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Sale of PizzaExpress by Gondola to Hony Capital

The Gondola Group ('Gondola'), the market leader in the UK casual dining sector, and Hony Capital, a leading private equity firm in China, today announce that they have reached agreement on the sale of PizzaExpress for a consideration of approximately £900 million. This transaction is the largest in the European restaurant sector in the past five years.

PizzaExpress is the market-leading casual dining brand in the UK and has strong positions in 13 international markets. It currently operates 436 sites in the UK and 68 sites internationally, with 22 of these sites in China (12 in Hong Kong, 9 in Shanghai, and 1 in Beijing).

Since the business was taken private seven years ago, Gondola has added over 130 PizzaExpress restaurants in the UK and created around 2,500 jobs. Gondola re-acquired the PizzaExpress international brand rights in 2010 and PizzaExpress has subsequently developed strong platforms in a number of regions from which to accelerate its expansion. Over the last seven years, EBITDA has grown through the recession from c£60m to c£90m. Under Gondola's ownership, PizzaExpress has built a strong management team, led by Richard Hodgson, which will remain with the business.

Hony Capital is a pioneering buyout fund in China with strong expertise in the retail and consumer sectors as well as in cross-border investments. It has a proven track record in helping global brands to expand in China. Leveraging this domestic and international expertise, Hony Capital will work together with the PizzaExpress management team to drive continued growth both in the UK and internationally.

The proposed sale of PizzaExpress follows the sale of Byron Hamburgers to Hutton Collins for £100 million, announced in October 2013.

John Zhao, Chief Executive of Hony Capital, commented:

'Hony Capital is delighted to have acquired PizzaExpress, a well-established and exciting brand. We have built a strong track record in helping Chinese enterprises to expand globally. With PizzaExpress, we have the opportunity to leverage our local expertise to accelerate its growth in the Chinese market, as well as to continue to drive its business forward in the UK.'

Harvey Smyth, Chief Executive of The Gondola Group, commented:

'PizzaExpress is an iconic brand in the UK restaurant sector with a strong and growing international presence. This has been reflected in the considerable interest we received in buying the business and in today's transaction with Hony. PizzaExpress is stronger than ever and great credit for this goes to the teams there, who leave Gondola with our thanks and best wishes for the future.'

Richard Hodgson, Chief Executive of PizzaExpress, added:

'Today's acquisition of PizzaExpress by Hony is a very positive development at an exciting time for the business. Asia is a key part of our future growth strategy and Hony's expertise in this region will be invaluable. We are looking forward to working with them on this as well as our ambitious UK growth plans.'

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Notes to Editors

Information on The Gondola Group

The Gondola Group is the market leader in the UK casual dining sector, operating PizzaExpress, Zizzi, ASK Italian, Milano (PizzaExpress' brand in Ireland) and Kettner's.

The Group employs over 15,000 people, and serves over 40 million meals a year in over 752 restaurants.

The Gondola Group's restaurants are positioned to offer a memorable eating out experience and great value for money. The Gondola Group's distinct brands have broad appeal and lend themselves to different occasions. Its estate of restaurants trade successfully in a variety of location types, from high street and local neighbourhoods, to shopping centres and retail and leisure parks.

Gondola is owned by funds managed by Cinven Partners LLP.

Goldman Sachs International acted as exclusive M&A adviser to The Gondola Group on the transaction.

Information on Hony Capital

Hony Capital, founded in 2003 and sponsored by Legend Holdings Corporation, is a leading private equity firm in China. As a China-focused investment firm with about US\$7.0 billion of assets under management, Hony employs "a value creation by providing value added services" investment philosophy to increase the intrinsic value of its portfolio companies. Its

portfolio of over 70 companies includes STX Studio, Deem and CIFA. It has also partnered with NetJets to develop its private jet business in the Chinese market. The investors in Hony Capital include leading institutional investors across the world and in China. Hony invests predominantly in Chinese SOEs, restructuring and cross-border investments.

Hony Capital was advised on the transaction by J.P.Morgan, Linklaters and KPMG.

For more information, visit: www.honycapital.com