



Press release

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Autogrill takes stake in Pastarito, Italy's leading pasta and pizza restaurant chain

Milan, 8th March 2002 - Autogrill has signed an agreement to purchase a 21,61% shareholding in Pastarito, Italy's leading table-service restaurant chain.

The agreement, which gives Autogrill an option to gradually raise its stake, establishes an industrial and commercial partnership aimed at introducing the Pastarito brand in the Autogrill network.

The Autogrill investment is based on a valuation of the Pastarito's equity amounting to 67 million euro.

Pastarito controls a network of approximately 70 restaurants in Milan, Rome, Turin, Bologna and Florence, as well as a location in Paris and one in Barcelona. The business plan provides for the number of locations to double by the end of 2003.

The chain revenue projection for 2002 is approximately 100 million euro.

"The partnership with Pastarito, which is the most important case-history in the Italian catering market over the last few years - said Autogrill Ceo, **Livio Buttignol** - is a key factor in Autogrill plans to improve our positioning and offer of food&beverage services geared to the needs of an urban clientele".

Pastarito restaurants are typically inner-city or suburban locations that target a variety of customers: families as well as singles, and working people who prefer this type of service for lunch or dinner. The average Pastarito facility covers a surface area of 300-500 sq.m., with 150-200 places.

"The agreement with Autogrill is important for the future of our company which has grown rapidly, serving the needs of Italians and exporting the Italian style abroad" commented Pastarito Ceo, **Giancarlo Vigo**. "The partnership enhances our brand value and provides a strong support for our ambitious growth plans".

Pastarito has been advised by Banca Imi