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SSP Scoops AOA Award for *the real food company*

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SSP has been named 'Best Service Provider' for *the real food company* at Manchester Airport by the UK's Airport Operators Association (AOA) at an award ceremony held at the AOA's annual conference in London. The awards recognise key suppliers to the UK airports industry, from airlines, air traffic service providers, security specialists and fuel companies to retailers and food and beverage operators.

Ian McKay, Commercial Director of SSP's UK airports division, which developed *the real food company* and operates the winning unit, accepted the award and commented: 'It was an honour to collect the award on behalf of the SSP UK team. It is a true testament to our operational excellence and the combination of the Operations and Marketing teams efforts.'

Manchester airport's *real food company* was launched in October as part of the airport's new Terminal 1 Mezzanine development, following its success in Dublin, Newcastle and London Luton Airports. An innovative interpretation of the traditional free flow restaurant, it is a concept steeped in freshness and quality. Tailored to awaken the senses, from the food and drinks to the style and layout, it provides a one stop shop for all travellers.

At Manchester airport, the menu has a real focus on regional recipes such as Lancashire Hotpot, Eccles Cakes, Bakewell and Manchester tarts. It also sources local produce where possible such as Vimto, Uncle Joes Mintballs, Cheshire Beef and award-winning Black Pudding from Bury. The award winning unit will now display the AOA Associate Award logo.

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Editor's notes:

SSP is Europe and Asia's leading dedicated operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations worldwide. It operates an unparalleled portfolio of international, national, local, speciality and new breakthrough food and beverage brands including its own national and international brands.

Among these are Caffè Ritazza, Le Train Blue, Marks & Spencer Simply Food, Bonne Journe, Caviar House & Prunier, Pizza Hut and Upper Crust.

SSP has operations in 28 countries around the world in airports, train stations, motorway service stations, retail parks and conference centres. SSP's UK airports division operates over 160 retail catering outlets including restaurants, pubs, bars and coffee shops at 22 airports throughout UK and Ireland.