

PRESS RELEASE 2 SEPTEMBER 2011

Sentica Partners acquires a majority shareholding in the Kotipizza companies

Funds managed by Sentica Partners, a private equity firm, have acquired a majority of the share capital in the Kotipizza companies. The companies' previous owner, Rabbe Grönblom, will remain a minority shareholder and intends to devote more of his time to developing the Omena Hotel business. As a result of this acquisition, Sentica will bring additional resources to the Kotipizza Group for business development and internationalisation.

Funds managed by Sentica Partners, a private equity firm, have acquired a 75% shareholding in the Kotipizza companies. The companies' previous owner, Rabbe Grönblom, will remain a minority owner with around a 20% shareholding, with the remaining approximately 5% of the shares owned by the executive management team. Kotipizza is the largest pizza chain in the Nordic countries, currently with more than 280 stores in over 150 towns and cities throughout Finland. The chain achieved sales of €66.1 million in 2010. As a result of the transaction, Kotipizza Oyj, Helsinki Foodstock Oy, Domipizza Oy and Kotipizza Tilipalvelut Oy will form one single corporate group. The combined turnover of these companies is around €40 million.

"I want to focus on developing the Omena Hotel business, and the resources that Sentica Partners will bring an excellent opportunity for this. The fact that we right from the start shared the same views with Sentica with regards to the future development of the Kotipizza companies played a key role in transaction. Day-to-day operations at Kotipizza and Helsinki Foodstock will continue as before, and customers will continue to receive the best possible service in the future," clarified Rabbe Grönblom, who is an appointed Counsellor of Commerce.

"The strong market position of Kotipizza and the other companies in the Group, as well as their successful history, provide us with great opportunity for growing and developing the business. Sentica Partners is an independent, financially sound owner that is capable of providing comprehensive support in this work. We aim to further strengthen Kotipizza's position in Finland, as well as review international opportunities. All to make the company even stronger in the future and being able to serve up the ingredients for individual Kotipizza entrepreneurs to succeed in their own work," said Johan Wentzel, Investment Director at Sentica and newly appointed chairman of the board of the Kotipizza group of companies.

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Sentica Partners

Sentica is an independent private equity company focusing on acquiring and developing Finnish small and mid-sized companies. The funds under Sentica's management amount to some EUR 180 million with fund investors consisting of Finnish institutional investors and high quality European fund of funds. www.sentica.fi

Kotipizza

Kotipizza is a Finnish chain of pizza restaurants, founded in 1987, currently with more than 280 sites in over 150 towns and cities throughout Finland. Retail sales in the Kotipizza chain were €66.1 million in 2010. Over 95 per cent of Kotipizza's retail sites in Finland are independently franchised businesses. Franchisees benefit from a tested, profitable business concept as well as ready-prepared products, a brand identity, the chain's know-how and other advantages of collaboration.

www.kotipizza.fi