

# *Spain's Hotelsa to be First Foreign Firm to Build Factory in Cuba's Mariel Zone*

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Havana, April 23 (RHC) — Spain's Hotelsa, food and beverage producer and caterer, plans to build a factory in Cuba's Mariel Special Development Zone, local media reported on Wednesday.

Hotelsa recently obtained authorization from the Cuban government to create a fully owned subsidiary for the production of food and beverage products for hotels, as well as dispensing machines for those same products.

"We'll begin building (the factory) in June," and the construction phase is scheduled to be completed in early 2016, the head of the company's Caribbean area, Carlos Palao, told Efe news agency.

Hotelsa will build the factory on a 5,000-sq.-meter (53,750-sq.-foot) lot in the agrifoods section of the development zone, which is located some 45 kilometers (28 miles) west of Havana.

The Palma-based company will invest 6 million euros (\$6.4 million) in the first phase, in which the new factory will employ some 50 people, all of them Cuban, Hotelsa said on its Web site.

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