



NEWS RELEASE

Del Taco Expands Into Tennessee

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QSR Brand Continues Expansion With 10-Store Development Agreement in Knoxville Area

LAKE FOREST, CA--(Marketwired - Jul 29, 2015) - Del Taco (NASDAQ: TACO), a leader in the Mexican quick service restaurant (QSR) category, announced that the brand is continuing its strategic expansion into the Southern region of the United States with a recently-signed ten store development agreement for the Knox County, Tennessee area. With nearly 550 restaurants in 16 states, this latest development supports the company's long-term growth initiatives to bring Del Taco's UnFreshing Believable®, made-to-order Mexican and American favorites to new states and guests across the country.

The new Del Taco franchise group plans to open ten Del Taco locations in Knox, Sevier, Blount, Loudon, Hamblen and Anderson Counties by 2021, with the first restaurant slated to open in 2016. They decided to expand their current franchise portfolio after realizing a significant growth opportunity in the QSR space.

"Del Taco's commitment to quality, freshness and guest experience drew us to the company," said a representative from the new franchise group. "The iconic brand is a proven leader in the QSR category and offers a delicious menu that translates well across the country. Del Taco has provided tremendous support throughout the process and we're looking forward to being a part of the company's success story."

With its fresh, prepared-to-order Mexican and American classics drawing success nationwide, Del Taco is seeking additional franchise partners for a variety of markets.

"Del Taco has experienced solid franchise growth through the years in both loyal and brand new markets across the U.S.," said Laura Tanaka, director of franchise development. "We're looking to build upon that national success

and to continue to partner with qualified franchisees committed to the Del Taco brand."

The QSR category is one of the fastest growing industry segments, and Del Taco attracts a broad customer base across age groups, income levels and demographics. Focused on made-to-order menu items featuring fresh ingredients, Del Taco is committed to product innovation and staying ahead of trends to meet customers' growing demands for quality food served at a great value.

Del Taco continues to recruit qualified franchise candidates with foodservice, operations and real estate experience. The company offers extensive training, as well as operational and marketing support to franchisees. Those interested in Del Taco franchise opportunities should visit www.deltacofranchise.com and register for an informational webinar. For more information, please contact Laura Tanaka, Director of Franchise Development at (949) 462-7379 or ltanaka@deltaco.com.

About Del Taco

At Del Taco (NASDAQ: TACO) all menu items taste better because they are made to order with fresh ingredients including cheddar cheese grated from 40-pound blocks, handmade pico de gallo salsa, lard-free beans slow-cooked from scratch, fresh sliced avocado and marinated chicken grilled in the restaurant. The menu, which includes a full line of breakfast, includes classic Mexican dishes such as tacos, burritos, quesadillas and nachos as well as American favorites including hamburgers, crinkle-cut fries and shakes. Del Taco's UnFreshing Believable campaign communicates the lengths the company goes to in order to deliver quality, made-to-order menu items created with freshly-prepared ingredients at unbelievable prices. With nearly 550 restaurants in 16 states, Del Taco serves more than three million guests each week. In June 2015, Del Taco changed its name to Del Taco Restaurants, Inc. following the completion of its transition to a public company.

Contact:

Media Contact

Brenna O'Leary

Morgan Marketing & Public Relations

(949) 261-2216

brenna@mmp.r.biz