



Press release

Media Relations

Tel +39.02.4826.3250
Fax +39.02.4826.3614
ufficiostampa@autogrill.com
www.autogrill.com

**EBITDA up by 3.6% at 164 million euros (16.8% at unchanged exchange rates): the ratio of EBITDA to net sales rose from 10.4% to 11.5%
Cash flow before tax rose by 8.4% to 143.8 million euros (+22.7% at unchanged exchange rates).**

Profitability increased in the first half. The pre-tax profit rose to 24.2 million (66%). Ebitda and cash flow improved. Sales increased at unchanged exchange rates in all the geographical areas

Milan, 6th August 2003 - Autogrill S.p.A.'s Board of Directors, meeting today, approved the 2003 Half Year Report (*). The Chairman, Gilberto Benetton, expressing satisfaction in the results, pointed out that the performance is "even more significant in an operating environment characterised by extraordinary events such as the war in Iraq, the Sars epidemic and the difficult economic situation".

Group performance in the first half

Net sales. At 30 June 2003, the Autogrill Group had overall net sales of 1,421.4 million euros, an increase of 3.6% at unchanged exchange rates compared to the same period of the previous year. Adjusted for the current exchange rates, since more than 55% of the Group's turnover was obtained in North America, net sales showed a decrease by 6.9%.

Profitability. All the indicators for profitability saw clear progress: EBITDA (**) +3.6% at 164 million euros (+16.8% at unchanged exchange rates), equivalent to 11.5% of net sales compared to 10.4% in the first half of 2002.

Group consolidated cash flow before tax (earnings before tax plus amortization and depreciation) rose by 8.4% (+22.7% at unchanged rates) to 143.8 million, equivalent to 10.1% of net sales (8.7% in the first half of 2002).

Earnings. Pre-tax earnings increased from 14.6 million euros in the first half of 2002 pro forma (***) to 24.2 euros in the first half of 2003 (+66%). Pre tax earnings increased even though the first half of 2003 was characterised by events such as the war Iraq and the Sars, which caused traffic losses, especially in the airport sector (-3.6% according to the A.T.A. data).

The financial situation. In the period the Group undertook capital expenditure of 73.6 million euros, compared to 71.2 in the first half 2002, and acquired 95% of Anton Airfood.



Press release

Media Relations

Tel +39.02.4826.3250
Fax +39.02.4826.3614
ufficiostampa@autogrill.com
www.autogrill.com

Net debt was equal to 1,033.9 million euros, compared to 1,079.6 of 30 June 2002 (919.8 on 31.12.02), with a greater medium and long-term debt structure resulting from a successful ten-year private placement of 370 million dollars.

“The most important data— stated **Gianmario Tondato, Managing director of Autogrill** – evidence the strong improvement of Group profitability. In particular, European Countries begin to show the capacity to achieve the efficiencies the Group have already obtained in Italy and in North America ”.

The North American operations of HMSHost and Anton Airfood

Net sales in North America were 770.8 million dollars compared to 732.4 in the first half of the previous year (a +5.2% increase). The Group’s performance in the airports was particularly significant: 598.3 million euros against 549.6 of the first half of 2002 (+ 8.9%). On a comparable basis revenues increased by 4% against a decrease of traffic by 3.6%. The performance was helped by the Anton Airfood consolidation of 32.9 million dollars of revenues.

The group saw an increase in EBITDA from 86 to 94.3 million dollars (+9.6%). The ratio of EBITDA to net sales also rose from 11.7% in the first half of 2002 to 12.2%.

Important contracts were renewed for the utilisation of brands such as Starbucks and for restaurant services in the airports of Seattle and Minneapolis and in Canada, along Highway 401. New contracts were signed for the airports of Houston and Atlanta. Cumulative sales for the entire life of these contracts is expected to be one billion dollars.

Operations in Europe

Italy. In Italy, the Parent Company Autogrill S.p.A. and its subsidiaries recorded direct sales equal to 485.3 million euros, up by 4.3% compared to the first half of 2002. Motorways (+5.6%) and airports (+12.1%) witnessed the most significant increases. The EBITDA of Italian operations rose to 71.8 million euros (+11%), against 64.7 of the first half of 2002, equivalent to 14.8% of net sales against 13.9% of the previous year.

Other European countries. The Ebitda was positive, increasing from 7.2 to 12.8 million euros, despite the decrease in sales. During the second half and the following year, the Group intends to strengthen the trend of profitability in this area. Net sales were equal to 238.8 million euros, with a decrease by 2,6% compared to the first half of 2002. Positive performances were seen in France, with turnover up by 3.1 and Ebitda by 7.6 against 6.5 million euros compared to the same period of the previous year. In Spain and Greece performance also improve: in Spain net sales up by 4.3%, Ebitda by 21.4%, in Greece net sales up by 5.5%, Ebitda by 1.9%. For the first time since from the acquisition of Passaggio Holding, the Swiss operations reached a positive Ebitda (0,4 million euros), against a decrease in net sales by 9.9% due to the decline of turnover in the airport of Zurich.



Press release

Media Relations

Tel +39.02.4826.3250
Fax +39.02.4826.3614
ufficiostampa@autogrill.com
www.autogrill.com

Outlook

Net sales in the second half are traditionally 15-20% higher compared to the first half of the year. Company performance trends show a strengthening of the positive trends of the first half. The Group intends to improve its planned efficiency program in order to produce increased cash flow and net earnings compared to the year 2002.

* The figures for the Half Year Report 2003 have not yet been independently audited. Attached are the summarized financial figures included in the half yearly report, produced in accordance with the regulations in force.

** EBITDA is earnings before depreciation and amortization, non-recurring income and charges, financial income and charges and income tax

*** Reviewed to homogenise the amortization period for HMSHost goodwill with the estimate of its useful life updated when Full Year 2002 Financial Statements were prepared

The Half Year Report as of 30 June 2003, today approved by the Board of Directors, will be made available to the public by 15 September 2003. Therefore the Company is exonerated from filing the quarterly report as of 30 June 2003, in accordance with the regulations set out in article 82.2 of CONSOB resolution 11971/99.