



Press release

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The Group advances in Northern Europe

Autogrill steps up its operations in Belfast City Airport (UK) with a food & beverage concession

Milan, 22 February 2008 – Autogrill Group (Milan: AGL IM) strengthens its presence in Northern Europe by securing a contract, through its HMSHost Europe airport division, to supply f&b services in three points of sale in the George Best Belfast City Airport, where it already operates the entire retail area through Alpha Group. The ten year contract is expected to yield accumulated sales of over £30m.

The 1,000 square metre sales area covered by the new contract is in the departures area. After renovating the premises, the Group will be introducing international brands like Starbucks Coffee and brands drawing on regional Irish f&b and interior design traditions, such as St. George's Food Market and Bushmills. The former, based on the city's food market of the same name, will offer traditional cooking, while the latter, under the name of the legendary whiskey distillers, will feature a mix of local and international cuisine, wines and spirits. The new locations are scheduled for opening by November 2008.

The Group started up its Northern European operations in 2005 when it won contracts, through HMSHost, to operate airport f&b services in Cork in Ireland and Stockholm in Sweden. In 2006, it built on this with contracts in Copenhagen, Denmark, and in Shannon, Ireland, in 2007. In the first half of 2007, the acquisition of Alpha Group, already operating in Dublin and in Belfast and other UK airports, further consolidated the Group's presence in the region.

Belfast City Airport, with over two million passengers in 2006, offers services to most of the airports in the UK and a number of other European destinations as well. Since 2001, it's seen 76.6% growth in traffic (source: UK CAA – Civil Aviation Authority). Formerly known as Belfast City Airport, it was renamed George Best Belfast City Airport in May 2006, in honour of the famous Northern Irish footballer George Best, who died in November 2005 at the age of 59.

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