



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:
David Milobsky 240-694-4403**

ELIE W. MAALOUF NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF HMSHOST

BETHESDA, MD, DECEMBER 23, 2005 – The Board of Directors of Autogrill Group Inc. announced the appointment of Elie W. Maalouf to the position of President and CEO of the HMSHost Corporation.

Mr. Maalouf succeeds John J. McCarthy, who passed away last month.

Mr. Maalouf joined HMSHost in 1997 as Vice President of Business Development. Later, as Senior Vice President, he also assumed responsibility for the firm's international development and operations activities. Since last year, he has served in the role of Executive Vice President of Airport Food and Beverage Operations. Mr. Maalouf also oversaw the firm's Design & Construction, International Development/Operations, and Strategic Planning functions.

Before joining HMSHost, Mr. Maalouf worked for the Weyerhaeuser Company's real estate development subsidiary. He holds a B.S. in Engineering from Virginia Tech and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Virginia.

About HMSHost

HMSHost is internationally known for creating innovative concession plans in travel venues. HMSHost has annual sales in excess of \$2 billion and employs more than 24,000 associates worldwide. A wholly owned subsidiary of Autogrill S.p.A, HMSHost and the rest of the Autogrill Group are recognized leaders in retail and food and beverage concessions serving people on the move. With operations in sixteen countries around the globe, the combined group has annual revenues approaching \$4.0 billion.