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CREMONINI/GRANADA JOINT VENTURE, AWARDED THE EUROSTAR MAJOR ONBOARD SERVICES CONTRACT ON TRAINS VIA THE CHANNEL TUNNEL

The onboard services will be managed by Momentum, a joint venture set up by Cremonini (51%) and Granada Food Services (49%), from 1 June 2000.

Eurostar Group has awarded a contract for the provision of onboard services on its high speed trains between the UK and mainland Europe via the Channel Tunnel, to a new joint venture which has been established by Cremonini SpA of Italy and Granada Food Services of the UK.

The contract, which will come into effect from 01 June 2000, was awarded to Momentum, a joint venture created specifically to work with Eurostar Group. The share capital of Momentum is 51% held by Cremonini SpA and 49% by Granada Food Services.

The three year contract, with options for a further four years' extension, is worth £40 million (120 billion Lire) annual turnover and over 6,000,000 travellers use Eurostar each year.

Awarding of the contract followed a pan-European competitive tender process, conducted by Eurostar Group, to appoint a new service partner to take over when the current contract expires in May this year. Only the second time this contract has been awarded since the launch of Eurostar services in 1994, it is also the first contract of this size to be awarded by one year-old Eurostar Group, which determines the commercial direction and service development of the Eurostar business.

The Chairman of Momentum will be Mr Frank Whittaker (nominated by Granada) and Mr Joseph Nabil Zaidan (nominated by Cremonini) will be Managing Director. The Cremonini Group's presence within Momentum guarantees the know-how and direct operating experience in the onboard trains catering services business, while the role of Granada is to provide the knowledge of the English market as well as all the support in terms of marketing, finance and human resources management.

Chairman & CEO of Eurostar Group, David Azéma, said,

"In the five years since launch, Eurostar has established itself as market leader and enjoys high levels of customer loyalty. The quality of service onboard Eurostar is a key factor in achieving this. Momentum brings together the expertise and innovative approaches, both from within and outside the rail industry, of two of Europe's leading food service companies, which will help us to develop even higher standards of onboard service for our customers."

Giuseppe Mangano, Chief Executive Officer of Cremonini S.p.A. commented:

"The awarding of this contract represents a very important impetus towards the process of internationalization of our business, and in particular the restaurant services sector. The services onboard Eurostar trains constitute the most important and prestigious market in Europe, in which we are ready to invest new idea and solutions. Cremonini with the award of this contract consolidates its position as one of the major operators in this sector."

Notes to editors:

Eurostar Group Ltd determines the commercial direction and service development of the overall Eurostar business. Eurostar services are jointly operated by Eurostar (UK), French Railways (SNCF), and Belgian Railways (SNCB/NMBS). In the five years since the launch of Eurostar services, over 25 million passengers have travelled on it, with 97% of customers researched stating that they would recommend the service to a friend or colleague. Eurostar is leader on the London/Paris and London/Brussels air rail markets.

Momentum is a joint venture company set up by Cremonini SpA of Italy and Granada Food Services of the UK to provide onboard services on Eurostar services which operate between London and Ashford in Kent and Paris, Brussells, Ille, Calais Frethun, Disneyland Paris and French Alps. **Cremonini spa** owns the majority stake in Momentum of 51%, with Granada Food Services owning 49%.

Cremonini, which has over 3,000 employees and achieved consolidated revenues of Lire 2,019 billion (Euro 1.04 billion) in 1998, is one of the largest food groups in Europe, focusing on three integrated business areas: production, distribution and catering and restaurant activities. The Group which is Italy's absolute leader in beef production and distribution to the catering sector; also has a relevant presence in the restaurant services and catering sector and, in particular, is Italy's leader in supplying restaurant services on-board train and at railway stations.

Total consolidated revenues for the first 6 months of 1999 grew by 7.6% with respect to 1998, increasing to Lire 1,048 billion (Euro 541 million), while consolidated pre-tax profit was equal to Lire 32.6 billion (Euro 16.8 million), an increase of 47%.

Granada Food Services is the second largest contract catering group in the UK – a business worth an annual turnover of £900 million, consisting of 12 companies employing over 45,000 people across 4,200 locations. Its travel business includes operating restaurants and bars at the UK's largest airports, all catering onboard P & O ferries sailing from Portsmouth and the provision of executive lounge services for a number of major airlines. GFS is part of Granada plc, the UK's largest leisure and media group with interests in hotels (including the worldwide Le Meridian chain), restaurants, contract food service, television and home technology.