

# ROARK CAPITAL GROUP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Roark Capital Group Acquires McAlister's Deli**

*Atlanta-based private equity firm purchases its sixth franchise business*

**ATLANTA, GA (August 9, 2005)** – Roark Capital Group, an Atlanta-based private equity firm, announced today that it has acquired McAlister's Deli. Headquartered in Ridgeland, Mississippi, McAlister's owns, operates and franchises a chain of quick casual restaurants offering a variety of signature sandwiches, salads, soups, stuffed baked potatoes, wraps, desserts and proprietary beverages. McAlister's has 170 franchised and company-owned locations across 19 states generating more than \$200 million of system-wide sales.

The acquisition of McAlister's Deli is Roark's sixth in the franchise sector and first under its recently raised \$413 million fund. Roark's other franchise businesses include Carvel, Cinnabon, Money Mailer, Fastsigns, and certain international markets for Seattle's Best Coffee.

"McAlister's Deli is synonymous with high quality food, variety and service," said Neal Aronson, founder and managing partner of Roark Capital Group. "McAlister's management team, led by its chief executive officer, Phil Friedman, has done an excellent job of developing a strong brand name and unit-level model that is profitable and effective for both franchisees and company stores."

Friedman will continue to lead the Company and is pleased that Roark has added McAlister's to its portfolio of franchise businesses. "Given Roark's proven track record in the franchise industry, we are excited about our new partnership. We have only begun to capitalize on our potential and expect to further accelerate the growth and awareness of the McAlister's brand."

### **About McAlister's Deli**

McAlister's Deli is a growing chain of quick casual restaurants offering signature sandwiches, salads, soups, stuffed backed potatoes, wraps, desserts and proprietary beverages. The McAlister's Deli system includes 170 restaurants across 19 states with more than \$200 million of system-wide sales. For further information and directions to the store nearest you, please visit [www.mcalistersdeli.com](http://www.mcalistersdeli.com).

### **About Roark Capital Group**

Roark Capital Group is an Atlanta-based private equity firm that acquires majority positions in franchise, financial services, niche manufacturing, and service businesses. Roark also targets family-owned businesses in the Southeast. The firm, with more than \$560 million of equity capital under management, specializes in companies with attractive growth prospects and revenues ranging from \$20 million to \$1.0 billion. For more information about Roark Capital Group, please visit [www.roarkcapital.com](http://www.roarkcapital.com).

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