



Wednesday 15th September, 2010

First Irish Motorway Service Area Officially Opens

- **First Motorway Service Areas Open at Lusk on M1 Motorway, Co. Dublin.**
- **Two more opening at Castlebellingham, Co. Louth, M1, 29th September and Enfield, Co. Westmeath, M4, 6th October.**
- **300 New Jobs created**
- **The MSA contract sees the 100% Irish consortium investing €70 million in the Irish economy (Applegreen, Pierse Contracting and TOP make up the SuperStop consortium)**
- **Each new site is c. 50 times the size of an average service station and the facilities are on a par with the most advanced sites in continental Europe. The sites have incredible capacity to deal quickly and safely with a large volume of traffic with specific areas for private motorists cars and larger HGV vehicles.**
- **The pump facilities have a fuel capacity of 240,000 litres for cars and a Truck Stop capacity of 200,000 litres for larger haulage vehicles.**
- **The facilities ensure safe, relaxed travel for road users traveling on the NRA's motorway system and should contribute to better/safer motoring.**
- **Burger King, Costa Coffee and aCafé open at the new Motorway Service Areas.**

Ireland's first official Motorway Service Area officially opened today at Lusk on the M1 Motorway in Co. Dublin. The Motorway Service Areas will be run and managed by Applegreen on behalf of the SuperStop Consortium (made up of Applegreen, Pierse Contracting and TOP), as part of a tender process that saw the 100% Irish consortium win the PPP Contract from the National Roads Authority to provide these state of the art Motorway Service Areas.

The opening ceremony included a blessing ceremony and was attended by 250 people including the Chairman of the National Roads Authority, Peter Malone, the Minister for Justice, Dermot Ahern, TD, and the Board of Directors of the SuperStop Consortium.

The Lusk Motorway Service Area will see the opening of two sites, one on either side of the M1 Motorway. The sites will provide facilities on a par with those seen in continental Europe, with specific services for both hauliers and private motorists. These facilities include parking for 246 vehicles including designated spaces for 184 cars, 13 motorbikes, 10 coaches and 39 HGVs

The MSAs are also more family friendly than anything else seen to date, with everything from bottle heating facilities & changing rooms to indoor and outdoor playgrounds. These facilities include;

1. Public Toilets – 10 female toilets, 10 male toilets, 2 female/ 2 male showers, 2 baby changing rooms, 2 disabled toilets
2. Playgrounds - indoor and outdoor
3. Food – Burger King, Costa Coffee and an aCafé. There is indoor seating for 250 diners with an additional 30 outdoor seats to enjoy during the better weather.

The overall project, comprising the three locations of Lusk, Castlebellingham and Enfield represents an investment of more than € 70 million on behalf of the consortium,

Commenting on the opening of the new Motorway Service Areas, Joe Barrett, Operations Director, Applegreen and Director of SuperStop, said;

“Nothing on this scale has been built before to facilitate the Irish motorist and I am delighted that Applegreen as part of the SuperStop consortium will have such a prominent role in operating the sites and providing state of the art facilities to the Irish Motoring public. As a 100%, Irish Consortium, we are committed to the Irish economy and I am personally delighted that we have been able to create over 300 new jobs as part of the investment.”

Also commenting on the opening of the new Motorway Service Areas, Peter Malone, Chairman of the National Roads Authority said:

“SuperStop has done an excellent job in fulfilling our expectations. The quality and variety of services should satisfy all road users. We are also very pleased that information on the local and regional tourism offerings are being made available to all visitors, it will have a positive impact on local businesses. Additionally, the NRA is very pleased the new service areas are being delivered on schedule.”

In addition to providing a valuable service to private Irish motorists, the new Motorway Service Areas represent a major development to Irish business, providing hauliers and transport fleet managers with a fuel card system, which will accept all major fuel cards. SuperStop consortium member, TOP, will operate these Fuel Card Truck Stops.

Commenting on the new Fuel Card Truck Stops, Group Chief Executive of TOP Oil, Gerard Boylan said:

“The Motorway Service Areas are the most modern in Europe offering high-speed refueling, free parking plus comprehensive food and recreational areas, all with easy access on and off the motorways. This is a significant upgrading of what is currently available to truckers and motorists. We believe it will be of particular importance to the haulage industry to have these top class facilities as we recognise the importance of the industry to business in Ireland. We also believe that it is good for the wider economy; it will create extra jobs, is a fully Irish owned and Irish funded consortium”.

Commenting on the construction of the new Motorway Service Areas, Nobby O’Reilly, C.E.O of Piersce Contracting and Director of SuperStop, said;

The MSA sites will be amongst the “greenest “ of their type incorporating a range of features to conserve energy and minimise environmental impact. For example, rainwater

will be collected via the forecourt canopy and recycled as car washes, toilet flushes and other suitable purposes. The buildings also feature high specification insulation and glazing which cuts down on energy consumption for lighting and heating."

The project is financed by Bank of Ireland as provider of the debt facilities for the project.

Donal Murphy, Director, Global Project Finance, Bank of Ireland said:

"Bank of Ireland was pleased to provide the debt financing for this landmark PPP project. The opening of the first Motorway Service Areas on time is a very positive development not only for the PPP market in Ireland but also for the wider economy through the creation of significant employment. We remain fully committed to supporting current and future Irish infrastructure projects being promoted by Government Departments and State Agencies".

Ends.

For Further Media Queries, Information, interview opportunities or images, please contact :
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Notes to Editors;

Applegreen is a private Irish Company and is Ireland's largest independent forecourt retailer with 53 sites trading in the Republic of Ireland and an expanding network in the UK. It currently employs almost 400 people and continues to grow rapidly since the brand was established in 2004. Its management team is made up of;

•Bob Etchingam (CEO)

Bob had a vision for the forecourt industry when he set up Petrogas in 1992. After many years working as an economist to the industry his decision to strike out on his own was prompted by a deep understanding of where the industry needed to go. With the creation of the Applegreen brand in 2005 this vision really began to take shape and the company has since gone from strength to strength, culminating in Applegreen being awarded the contract to operate Ireland's first motorway services in collaboration with the NRA.

Joe Barrett, Operations Director

Joe is very well known in the forecourt and convenience retail trade. Since setting up Petrogas with Bob Etchingam in 1992, he has been the face of the company, as well as its overall Operations Director. He has been instrumental in the creation and success of the Applegreen brand. Joe is a regular presenter at industry conferences and a member of numerous retail groups including CSNA and Retail Excellence. He has become a regular spokesman for the industry on many important issues.

The other members of the SuperStop Consortium are;

TOP is an Irish family-owned fuel importation and distribution business, which has been trading for over 50 years. It has business interests in Ireland, Northern Ireland and Scotland. Groupwide it imports and sells over 1.5 billion litres per annum with over €1 billion in revenues per annum and employs 375 staff. In the Republic of Ireland it has 120 retail forecourts, 25 company-owned home heat depots, 25 authorised home heat

distributors and 120 fuel card locations. It operates a state of the art 55,000 tonne fuel import terminal in Dublin Port.

Pierse Contracting, a private Irish company established in 1978 as building, civil engineering and marine contractors. In recent years Pierse has been involved in substantial design and build PPP projects. The company is a leading force in the Irish construction industry and is amongst the largest and most successful contracting companies in Ireland.