

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR THE CATERING EQUIPMENT INDUSTRY

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Cold Service Group sold to Italian firm

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Commercial refrigeration provider Cold Service Group has been acquired by Italian refrigeration heavyweight Epta.



Epta, which owns refrigeration brands such as Misa, is expanding in the UK. (ITP Images)

The deal sees Epta take over Cold Service's Hampshire operations, significantly boosting its UK presence and giving it access to more than 100 refrigeration technicians in the south of the country.

Cold Service Group specialises in the design, installation and maintenance of turnkey refrigeration units, as well as air conditioning systems.

Epta said the move was a "significant strategic transaction" for the group as it positions it as a service provider with national coverage, something that retail customers, in particular, are increasingly demanding.

Cold Service is organised in four divisions (Commercial, Local, Central and Distribution) and has contracts with clients as Harrods, Fortnum & Mason, Greggs, Morrisons, One-Stop and Pret a Manger.

Peter Grimes, chairman of Cold Service, said: "Both parties strongly sought this merger, built on a common value system centred on people, high-quality service and long-term development plans. The strength of a company like Epta represents an important competitive advantage for us, complementing our range and expanding our market share."

Epta is already present in the UK through George Barker, which designs and produces refrigerated cabinets, together with an established contracting and service and maintenance business.

Sergio Chiostris, Epta's chairman and managing director, said: "This agreement expands our portfolio and aims to optimise the resources used in the frame of an expansion plan that will integrate the skills and technological know-how of our two companies."

Last year, Epta Group merged with Iarp Group to create a £560m European commercial refrigeration powerhouse with 4,000 staff and 12 factories.

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