



Press release

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Italy's world-leading provider of restaurant services for people on the move continues European expansion

Spain: Autogrill to provide services on the A7 until 2019

Milan, 23rd February 2001 - Autogrill Spain has obtained a 20-year extension (until 2019) of its concession for all service areas on the A7, the motorway linking France with Spain's Mediterranean coastline (approximately 300 kilometres from Tarragona to Alicante). The licence covers modernisation and extensions to the 12 existing service areas, based on a broad range of products and services that have already been tested in Spain and the rest of Europe. Priority will be given to the Autogrill multibrand model, in which different restaurant services (Ciao, Spizzico and Acafè) are provided in the same location. The planned outlay of 35 million euro will also be used to finance construction of two latest-generation service areas in the Valencia area.

Tarragona – Alicante is one of the most attractive motorway stretches in Spain, with average daily traffic of 20,000 vehicles, which is rising constantly (up 9% in 2000). Revenues for Autogrill food and beverage operations on the A7 for the concession period will be in excess of 650 million euro.

"Autogrill has been in Spain since 1993," said Autogrill CEO Livio Buttignol. "Over the years, the Spanish market has evolved fast and now offers major opportunities for a group like us. Boosting our market share, which already stands at more than 20%, is a key element in our European strategy. We aim to double our turnover in Spain to more than 120 million euro."

Autogrill is the world's leading provider of restaurant services for people on the move and the third largest player in the restaurant services business as a whole. It operates in four continents – North America, Europe, Australia and Asia – through approximately 900 locations and a total of 4,000 sales outlets. Revenues for 2000 are expected to total more than 3 billion euro.

The Group operates in five main sectors: motorway restaurants, airports, shopping malls, railway stations and urban quick-service restaurants.

The parent company is listed on the Milan stock exchange and is controlled by Edizione Holding, the Benetton family's financial holding, which owns 57.09% of equity.