Press release



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## Autogrill to set up the world's biggest airport retail business

Milan, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2008 – A few weeks after the 100% acquisition of World Duty Free Europe and the completion of the acquisition of Aldeasa, Autogrill S.p.A. (Milan: AGL IM) is putting together the world's biggest airport retail business.

With the control of World Duty Free and Alpha Group's UK retail division (Alpha Retail UK), Autogrill is now the biggest travel retail operator in the UK, with sales of over £565m<sup>1</sup>. The UK retail business will become a single entity under Mark Riches, Chief Executive Officer of World Duty Free.

Alpha Group will focus on the in-flight business (Alpha Flight) to optimise the offering for the UK and other international markets.

Aldeasa CEO José María Palencia will be in charge of Alpha Group's international retail business (Alpha Retail Asia and Alpha Retail US), which will further strengthen the company's business in Asian and American markets and generate the division total revenues of over €880m¹.

The re-organisation of Aldeasa, Alpha Group and World Duty Free, with total revenues of around €1.7 billion a year, is the beginning of a process of integration and implementation of best practices across companies that were once separate. By leveraging economies of across geographical regions and sectors, Autogrill expects to generate synergies of around €40m a year by 2011, thus creating significant value for shareholders.

Mark Riches commented that both Alpha UK Retail and World Duty Free are currently trading ahead of forecast and whilst the market place is challenging, is optimistic that the performance will remain strong. We expect to leverage the benefits of being part of the largest global airport retail business as we immediately begin to identify opportunities as we work through the integration process.

This integration process and the Group's objectives in the airport retail industry will be illustrated in an Investor Day scheduled for mid July.

## **About WDF**

World Duty Free is the largest airport travel retail & duty-free operator in the UK. It operates in seven major airports in the UK, including Heathrow, the world's  $3^{rd}$  biggest hub in terms of passenger traffic. The company is active in all the traditional types of duty-free/duty-paid business, and especially in the beauty segment. WDF manages 58 stores, covering over 18,000 square metres overall, with around 1,900 employees and a total of around 62 million customers. In 2007, the company posted net revenues of £420.5m and EBITDA of £37.4m.

www.worlddutyfree.com

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 2007 revenues.