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## BioNano Genomics' popularity soars with retail investors after series of share-popping announcements

- Life sciences firm BioNano rockets into top 10 most popular stocks list
  - 65% jump in Moderna share trades in December
  - Nio and Tesla most popular stocks of 2020

BioNano Genomics' popularity with retail investors soared in December following a number of share-popping announcements.

The San Diego-based healthcare firm's share price rocketed more than 500% in December, helping catapult it into the top 10 most popular stocks globally among multi-asset investment platform eToro's 17 million registered users.

Having had no trades in November, BioNano Genomics shot to the 7th most bought stock among retail investors globally in December 2020 on eToro, following a raft of well-received news stories.

BioNano's shares soared last month after its genome mapping platform was accredited in the US by the College of American Pathologists<sup>1</sup>. Speculation of fresh investment and news that it had managed to cling onto its Nasdaq listing, despite falling foul of the exchange's bid price rules<sup>2</sup>, also acted as a tailwind for the healthcare company's share price.

Most popular stocks among eToro clients globally – December 2020			
Rank	Stock	Percentage change in trading activity MoM	November rank
1	Nio	-42%	1
2	Tesla Motors Inc	19%	2
3	Palantir Technologies	-5%	3
4	Moderna	64%	10
5	Alibaba Group	-6%	4
6	Apple	14%	9
7	BioNano Genomics	No trades in Nov	825

<sup>1</sup>

<https://www.tipranks.com/news/article/bionanos-genome-mapping-platform-could-be-a-game-changer-says-analyst/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/stock-alert%3A-bionano-genomics-soars-70-2020-12-30>

8	Jumia Technologies	-7%	7
9	Pfizer	-15%	8
10	Amazon	-31%	6

Source: eToro

Retail investors continued to pile money into Moderna after the US drugs regulator approved the firm's coronavirus vaccine for emergency use in December<sup>3</sup>. Trades in the firm shot up 65% in December.

However, investors went cold on rival Pfizer, which has also created a vaccine to defeat Covid-19. The number of investors buying its shares slumped 15% between November and the end of December.

Chinese electric car maker Nio remained the most popular stock on the eToro platform, although the number of investors buying its shares slumped 42% compared with the previous month. Nevertheless, Nio was the most popular stock on the platform in 2020.

The number of investors snapping up shares in Nio rival Tesla shot up 19% last month, as the company entered the S&P 500, meaning the US-based firm held onto its status as the second most popular stock on eToro's platform in December and for the whole of 2020.

**Adam Vettese, analyst at eToro, commented:** *"BioNano Genomics has really come from nowhere in the last month to blast its way into the top 10 most popular stocks among global retail investors for December. At the start of December, its shares were trundling along at around \$0.50, putting it in breach of Nasdaq's bid price rules and threatening its very inclusion on the exchange.*

*"However, it's been a fantastic month of news coverage for BioNano, which has caused a rapid change in investor sentiment and sent the firm's valuation soaring. As well as being given a stay of execution by Nasdaq, speculation that investors wanted to offer it fresh funding and receiving accreditation for its genome mapping platform from the College of American Pathologists acted like a stick of dynamite for its share price.*

*"Some of this momentum has been lost since markets reopened in 2021, but the truth is the firm looks in a far better position now than it did a month ago."*

Most popular stocks among eToro clients globally for the whole of 2020	
Rank	Stock
1	Nio

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/12/18/health/covid-vaccine-fda-moderna.html>

2	Tesla Motors Inc
3	Apple
4	Amazon
5	Palantir Technologies
6	Microsoft
7	Alibaba
8	Facebook
9	Alphabet (Google)
10	NVIDIA Corporation

Source: eToro

**Commenting on the most popular stocks of 2020, Vettese adds:** “A year ago, it would have been unthinkable to suggest that Nio, a largely unknown Chinese electric car maker, would end 2020 as the most popular stock on eToro.

*“Between them, Nio and US rival Tesla have captured the hearts and minds of retail investors, who have clearly embraced the post-carbon evolution that these two firms are driving.*

*“With governments determined to rid their countries of polluting fossil fuels in the next decade or so, it will be the leaders in so-called ‘green’ industries that benefit. At the moment, Nio and Tesla are miles ahead in terms of battery technology, although that could change if more traditional manufacturers get their act together.*

*“Palantir Technologies, the once secretive data analysis firm, also came out of the shadows in 2020, and its rapidly increasing popularity shows how excited investors are by the idea of Big Data and its application in society.*

*“Once again, tech stocks dominate the list of most popular stocks among retail investors globally. While their popularity is not a given, it indicates the tech bull run we have seen over the past few years may have some way to go yet.”*

-Ends-

#### **Notes to editors**

The data in the first table represents the top 10 most bought stocks by global investors on the eToro platform in December 2020. Data accurate as of 04.01.2021. The second table represents the top 10 most bought stocks on the platform for the whole of 2020. Accurate as of 06.01.2021.

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assets they want, from stocks and commodities to cryptoassets. We are a global community of more than 17 million registered users who share their investment strategies; and anyone can follow the approaches of those who have been the most successful. Due to the simplicity of the platform users can easily buy, hold and sell assets, monitor their portfolio in real time, and transact whenever they want.

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