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NEWS RELEASE

A tasty deal on the menu at Manchester's Tampopo

Manchester based noodle bar Tampopo is undergoing a major expansion following investment from The Co-operative Bank's South Manchester Corporate Banking Centre.

The funding has enabled Mancunian entrepreneurs and founders of Tampopo, David Fox and Nick Jeffrey, to complete a £2.2 million expansion programme which includes a new 195 seater restaurant in the Trafford Centre a 124 seater restaurant in the Triangle and the refurbishment of Tampopo's original restaurant on Albert Square.

The expansion funding package from The Co-operative Bank is also helping the company increase its geographical presence with the launch of Tampopo's sixth restaurant in Bristol at the end of September 2008.

Established 11 years ago Tampopo employs over 100 staff in Manchester, with its portfolio including a 195 seat restaurant in the Trafford Centre and a 124 seat restaurant on Exchange Square.

Co-owner David Fox said: "Manchester has changed beyond recognition since we opened our first restaurant on Albert Square in 1997. The new openings and refurbishment of our original Albert Square restaurant demonstrates the evolution of the brand and heralds the start of our major expansion programme."

Ian Heesom, Senior Development Manager at The Co-operative Bank's South Manchester Corporate Banking Centre said: "David and Nick have created an extremely successful business and they are in a strong position to expand."

“This deal shows that even in today’s uncertain economic climate, we are still very much open for business and lending to companies with impressive business strategies. We are in a strong position to provide funding for existing and new customers, unlike some other lenders who seem to be more reluctant to provide funding at this current time.”

Ends

Photo Caption: (L-R) Ian Heesom, Senior Development Manager at The Co-operative Bank’s South Manchester Corporate Banking Centre, and David Fox, Co-founder of Tampopo.

Notes to editors:

- ISDN facilities are available for broadcast media interviews.

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