

Host announces six contract wins as company growth gathers pace

Host Contract Management, the independent contract catering company run by CEO Bill Toner, has won six new contracts across the UK including a prestigious three-site contract in Scotland with call centre specialist Response.

The Glasgow-based units will cater for a total of 1,000 employees at Response, offering a five-day week catering service. The three-year contract, won from Elior, is worth £400,000 a year and was awarded to Host based on the company's flexibility and ideas to develop and improve the catering provision.

Alan McDonald, regional director of Scotland, said: 'It's a massive boost for Host and part of our on-going focus on growth in Scotland.'

McDonald is now assisted in Scotland by former Baxter Storey chef Jim Williams, as project chef manager. Williams will work closely with Host's Scottish units on the development of menus, dishes and offers.

In West Yorkshire Host has won the catering contract for two food suppliers, beef production company Dovecote Park, and fruit and vegetable distributor IPL, both based near Pontefract and awarded to Host on a rolling basis.

Dovecote Park has 400 employees with a five-day week catering facility, moving to seven-days from July. A new restaurant will be built at the site by early next year, offering a coffee lounge, vending facilities and a revamped restaurant focussing on freshly cooked food. The contract, previously operated by Autograph, has a turnover of £250,000.

The IPL contract will see Host catering for up to 600 people, seven days a week, 18-hours a day, offering breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and a night service until 10.30pm. The £400,000 contract was previously run by a local catering company.

In Cheshire Host has been awarded the £500,000 catering and cleaning contract at three healthcare sites for Cheshire Nursing Homes. The contract offers 24/7 catering which will be revamped to focus on freshly cooked, locally sourced food and good service. The contract was previously operated by Aramark,

Host has also boosted its portfolio of school contracts with the addition of Greenacres School in Banstead, Surrey, worth £200,000, and the Anglo-Continental Language School in Bournemouth, worth £350,000.

Greenacres School has 350 pupils ranging from nursery age to 18 and was won from incumbent caterer Harrison's. Host will refurbish the school's dining room, improve its range of healthy snacks and the quality of its hot food offer.

At Anglo Continental Language School Host will provide the catering service for up to 2,000 people through a restaurant and coffee shop. The catering contract was previously operated by a local company.

Host has also announced the retention of the £500,000 catering contract for Imperial Tobacco in Nottingham for a further three years, having run the catering at the 700-employee site for five years. The catering facility at Imperial will now become one of Host's Centres of Excellence.

Host CEO Bill Toner commented: 'We are delighted to announce these contract wins, most of which have been taken from much larger operators. The market is now demanding a much more personal, flexible service from catering contractors and Host is well-placed to offer this.'

For further information, interviews or comment please contact Linda Pettit at Tilburstow Media Partners on 01737 823721/07973 789853 or email linda@tilburstowmedia.co.uk.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Host is an independent, nationally based, environmentally friendly contract catering company founded in 2004. The company, headed up by former Aramark UK CEO Bill Toner, has contracts in Scotland, Wales and mainland England including business & industry, directors and partners dining rooms, conference facilities, independent (prep, senior and 6th form) schools, state schools, further and higher education, and the healthcare industry in care homes, hospices and hospitals.

The Host organisation looks after over 85 contracts and employs over 550 staff and is based in Liss in Hampshire.

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