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Autogrill starts up in Egypt with a food & beverage concession at Cairo International Airport

Milan, 12th June 2008 – Autogrill (Milan: AGL IM) continues to expand in high growth markets. The Group is about to open its first food & beverage operation in Egypt, where its airport division HMSHost Europe has secured a contract at Cairo International Airport, Egypt's biggest airport. The five points of sale are expected to generate accumulated sales of approximately €18m over the five year contract.

The proposal was put together in partnership with Sabet, a leading Egyptian operator (motorway service areas, public transport services, f&b services, petrol stations) that also specializes in catering for bus-charters and operates the country's most important motorway service area.

The commercial premises under concession cover 1,000 square metres in the new T3 and are scheduled to open to the public at the same time as the whole terminal, scheduled to open in October 2008. The offering will feature international concepts such as Puro Gusto, an Autogrill Italian cafeteria brand, and Heineken Bar, a contemporary pub specially tailored to the airport's passengers, as well as local brands like Saqqara Café, and Cilantro, Egypt's most popular branded coffee concept.

With over 12 million passengers in 2007 (up 16.7% on 2006), Cairo International Airport is Egypt's main airport and the second biggest in Africa (after Johannesburg); it also serves as hub for the national carrier Egypt Air and links the Africa to Middle East and Europe. Its new Terminal 3 alone is expected to handle over nine million passengers a year (source: Cairo International Airport).

Group operations in the region

The Group is already active in the region, with retail business operated by Aldeasa. Already operating in Jordan since 2000 and Kuwait since 2005, its Spanish subsidiary secured contracts in 2007 to operate the first five duty-free locations in Saudi Arabia, thus widening its range of action beyond national frontiers and proving itself the leading retail & duty-free operator in the Middle East.

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