**Bio – Pat McDonagh**

Pat McDonagh started his career as a teacher and having always had an interest in business, he decided to explore this further by opening his first restaurant outlet in Ballinasloe in 1978.  Having played a lot of sport in secondary school, he earned his nickname during a Gaelic Football match when one of the supporters on the side line christened him, “Supermac”.  This then became the natural choice of name for his business, “Supermac’s”.  Pat met Una very early on in the story of Supermac’s and both have been key and instrumental to the success story it has become.

The couple have built Ireland’s most successful indigenous quick service family restaurant group - Supermac’s. With over 110 restaurants throughout the country, the group consists of the Supermac’s chain of family restaurants, The Plaza Group of motorway service stations and the Só Hotels. There are over 4,500 people employed throughout the business and they have helped to establish up to 60 self-employed franchisees in their own successful businesses.

The Só Hotels group includes the Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick, the Loughrea Hotel & Spa, the Charleville Park Hotel in Cork, the Killeshin Hotel in Portlaoise, the Athlone Springs Hotel and the Castle Oaks House Hotel in Castleconnell.