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Other international airports served by the airline also envisaged Autogrill: Alpha renews exclusive Jordan inflight catering contract for 10 years

Milan, 10th November 2009 – Alpha, Autogrill Group's flight division, has secured a ten year contract extension with Royal Jordanian for the exclusive provision of inflight catering services from the airports of Jordan.

The extension will come into effect in 2011 and will enable Alpha to continue its program of continuous improvement and investment in people, product and infrastructure in both its core airline catering business, as well as its innovative Food and Beverage outlets located at Queen Alia International Airport.

The contract with Royal Jordanian is the main one in Alpha's Jordan portfolio and accounts for 75% of the inflight catering revenues it generates in the country.

Under the terms of the agreement, Royal Jordanian strengthens the partnership entered in 2001 with Jordan Flight Catering Company, a subsidiary of Alpha that operates as Alpha Flight Service and provides inflight catering services for over 20 airlines in Jordan's.

Hussein Dabbas, Royal Jordanian's President and CEO, expressed his satisfaction at reaching this proactive partnership "Royal Jordanian selects its food and beverage offerings for passengers to best suit their known taste and traditions, considering with great care passenger feedback from the regular onboard surveys designed to measure passenger satisfaction".

The agreement includes the possibility of providing catering services to Royal Jordanian flights from other international airports. Alpha would soon start to cater for Royal Jordanian flights from Amsterdam Airport Schiphol to Amman, in addition to catering logistics. Additionally, Alpha offers all the catering services in RJ's business class lounge at Queen Alia International Airport.

In Amman's Queen Alia International Airport, the country's biggest airport and the flag carrier's hub, Alpha also operates six f&b locations.

Lionel Wilton, Alpha Flight's CEO, referred to the "very proactive and transparent relationship Alpha enjoys with Royal Jordanian and the admiration for the dynamic manner in which the airline continues its growth whilst maintaining the highest standards of extremely customer focused on board service and hospitality".

Royal Jordanian Airlines, which moved around 3 million passengers in 2008 (up 18% on 2007 figures), is Jordan's main airline. It operates regular internationals flights and has a fleet of around 30 planes linking around 60 destinations in four continents.

Alpha Flight provides inflight catering and retail services for over 100 airlines in 11 countries. It is a leader in the fast growing market for onboard sales of food and beverages. In the first six months of 2009, Autogrill Group's flight division posted revenues of €182.2m. Its international business in particular saw 4.2% growth, closing the period with sales of €92.1m.