

**PRESS RELEASE**

**CREMONININ GROUP: awarded the French State Railways contract for on-board train catering management on the "Paris–Clermont Ferrand" line.**

**The Group's development in the business of railway restaurant services in Europe continues.**

The Cremonini Group– A European leader in the food sector – has been awarded the contract put out to tender by the French State Railways (SNCF) for the assignment of catering services on-board the trains on the Paris Clermont–Ferrand line.

The contract, which will shortly be formalized, regards the management of restaurant services on-board the 16 trains that daily connect the French capital with the city of Clermont-Ferrand.

The services include the management of bars, mini-bars and food trays delivered to seats and, an absolute novelty for the railway sector, the introduction of vending machines on-board trains.

The turnover from these services is expected to be over Lire 10 billion over the three-year contract period.

With the award of this new contract – the second with the French State Railways – Cremonini's leadership in Europe in on-board train catering business is reinforced and the validity of the strategies adopted by the Group in this sector confirmed.

In fact, in the space of a few years, thanks to the high quality standards of the Cremonini Group's services and products, and its capacity to interpret the travellers' needs in an innovative manner, the Group has become the third European player in the railways restaurant services sector with high growth prospects.

Through its Chef Express brand, the Cremonini Group has exclusively managed the on-board restaurant services of the Italian State Railways trains since 1990 and, from 1996, also on the high-speed Swiss trains (Cisalpino) and the French TGV international routes connecting France to Italy. Finally Cremonini, in company with the English Compass Group has since June 2000 managed the catering services on-board the 76 Eurostar Group trains that connect London's Waterloo Station to Paris and Brussels.

The Restaurant Services Division of Cremonini Spa, which serves 60 million customers overall, has over 2,800 employees and is one of the most important operators in the commercial restaurant services sector. In 2000 it achieved total revenues of Lire 286 billion (Euro 147.7 million) up by about 35% with respect to 1999.

**Cremonini**, with 4,361 employees, is one of Europe's largest food groups, with activities focussed in three integrated business sectors: production, distribution and restaurant services

The Group, with total revenues in 2000 of Lire 2,689 billion (Euro 1.388.7 million) is the absolute leader in Italy in the production of beef and meat-based transformed products and in the distribution to food services has, moreover, a significant presence in the sector of restaurant services and, in particular, the leadership in Italy in on-board train catering and at railway stations.

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