



Press release

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With 20% of total group investments, Autogrill confirms growth in Switzerland. Re-organization to meet new market challenges

Matthias Draeger is the new leader of Autogrill Schweiz. New organization structure will improve the offer and profitability

Milan, 14th February 2002 - Matthias Draeger, 34, is the new number one at Autogrill Schweiz. Having joined the company at the beginning of 2002 after a long spell in Gate Gourmet, he now heads an organization that controls 72 sales outlets in Autogrill's four core channels: motorways, airports, railway stations and shopping malls.

Matthias Draeger takes the helm in Switzerland from Peter Herzog, former head of Passaggio Holding (acquired by Autogrill from Bon Appetit in December 2000) and subsequently of Autogrill Schweiz.

After 11 years spent growing the SSG company, establishing Passaggio in Switzerland as a high-profile food and beverage brand for people on the move, and overseeing Passaggio's merger with Autogrill and the re-organization of operations in Austria and Germany, Peter Herzog is leaving the company on his request and in full agreement with senior management to follow a challenging new international career.

Draeger set up an organizational restructuring in order to respond to changes in the competitive scenario and to the developments caused, in the airport channel in particular, by the events of 11 September.

"Accordingly Autogrill Schweiz intends to simplify its cost structure and to improve efficiency" said Matthias Draeger "in part through greater exploitation of corporate staff".

"Autogrill's growth plans in Switzerland, which accounted for approximately 20% of the Group's total investments in 2001, are confirmed in full for all core channels," said Autogrill Group Chief Executive Officer Livio Buttignol. "We intend to enhance our offer to meet the needs of customers and the expectations of concession holders."

Autogrill therefore confirms the strategic role of Switzerland and its commitment to developing through local management the full potential of a market that has a key place in Europe.