

30<sup>th</sup> June 2008

**SSP, the Food Travel Experts, is named the UK's 30<sup>th</sup> biggest private company by  
Sunday Times Deloitte Top Track 100 survey**

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SSP is ranked 30<sup>th</sup> in a major survey of the biggest privately owned businesses in the UK. The survey, in its seventh year, is compiled for leading UK newspaper the Sunday Times by research specialists Fast Track. Also featuring in this year's list are major UK household names including Arcadia, Virgin Atlantic, bmi, Alliance Boots and EMI.

Commenting on the findings of the study, Andrew Lynch, Chief Executive Officer of SSP, said: 'Since SSP came into private ownership almost exactly two years ago, we've delivered on ambitious growth plans. We are the leading operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations in Europe and Asia, where we have retained several important contracts and won significant new business. We've also considerably strengthened our North American business and entered new markets in the Middle East and India.

'In addition, we've strengthened our brand portfolio both locally and internationally, signing major deals which give us exclusive rights in certain key travel markets to brands such as Caviar House & Prunier and Starbucks, amongst others. Our high placement in this well-regarded survey is an encouraging reflection of our success over the last two years'.

'We believe our expertise and experience in the air and travel sectors on this global scale is unrivalled, and our portfolio of brands is world-class. This will support our equally ambitious plans for future growth.'

Stuart Counsell, head of the private company programme at Deloitte, title sponsors of the league table, praised the outstanding businesses the survey featured. 'A full spectrum of businesses across all sectors is represented in this year's Top Track 100. This shows there is the opportunity to succeed in any field, ensuring life in the business arena is interesting and full of potential.'

All 100 companies had sales over £500m up to £18bn, and more than a third (40) had sales above £1bn. The 100 companies on the league table generated combined sales of £149bn and directly employed more than 953,000 staff, representing around 10% of GDP and 3% of the UK workforce.

SSP's turnover in 2007 was £1.236bn, with profit of £135m. Though correct at the time of writing, the list states SSP is present in 28 countries; in fact, SSP has subsequently added United Arab Emirates and Austria to its business, taking the total to 30 countries. SSP employs over 26,000 people worldwide.

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Editor's notes:

**About SSP**

SSP, the Food Travel Experts, is the leading dedicated operator of food and beverage brands in travel locations worldwide, with operations in more than 130 airports in 30 countries. Its unparalleled portfolio of international, national, local, specialty and new breakthrough food and beverage brands includes its own national and international brands. Among these are Caffè Ritazza, Burger King, M&S Simply Food, Bonne Journée, Caviar House & Prunier, Pizza Hut, Upper Crust and Le Train Bleu. SSP has operations in airports, train stations, retail parks and conference centres. [www.foodtravelexperts.com](http://www.foodtravelexperts.com)

**About the Sunday Times Deloitte Top Track 100**

Now in its seventh year, The Sunday Times Deloitte Top Track 100 annual league table is compiled by Oxford-based research and networking events company Fast Track. In addition to its title sponsor Deloitte, the league table is co-sponsored by Lloyds TSB Corporate Markets and Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP, the law firm. Britain's biggest private companies are ranked by sales reported in their latest accounts (2008, 2007, or 2006). Companies have to be registered in the UK, be unquoted and ultimate holding companies, not subsidiaries. Companies may have their ultimate holding company offshore. Businesses where the majority of turnover is generated by a quoted subsidiary are excluded. Companies with fewer than 50 employees are excluded, as are not-for-profit companies, co-operative societies, member-owned buying groups, mutual societies, provident associations, betting exchanges and partnerships, such as lawyers and accountants. The research was carried out by Fast Track between 1 April and 20 June 2008.