



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2020

## **EG GROUP ACQUIRES KFC'S LARGEST FRANCHISEE IN THE UK & IRELAND**

**BLACKBURN, UK. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2020** – Blackburn-based, international petrol forecourt and convenience retail operator EG Group is pleased to announce the acquisition of the largest KFC franchise in the UK & Ireland from Belfast-headquartered, The Herbert Group.

The acquisition is of 146 KFC Restaurants and 1 Pizza Hut Store, as well as a development pipeline and a small number of non-trading sites. Inclusive of this portfolio, EG Group now operates over 1,500 food-to-go retail concessions across ten international markets including the United Kingdom, Ireland, France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Germany, United States of America and Australia.

This acquisition also sees EG Group bolster its global employee complement by a further c.4,000 staff members.

Zuber Issa, Founder and Co-CEO, EG Group expressed, “Securing The Herbert Group portfolio is well aligned to our long-term strategic growth plans and builds on our commitment to grow the EG Group’s presence in the food-to-go retail convenience segment. The Herbert Group portfolio is a great strategic addition and complements our expanding operations in the United Kingdom and furthermore, now allows us entry into the Irish market.”

He added: “I would also like to take the opportunity to personally thank Michael Herbert and his executive leadership team for their professional commitment, help and support during the transitional period. We are committed to working closely with the KFC brand team to invest in the portfolio we are acquiring, and to open new restaurants. There is already a strong development pipeline for us to work towards developing.”

Paula McKenzie, General Manager at KFC UK & Ireland added, “I’d like to personally thank all of the Herbert Group team for their partnership and contribution to our brand over the last 39 years. We’re pleased that EG Group have acquired these restaurants – it shows confidence in investing in KFC and comes at an exciting time for our brand, off the back of unprecedented sales growth in 2020 so far. The acquisition demonstrates EG Group’s ability to be a partner of choice and we’re looking forward to supporting them as they unlock further investment and growth in the years ahead.”

## About EG Group

EG Group is a founder-led business which combines site level operational excellence and innovation with industry leading growth. We are now one of the world's leading fuel and convenience retail businesses.

Since EG Group was founded in 2001 by the Issa family in the United Kingdom, it has grown to c.6,000 sites, operating in 10 international markets and serving more than 23 million customers per week. EG Group has grown through store roll-outs and strategic acquisitions and now employs more than 50,000 colleagues.

In total, EG Group's brand dedicated functions manage and oversee c1,500 food and drink-to-go units across its site network globally.

The business is regularly recognized for innovation and investment in convenience retail assets, the employees and the systems. Zuber Issa and Mohsin Issa, Founders and co-CEOs, EG Group, were jointly named the 2018 EY Entrepreneur of the Year in the UK.

Further information at [www.eurogarages.com](http://www.eurogarages.com).

## About KFC

In 1952 Colonel Harland Sanders opened the first KFC restaurant in Utah. Since then, his perfectly crafted Original Recipe chicken and its secret recipe of 11 herbs and spices has become famous all over the world, and today we have over 900 restaurants across the UK and Ireland.

The Colonel was all about doing things the right way. That means our chicken is delivered fresh from farm to restaurant in 48 hours. It's prepared carefully by hand in-restaurant by trained cooks, using the very best chicken reared to strict welfare standards.

The right way also means serving fresh proper food, packed with flavour. So, we've worked hard to make nutritional improvements across our menu, so our fans have as much choice as possible, and we've committed to removing 20% of calories per serving by 2025.

The Colonel also believed in feeding promise, wherever it's found. So that's why we invest heavily in the development and careers of our 27,000 employees – we were the first restaurant to launch an honours degree. And since its 2015 launch, our KFC Foundation has paid out grants totalling £5 million to our charity partners who are passionate about developing and nurturing young people across the country.

To find out more about us visit [www.kfc.co.uk](http://www.kfc.co.uk), or follow the Colonel on Twitter @KFC\_UKI and Instagram @kfc\_uki.

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