



THE CREMONINI GROUP: renews its contract with the French railways until 2001.

The Group continues to boost its business in railway catering and on-board food service.

The Cremonini Group - a European leader in the food sector - today received a letter from the French State Railways (SNCF) renewing the contract for on-board catering for TGV trains running between France and Italy until 2001.

The contract, which will be signed in February, concerns management of the dining-car, bar, mini-bar and cafeteria services under the Chef Express trademark on the Paris-Chambery-Turin-Milan run, already managed by Cremonini since 1996.

The agreement confirms Cremonini's leadership in the railway-station and on-board catering sector. In this area the Cremonini Group (which has been working on all Italian trains since 1990 and on high-speed Swiss trains - the Cisalpino - since 1996) has plans to expand its business to foreign, mainly European, countries.

The Cremonini Group is also pursuing growth strategy both internally and by acquisition in the railway-catering sector, whose line of development aims at maximizing the synergy between ground and on-board business.

In detail, since December it has opened three new station buffets (directly run and in franchising) in the cities of Belluno, Brescia and Novara. These new openings bring to 13 the number of stations at which Cremonini handles food service.

It has also acquired the Multiservice company of Modena which, with 1998 billing of over 11 billion lire, prepares fresh and frozen packaged sandwiches for the refreshment stand/sandwich shop channel and for sale on board trains and in railway stations.

Cremonini is one of Europe's most important food groups, with three integrated core businesses: production, distribution, catering.

In detail, it is the Italian leader in absolute in the beef sector (source: Databank 97) and in hotel/restaurant food supply (source: Gira 95/97) and is also highly important in the catering sector, especially on board trains and in train stations.

The Group with 3,000 employees, had total consolidated revenue in 1997 of 1,963 billion lire* (up 12% from 1996), 53% of which was from production (beef, delicatessen meats, spices), 37% from distribution (hotel/restaurant and door-to-door) and 10% from catering. In 1997 the Group's gross operating margin was 95 billion lire*, showing 53% growth from 1996. In 1997 the Cremonini Group had a consolidated net profit of 32 billion lire*/

*all balance data refers to the pro-forma consolidated balance-sheet written to show the Group's profit dynamics in the hypothesis that its structure and business areas would be homogeneous with the consolidation area and the business sectors existent on June 30, 1998. Instead, because of the corporate overhauling that has lately changed the Cremonini Group's structure, the data for the consolidated balances cannot be compared.

Modena, January 29, 1999