



Press release

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**After Houston, co-operation with Fox News Channel continues at Minneapolis**

## **Autogrill awarded contracts to manage 78 spaces at Minneapolis airport. Revenues of around 680 m\$ Expected for the period 2005-2012**

Milan, 7<sup>th</sup> July 2004 - Autogrill Group Inc. (HMSHost Corp. + Anton Airfood Inc.), the North American subsidiary of Autogrill (Milan: AGL.MI), has been awarded some contracts for the renovation of 78 sales areas at St. Paul International Airport in Minneapolis (Minnesota, U.S.A.). The award, for which bids were submitted by the top players in the US industry, is part of a major hub expansion program in which the airport authorities are investing 3,100 m\$.

The contract will generate cumulative revenues of around 680 m\$ over the period 2005-2012.

With 33.2 million passengers in 2003 (+1.75% from 2002), an increase of approximately 40% from 1993 (23.4 million passengers), last year Minneapolis airport reported a return to traffic growth after the slowdown in the wake of September 11. Every year, more than 250,000 flights run by 25 airlines leave St. Paul International Airport bound for 118 destinations, of which over 100 can be reached directly without stopovers.

Winner in 2003 of the International Air Transport Association (I.A.T.A.) award for the best concessions program, St. Paul International Airport is considered to be one of the most efficient airports in the USA. Additionally, it has just been named best airport in the Americas and the world's third best hub (after Frankfurt and Denver) in terms of customer satisfaction.

Autogrill Group Inc. was awarded the St. Paul International Airport location renovation program thanks to the value of the brands and the design proposed. Its offer combines internationally popular names with a portfolio of well-known local and regional brands. The 78 spaces will equally provide Food & Beverage services and Retail operations.