



Press release

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At Lyons' La Part Dieu station, recently renovated for the high-speed Paris-Marseilles link, Autogrill opens new outlets and takes a major step forward in its growth plans for France

Autogrill at the service of TGV passengers in Lyons. Debut of the first non-Italian ACafe

Milan, 11th June 2001 - At the opening of the new business area developed in Lyons' La Part Dieu station to support the TGV Méditerranée, the high-speed Mediterranean rail link between Paris, Lyons and Marseilles, Autogrill is presenting six new or restructured outlets, including the first non-Italian ACafe.

The opening is scheduled for 12 June.

After Paris, Lyons is France's most important rail node for ordinary transport and, in particular, for high-speed links. Every year, more than 30 million passengers pass through the La Part Dieu station, for approximately 80,000 passengers and 100,000 people per day. Traffic is expected to increase significantly over the next few years, given Lyons' position as a key node in the European high-speed rail network, daily handling more than 46 south-bound trains to Turin and east-bound trains to Switzerland and Germany (Geneva, Zurich, Stuttgart and Frankfurt).

The expansion of the Autogrill offer with the introduction of the new concepts the group is promoting at international level (primarily ACafe and Spizzico) confirms the European growth strategy presented by Autogrill management to shareholders and investors in April. The agreement with the French rail authorities, SNCF, in respect of the Lyons location has a 7-year term, during which time Autogrill expects to record net sales totalling approximately 70 million euro.

Over the next few months, Italy's leading provider of restaurant services for people on the move will take further rapid steps to expand its business in France, where it was recently awarded two major contracts for restaurant services at the railway stations in Avignon and Le Mans. Both contracts are for ten years and are expected to generate new sales of 12 million and 13 million euro respectively in that time.

"We expect to open in Avignon by the end of June, and follow up with Le Mans," said Giovanni Caruso, head of European operations for Autogrill. "We believe that by further strengthening our French railway operations, especially on the high-speed network, we shall achieve important new opportunities to grow our European rail channel business and improve our performance in France."

The SNCF expects the TGV Méditerranée to handle an additional six million passengers by the end of 2003, reaching an annual total of 23 million passengers.

Another event will take place in Italy, on 13 June, with the opening at Falconara (Ancona) of the new "Sanzio ovest" service area with an Autogrill snack-bar and, for the first time, forecourt pump services manned by Autogrill personnel.



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Autogrill Profile

Formed in 1977 as a result of the merger between three major Italian motorway restaurant operators (Pavesi, Motta and Alemagna), Autogrill S.p.A. has been controlled by Edizioni Holding (Benetton family) since 1995 and listed on the Milan Stock Exchange since 1996.

Today, Autogrill is the world's leading provider of restaurant services for people on the move, and the third-largest operator in the modern retail catering business. Present in 16 countries in 4 continents with **44,000** employees, it runs more than **4,000 outlets in 900 locations**: motorway service areas, airports, railway stations, shopping malls and city centres.

Autogrill has operations in Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, Benelux, Greece and Switzerland and is also a leading player in the USA, which accounts for approximately half of its revenues. In 2000, it reported revenues in excess of 3 billion euro.

Autogrill began operations in France in 1993. In 1997, it acquired Société de Gestion de Restaurants et Bars sur Autoroute (Sogerba) and the restaurant activities of the Frantour group. This year, with the new openings at the station of Lyons, the number of Autogrill locations in France (each location comprises a range of group brands) has risen to 87, of which 67 on motorways and 18 in railway stations. The 18 rail locations, which report aggregate revenues of approximately 370 million francs, make Autogrill the leading operator in France of restaurant concessions in railway stations.