



Press release

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New organization launched effective March 1st 2001

Autogrill: new balance between corporate and European management

Milan, 2nd March 2001 - Effective March 1st 2001, the Autogrill Group has implemented a new organizational structure at the corporate, European, and Italian levels. The new organization features three major levels, i.e. Corporate, Continent (Europe and the USA) and Country/European Region. The change is intended to achieve two main objectives: (1) strengthen each Countries' accountability for the management and competitive development of the business and (2) maximize the important international potential of the Spizzico brand. The General Manager Europe, the General Manager HMSHost, the General Manager Finance & Control, the Information Technology Director, the Licensing Director – whose unit is dedicated to implementation of the concept/brand portfolio (headed by Spizzico) – and the Director of Organization & Human Resources will all report to the Autogrill Group's CEO.

“With a strategy that envisages leadership in concession markets in the countries where we are present and competitiveness in markets without concessions” – explained Livio Buttignol, Autogrill's CEO – “the development and operational levers are entrusted to the Countries, while the central units are dedicated to the pursuit of quality, management efficiency, and innovation. In this type of framework, the European development of Spizzico, which has great potential, is strengthened and assigned to the European functions, coordinated by the QSR Italy Division”.

Autogrill is world leader in catering services for travelers and No. 3 in the restaurant sector as a whole. Present in four continents – North America, Europe, Australia, and Asia – with some 900 locations and a total of 4,000 outlets, the group projects full-year 2000 sales of over € 3,000 billion.

Autogrill is active in five main sectors: restaurants on highways, and in airports, shopping centers, railway stations as well as quick-service restaurants in city centers.

The company, listed on the Milan stock exchange, is 57.09% controlled by Edizione Holding, the financial holding company of the Benetton family.