

# SSP America appoints Murray as new CEO amid North American expansion



Pat Murray, who has been Deputy CEO of SSP since 2022, succeeds his predecessor with immediate effect

SSP Group has named Pat Murray as CEO of its American division, marking a strategic leadership transition as the travel food and beverage operator continues its strong growth trajectory in North America.

Murray, who joined SSP America in 2007 as VP of Business Development and became Deputy CEO in 2022, succeeds Michael Svagdis with immediate effect. The appointment comes as SSP America strengthens its presence across 53 of North America's busiest airports, with the region now representing nearly a quarter of the group's total revenues following 22% growth in the year ending September 2024.

"I'm delighted to be announcing Pat Murray as SSP America's new CEO," says Patrick Coveney, CEO

of SSP Group. "North America is a hugely important, high-growth market for the Group, and Pat's exceptional leadership qualities and industry experience make him the ideal person to drive the business forward as we capitalize on the growth opportunities that we see ahead of us."

Murray brings significant industry expertise to the role, having played a key role in SSP America's strategy of delivering a 'taste of place' through partnerships with local brands and restaurateurs. His industry leadership extends beyond SSP, including service as inaugural Board Chair of the Airport Restaurant Retail Association and current Vice Chair of the ACI World Associates Board.

"I am truly honored to be leading SSP America into its next chapter," says Murray. "The success of SSP lies in its people, and it is their creativity, leadership and passion for delivering exceptional dining experiences for travelers that sets us apart as a business."

The leadership change comes as SSP Group, which operates food and beverage outlets across 37 countries, continues to expand its North American footprint with award-winning bespoke concepts and downtown favorites tailored to each location's unique character.

Coveney also acknowledged the contribution of outgoing CEO Michael Svagdis, who is departing after ten years: "I would like to sincerely thank Michael for his outstanding service and contribution to SSP over the past decade. We wish him all the very best in his future endeavors."