

PRESS RELEASE

Paris, May 27, 2016

Acquisition  
Elior Group to acquire Preferred Meals,  
strengthening the company's position  
in the US education & senior nutrition markets

Elior Group, one of the world's leading operators in the contracted food industry, has signed a definitive agreement through its US subsidiary, culinary management leader Elior North America, to acquire Preferred Meals, an Illinois-based provider of meals, fresh-prepared snacks and frozen-prepared snacks, entrees, and complete meals for contract catering and home delivery. In operation since 1967, Preferred Meals, which serves over 130 million meals annually in 30 states across the US, provides affordable and nutritious foodservice to niche markets, primarily those serving the education and senior markets. The company generated revenue of c. \$225 million in FY 2015.

*"This acquisition is part of the company's 2016-2020 strategic plan to accelerate development within growing markets,"* said Philippe Salle, Elior Group's Chairman and CEO. *"The US contract catering market offers significant opportunities, notably in the four niche segments in which we are currently positioned; the corrections, education, healthcare including seniors and premium business and industries. We intend to continue to expand there both organically and through acquisitions, and Preferred Meals fits perfectly into this strategy."*

Preferred Meals will continue to operate under its current brand as part of the Elior North America family of companies, and will be led by George Chivari, its current President and CEO, who will report directly to Brian Poplin, Elior North America President and CEO. All Preferred Meals' 1,600 employees will remain part of the team going forward.

*"The addition of Preferred Meals to our portfolio takes us deeper into markets we currently serve and expands our offerings into new areas,"* said Brian Poplin. *"In the education market, we will now be able to supply smaller schools, many of which have no kitchen or cafeteria, with prepared meals that do not require full kitchen facilities. And in the senior market, the addition of Preferred Meals strengthens our ability to provide prepared fresh and frozen meals for senior living facilities and expand our home meal delivery distribution."*

The acquisition greatly enhances Elior North America's production and distribution channels, adding six strategically located production kitchens and 13 distribution centers across the US.

*"We are looking forward to joining the team members at Elior North America, bringing our best practices, and our shared commitment to the clients,"* said George Chivari. *"For our employees, there is now tremendous opportunity throughout the family of companies we're joining, and for our clients, access to additional resources will allow us to invest in our infrastructure, giving us the ability to enhance our operations with new technology and culinary innovation."*

The transaction is expected to close in the coming days, subject to customary closing conditions.

[eliorgroup.com](http://eliorgroup.com)

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**About Elior Group**

Founded in 1991, Elior Group has grown into one of the world's leading operators in the catering and support services industry, and is now a benchmark player in the business & industry, education, healthcare, and travel markets.

In FY 2014-2015, it generated €5,674 million in revenue through 18,600 restaurants and points of sale in 13 countries. Our 108,000 employees serve 4 million customers on a daily basis, taking genuine care of each and every one by providing personalized catering and service solutions to ensure an innovative customer experience.

We place particular importance on corporate social responsibility and have been a member of the United Nations Global Compact since 2004. The professional excellence of our teams, as well as their unwavering commitment to quality and innovation and to providing best-in-class service is embodied in our corporate motto: "Time savored".

For further information: <http://www.eliorgroup.com> Elior Group on Twitter: @Elior\_Group

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**About Elior North America**

Elior North America enhances the lives of the people we serve through culinary innovation and a commitment to providing exemplary service. The family of companies, with over 13,000 employees, provides food services and catering to more than 1,100 client accounts in five industry segments across the continental US.

For further information: <http://elior-na.com/>

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