

# COVID-19: Survival and Revival

*Call-in Forum for Airport Concessions Industry – No. 35*

**January 13, 2021, 4:00 PM EST**

**Phone Number 408-418-9388; Access Code 791-700-478#**

**About this Session:** Major airport concessions industry leaders will discuss the business challenges facing their companies and the industry. The CEOs of HMSHost, Hudson Group, Paradies Lagardere and SSP America will share insights into their response to the pandemic, its impact on their companies and business partners, and their strategies for recovering in 2021.

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Roger Fordyce has served as Chief Executive Officer and a Director of Hudson for the past two years. He has spent his entire career in retail, starting in the travel retail industry with Elson's/WH Smith in 1982. Roger's ascension to CEO of Hudson began over 30 years ago, when he was hired in 1988 as General Manager for Hudson's first operations at LaGuardia Airport. As Hudson expanded over the years, Roger held various senior level management positions until he became Co-Chief Operating Officer in 2008 and was eventually named Chief Executive Officer in 2019.

## **Roger Fordyce**

*Chief Executive Officer and Director  
Hudson*



Steve Johnson is President and CEO of HMSHost, a global restaurateur and world leader in delivering innovative dining solutions in travel venues. HMSHost operates in more than 120 airports around the globe and at more than 80 travel plazas in North America. Steve joined the company in 2000 and has played a critical role in the growth and development of the core business. During his influential career, he served as Executive Vice President of Business Development where he oversaw business development, design & construction, and restaurant development teams. His vision has led to strategic global partnerships, an impressive portfolio of proprietary concepts, and the winning approach to bring travelers a balanced mix of quality dining solutions.

## **Steve Johnson**

*President & Chief Executive Officer  
HMS Host*



Gregg Paradies is president and CEO of Paradies Lagardère, the leading airport retailer and restaurateur in North America, with more than 850 stores and restaurants in 90 airports. Before taking the helm in 2004, he'd held a number of roles in the company, including chief operating officer. Responsible for Paradies Lagardère's overall business and for maintaining its tradition of quality and exceptional customer service, the Atlanta native is a member of the American Association of Airport Executives and Airports Council International.

**Gregg Paradies**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

**Paradies Lagardere**



As the CEO of SSP America, Michael Svagdis' top priority is to ensure the entire SSP team is aligned to deliver a memorable culinary experience to each and every guest across the company's North American operations. Michael and his team are driven by an unparalleled passion for bringing cool, authentic restaurants to airports that reflect a taste of place and deliver a world-class customer experience. A recognized leader in the food service industry with a passion for leading corporate growth, Michael is dedicated to culinary innovation, operational improvements, driving standardizations and aligning strategies with the overarching business goals.

**Michael Svagdis**

*President & Chief Executive Officer*

**SSP America**