



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Susan Goyette 240-694-4403

Susan.Goyette@HMSHost.com

Sheila McGee 240-694-4196

Sheila.McGee@HMSHost.com

HMSHOST EXTENDS LEASE AND CREATES “EMPIRE STATE BUILDING: THE STORE”

BETHESDA, Md.—HMSHost Corporation today announced the award of a lease extension by the Empire State Building (ESB) for the retail store that serves visitors to the building’s Observatory Deck. Since 1991, HMSHost has operated the retail location that sells ESB gifts and collectibles. The lease extension grants HMSHost the right to operate and manage the store through 2020.

As part of the overall redevelopment underway at the ESB, the retail store has relocated to the 80th floor in temporary quarters. This spring, HMSHost will open a new store in an expanded 3,000 square foot shopping format that features a nod to the building’s famous Art Deco design. The new space, also on the 80th floor, will be contiguous to the path visitors take when exiting from the Observatory Deck. Browser-friendly and stocked with upscale gifts and proprietary ESB products, ***Empire State Building: The Store*** will allow shoppers to take home a reminder of their visit to one of New York’s most revered landmarks.

“We’ve created a store that will encourage visitors to linger and shop in a space that echoes the building’s venerable history as well as the breathtaking view of New York City’s skyline,” said HMSHost Senior Vice President Joan Ryzner. “We are honored to partner with the Empire State Building and be a part of its continuing recognition as one of the most well-known destinations—for New York City and the entire United States.”

Themes and official licensed merchandise within the store evoke the extraordinary building’s past, present and future as a 20th century icon, architectural leader, international destination, and trendsetter, to name just a few. Shoppers will find a selection of gifts and one-of-a-kind items including colorful ESB-branded apparel, crystal glassware, toys, history and coffee table books and holiday ornaments for sale.

The temporary store—as well as the new store—will remain open from 8:00 am until 2:00 am, seven days a week, 365 days a year. In keeping with the building’s architecture, the new store design will use industrial construction materials that pay homage to the work of architects Shreve, Lamb & Harmon, and to legendary ESB documentary photographer, Lewis Hine.

“As the world’s most famous office building and preeminent tourist attraction, it is imperative that we continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our visitors,” said Empire State Building General Manager James T. Connors. “The lease extension and retail expansion with our partner HMSHost signals a key portion of our building’s \$500 million capital improvements program that will transform and enhance the overall experience for our visitors.”

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Approximately 3.7 million people visited the ESB in 2007 and passed through the current store to the outdoor viewing promenade. The building first opened to the public in 1931.

About HMSHost

HMSHost is world-renowned for creating customized shopping and dining spaces in travel venues. The innovative company operates in more than 100 airport locations around the globe, including 19 of the 20 busiest airports in North America. HMSHost has annual sales in excess of \$2.3 billion and employs more than 33,000 associates worldwide. A part of Autogrill S.p.A, HMSHost and the rest of the Autogrill Group are recognized leaders in travel amenities. With sales exceeding €3.9 billion, Autogrill is present in 33 countries with more than 4,800 points of sale in more than 1,050 locations (including 163 airports and 689 motorways) where 51,000 employees serve over 840 million customers every year. Visit www.HMSHost.com for more information.

About the Empire State Building

Soaring 1,454 feet above Midtown Manhattan, the Empire State Building is the “World’s Most Famous Office Building.” With new investments in infrastructure, public areas and amenities, the Empire State Building has attracted first-rate tenants in a diverse array of industries from around the world. The skyscraper’s robust broadcasting technology supports all major television and FM radio stations in the New York metropolitan market. The Empire State Building was recently named America’s favorite building in a poll conducted by the American Institute of Architects.

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