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## **PRESTIGE SCOTLAND WINS BOTANIC GARDEN CONTRACT**

Prestige Scotland, part of Sodexo Prestige, has secured a contract to provide catering services at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE).

Prestige Scotland will be responsible for the visitor restaurant as well as both corporate and private events within the 70 acres of beautiful landscaped gardens. This comes at an exciting time for the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh which is currently undergoing a major refurbishment of its catering facilities.

Prestige Scotland will manage services in a new 120-seat visitor restaurant opening in 2009, part of a £15.7 million development project called The Gateway, which has been designed according to principles of green construction and sustainability. The Gateway will offer visitors a facility where they can discover the world of plants and explore the scientific work that takes place at the Gardens through a unique set of interactive experiences and activities.

The contract includes hospitality at The Caledonian Hall, an elegant 19<sup>th</sup> Century building overlooking the world-famous Rock Garden. The Hall offers room for around 100 guests, providing an exclusive and versatile corporate or private venue, perfect for weddings and conferences.

In addition, Prestige Scotland will manage The Terrace Café, which has views over the city's skyline and castle, and has been revamped to offer a range of public, private and corporate facilities and will be available for al fresco meals and drinks receptions in the evening.

As an integral part of the contract and commitment to embracing environmental best practise, Prestige Scotland will be implementing a variety of environmentally friendly and healthy eating initiatives at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. These include sourcing food locally where possible; ensuring the use of only biodegradable packaging; and organising educational programmes for children to teach them about the importance and benefits of a healthy, balanced diet.

Alyson Cawley, managing director of Prestige Scotland, said: "We are delighted to be working with the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and look forward to a strong and successful working relationship. The unique venue gives us the opportunity to demonstrate the breadth of our catering and hospitality expertise from afternoon teas to fine dining events."

Founded in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh now has the second richest collection of plant species in the world. It welcomes over 660,000 visitors each year, providing inspiration and relaxation to

people from all over the world. The garden not only offers a magnificent and memorable location with its tranquil and peaceful setting but also the opportunity for unique corporate and private events.

Prestige Scotland provides the highest level of catering and hospitality services to some of the leading venues and events in Scotland, while continually pushing the boundaries of innovation.

Prestige Scotland is recognised as the market leader in the provision of private and corporate hospitality in Scotland. The services that it provides range from match day hospitality at Hampden Park and annual awards dinners at the National Museums of Scotland to intimate wedding receptions at Dundas Castle.

## **Ends**

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## **About Sodexo**

In the UK and Ireland, Sodexo employs 48,000 employees, and provides food and facilities management services to clients at over 2,300 locations in the business and industry, education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors.

Sodexo Prestige, part of Sodexo, is the UK's largest event caterer and provider of corporate hospitality packages.

Many companies rely on Sodexo for cost-effective solutions to their employee or hospitality catering, or to deliver services such as cleaning, reception, switchboard and help desks, mailroom, reprographics and grounds maintenance.

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Sodexo is part of Sodexo Alliance the leading global provider of food and management services, with more than 332,000 employees at 28,300 sites in 80 countries.