



**The Quoted
Companies Alliance**

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Alistair Dawber, *The Independent*
Small Talk: LSE boss backs small caps

Good news for those that depend on the small-cap equity markets this week.

The new chief executive of the London Stock Exchange Group, Xavier Rolet, told the Quoted Companies Alliance's annual dinner that the exchange was committed to the small-cap sector. "We firmly believe the solution to the debt-fuelled binge of recent years is equity. Small and medium-sized enterprises are a central part of our strategy, and essential to the UK," he said.

That will be no doubt welcomed by a raft of groups in sectors such as mining and biotechnology that are desperate for investors to start putting money back into speculative companies.

As ever with the small-cap sector, it was two steps forward and one back, however. Hours before Mr Rolet took to the floor the markets were awash with rumours that Deutsche Bourse, the LSE's rival, was again mulling a bid for the group. Quite what any eventual deal would mean for small cap stocks is, of course, unknown.