 2012, in 2012, there were nearly 500,000 companies in Italy led by foreigners, an increase of nearly 6 percent from 2011. In addition to the MoneyGram Award, the company also recognizes immigrant entrepreneurs in five special categories:

- Profit
- Innovation
- Employment
- Youth Entrepreneurship, and
- Social Commitment

For the past few years, MoneyGram Award finalists have come from all over the world, including the macro-regions of Africa, South America and Eastern Europe.

Submissions will be judged by a jury chaired by Natale Forlani, director general of the Directorate of Immigration Ministry of Labor; Maria Cristina Bertellini, vice president of Small Industry Confederation; Ivan Malavasi, national president of CAN; Indra Perera, president of CNA World Rome; Pittau Franco, director of immigration statistics, Dossier Caritas; Alessandro Plateroti, deputy Il Sole 24 Ore; and Carlo Alberto Pratesi, marketing professor at the Faculty of Economics of the University Roma Tre.

### About MoneyGram

MoneyGram, a leading money transfer company, enables consumers who are not fully served by traditional financial institutions to meet their financial needs. MoneyGram offers bill payment services in the United States and Canada and money transfer services worldwide through a global network of more than 310,000 agent locations – including retailers, international post offices and financial institutions – in 197 countries and territories. To learn more about money transfer or bill payment at an agent location or online, please visit [moneygram.com](http://moneygram.com) or connect with us on [Facebook](#).

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