

Mayfair takes £81 million bite of YO! Sushi

(London, 23 November 2015): Funds advised by Mayfair Equity Partners ("Mayfair") have acquired a controlling interest in YO! Sushi, the UK's leading Japanese fast casual restaurant group and iconic brand, valuing the business at £81 million.

Founded in 1997, YO! Sushi was the first to bring the concept of a Japanese 'kaiten' sushi bar that delivered food via a conveyor belt to the UK. Today, the business serves over 7 million customers a year via 91 restaurants worldwide: 75 company owned sites across the UK, 4 company owned in the United States and 12 franchised restaurants in international airports and the Gulf. Supported by industry leading store metrics and an excellent customer following, YO! Sushi recorded strong growth throughout the global financial crisis with net revenues increasing at a compound annual growth rate of 14% since 2008.

Mayfair has acquired its stake in YO! Sushi from the company's majority shareholder, Quilvest Private Equity, which is fully exiting the business. Management will retain a minority shareholding and following the transaction, the team will be led by Robin Rowland.

Mayfair's investment provides additional capital to support the business' growth in the UK and international markets. ICG and Lloyds Bank Commercial Banking provided debt facilities to support the transaction. Spayne Lindsay & Co. was the financial adviser to Mayfair, with Linklaters providing legal counsel.

Commenting on the transaction, Mayfair's Managing Partner, Daniel Sasaki, said:

"In a highly competitive and fast moving segment of the market, YO! Sushi's innovative approach to casual dining has seen it consistently deliver fantastic eating experiences to a truly global customer base. The management team has built a robust and dynamic company with a fantastic brand. We look forward to truly investing in the business, partnering with the management and supporting them in this exciting phase of the company's development."

Robin Rowland, Executive Chairman of YO! Sushi commented:

"In Mayfair we've found the right partner to support YO! Sushi through its next stage of development. YO! Sushi offers an accessible, fun and healthy eating out experience no matter when and what the meal occasion. This presents us with significant further growth both in the UK and internationally, and we look forward to working with Daniel and the team to fulfil this potential."

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Notes to Editors:*Mayfair Equity Partners*

Mayfair Equity Partners is a buyout and growth capital investor providing capital to dynamic businesses in the TMT and Consumer sectors. Its primary focus is on building strong partnerships with exceptional management teams. Mayfair is an investor in Ovo Energy, one of the UK's leading independent suppliers of domestic energy, Fox International, European's leading independent fishing brand, and Hotels & More Ltd., a professional B2B partner for group tours and frequent individual travellers to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

www.mayfairequity.com

YO! Sushi

Founded in 1997, YO! Sushi was the first to bring the concept of a Japanese 'kaiten' sushi bar that delivered food via a conveyor belt to the UK. Today, YO! Sushi has 91 restaurants worldwide; 79 owned and 12 franchised and serving over 7 million customers a year. YO! Sushi sources all its fish from reputable suppliers who share the same concerns with regards to environmental issues and sustainability of at-risk species through over fishing and the subsequent depletion of certain fish, and all YO! Sushi dishes are freshly prepared in their restaurants every day.

www.yosushi.com