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COMPANY PRESS RELEASE

## **BLENZ CELEBRATES THE GRAND OPENING OF ITS FIRST INTERNATIONAL LOCATION IN TOKYO, JAPAN**

TOKYO, JAPAN-July 18, 2000-Blenz Coffee is celebrating the Grand Opening of its first international location in Tokyo, Japan. The store is located at 3-12-9, Kita-Aoyama, Minato-ku, in the Aoyama district of Tokyo. The store will open to the general public tomorrow, Wednesday, July 19, 2000. The store is operated by Blenz Coffee's master franchisor in Japan, B & M Co. Ltd.

A gala Grand Opening party was held this evening at the store location and was well attended by invited guests and the media. The evening included greetings from Leonard J. Edwards, the Canadian Ambassador to Japan.

Blenz recently signed a master franchise agreement with Tokyo-based B & M to develop 50 stores in the Japanese market. B & M is also close to securing a lease for its second Tokyo location, expected to open in September, 2000.

Founded in Vancouver, BC in 1991, Blenz Coffee is a premiere retailer of specialty coffee. Blenz operates a network of 23 franchised locations in British Columbia and has recently signed a master franchise agreement to develop 50 stores in Japan. Blenz is planning a more aggressive local and international expansion campaign over the next few years.