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Papa John's Deepens Strategic Partnership With the Bajco Group to Expand Presence in North America With 50 New Stores by 2028

Papa John's continues to expand the company's North American footprint with plans to open 50 new restaurants in partnership with longtime franchisee Nadeem Bajwa

ATLANTA--(BUSINESS WIRE)-- Papa John's International, Inc. (NASDAQ: PZZA) ("Papa John's" or "Company") today announced plans to open 50 new restaurants by 2028 in partnership with franchisee Nadeem Bajwa and his company, The Bajco Group, which has grown over the past 20 years to become one of Papa John's largest domestic franchisees.

Furthering Bajwa's goal to own 500 Papa John's restaurants, the new agreement will expand the Papa John's footprint in The Bajco Group's existing markets across the Midwest and in Arizona, Pennsylvania and Florida, adding to the more than 200 restaurants the franchisee and his team currently operate.

"Nadeem's story is a clear example of how Papa John's supports its franchisees to build shared success," said Joe Sieve, Papa John's Chief Restaurant Officer "After starting his Papa John's journey as a delivery driver, today he is one of the strongest ambassadors for the opportunities Papa John's presents to its team members and franchisees. Nadeem's confidence in the brand and expertise in the industry reinforces why he knows there has never been a better time to grow with Papa John's."

A proponent of paying it forward and creating future opportunities for his team members to build their own businesses with Papa John's, Bajwa credits the Company's business model and strong brand equity as integral to his success.

"Signing this deal, I am as excited today as I was 20 years ago when I opened my first restaurant," Bajwa said. "Papa John's is not just about business. My team members are my family – and that's a whole different ballgame. I'm proud that in partnership with Papa John's, I have been able to pursue my own aspiration, and watch my own team members go from starting their first jobs to becoming leaders."

Earlier this year, Papa John's announced the Back to Growth Program (B2G Program), a new development incentive program designed to accelerate growth in North America as part of its *Back to Better 2.0* strategy. The new program will boost restaurant-level margins during the first five years of operations of new restaurants – equating to a 600-basis point of annual cost savings in restaurant P&Ls – which is expected to significantly improve cash-on-cash returns for franchisees, add scale for Papa John's in key markets and attract growth-oriented franchisees.

In tandem with this program, Papa Johns is making significant investments to strengthen its North America development infrastructure. To attract new, growth-oriented franchisees and support current developing franchisees, Papa Johns is strengthening its development team through several key hires who will specifically focus on unlocking accelerated franchisee growth.

About Papa Johns

Papa John's International, Inc. (NASDAQ: PZZA) ("Papa Johns") opened its doors in 1984 with one goal in mind: BETTER INGREDIENTS. BETTER PIZZA.® Papa Johns believes that using high quality ingredients leads to superior quality pizzas. Its original dough is made of only six ingredients and is fresh, never frozen. Papa Johns tops its pizzas with real cheese made from mozzarella, pizza sauce made with vine-ripened tomatoes that go from vine to can in the same day and meat free of fillers. It was the first national pizza delivery chain to announce the removal of artificial flavors and synthetic colors from its entire food menu. Papa Johns is co-headquartered in Atlanta, Ga. and Louisville, Ky. and is the world's third-largest pizza delivery company with more than 5,900 restaurants in approximately 50 countries and territories. For more information about the Company or to order pizza online, visit www.papajohns.com or download the Papa Johns mobile app for iOS or Android.

About Bajco Group

The Bajco Group is a privately held business enterprise based in the United States with its principal office in Canfield, Ohio and satellite office in Lahore, Pakistan. Its affiliated companies currently own and manage 200+ Papa John's Pizza restaurants across 10 states in the U.S. and a commercial real estate portfolio across Midwest region of the United States.

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