

29 Sep 2016 | United Kingdom

Fabian Graber

Antin closes GBP 227.5m Roadchef refinancing

Antin Infrastructure Partners has closed a GBP 227.5m refinancing of its UK motorway services company Roadchef, *InfraNews* understands.

Barclays, Commerzbank, Crédit Agricole, Investec and Lloyds are providing the new debt, Antin said. The financing comprises a GBP 192.5 term loan, a GBP 30m capex facility and a GBP 5m revolving credit facility, said a source familiar with the process.

The debt package will replace Roadchef's financing structure which includes a listed bond issued in 1998. Antin expects to significantly reduce the firm's cost of debt through the refinancing. The new capex facility will also "be better suited to support Roadchef's on-going investment programme," the fund manager said in a statement from 22 September.

Antin Infrastructure Partners II acquired 100% of Roadchef in 2014 for GBP 153m from Israeli energy conglomerate Delek Group. The company operates 30 roadside service areas at locations across the UK, including Clacket Lane on the M25 and Strensham on the M5.

Roadchef posted EBITDA of GBP 28.4m in FY 2016, up 6.7% YoY, according to Fitch. The firm's improved profitability was mainly driven by growth in catering revenues, the rating agency said last month. It expected EBITDA to grow to GBP 30.6m by 2027.

Fitch upgraded Roadchef's GBP 88m class A2 notes to BB- from B+, and its GBP 42m class B notes to B from B- on 4 August. "The upgrade reflects Roadchef's ongoing and consistent improvement in operating performance since the 2008 recession," the rating agency said. In 2009, Roadchef's EBITDA dropped to a low of circa GBP 17m.

