



Press release

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Two important awards for HMSHost, Autogrill's North American subsidiary

HMSHost ranked number one for food & beverage services at Amsterdam airport and for the Starbucks brand

Milan, 14th February 2003 - HMSHost Corporation, Autogrill's North American subsidiary, has won two important awards: best operator in the "Catering and Service" category at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport and best food & beverage brand operator in a poll organized by "Airport Revenue News" magazine.

The award for catering and service management at Schiphol considered four factors of excellence: **Financial performance.** HMSHost's sales revenues at Schiphol airport topped 55 million euros in 2002, an increase of 10.9% from 2001 despite adverse passenger trends and a complex economic situation.

Operations. HMSHost facilities were awarded one of the highest customer satisfaction scores for 2002.

Commitment to innovation. HMSHost opened a number of new concepts during the year making a significant contribution to the refurbishment of the international hub as a whole. The best new concepts are The Shushi Bar, Coffee Quick and Hot Wox (a ground-breaking Asian restaurant concept).

Excellent relations with airport staff. The most important success factor for HMSHost was its open, transparent approach to communications with airport staff. The Group is proud to work with all the top operators to create value for people on the move.

The "Airport Revenue News" award is the result of a poll of the main airport food & beverage operators. HMSHost won top ranking for introducing the Starbucks brand (for which it has the exclusive in North American airports and motorways) in more than 150 airports in the USA and Canada.

Starbucks offers a full selection of beverages, including espresso coffee, blended coffees and its famous Frappuccino, pastries and sandwiches, as well as a wide range of merchandise.