

25 June 2007

Sodexo scores multi-million pound success with signing of new PFI deal

Sodexo, a leading food and facilities management services company, has announced the signing of a £361million hospital PFI project in North Staffordshire, alongside John Laing Social Infrastructure (a division of John Laing plc).

As part of the 37 year concession, the two companies forming Healthcare Support (North Staffs) Ltd, will oversee the construction of two new hospitals in the Stoke-on-Trent area: an 11,000sq m community hospital to be known as Haywood Hospital which will be completed by 2009; and a 90,000sq m acute hospital, to be known as University Hospital of North Staffordshire for completion in 2014.

The deal further strengthens Sodexo's position in the PFI market - currently involved in 25 projects with North Staffs becoming its eighth PFI in the healthcare market.

The hospitals are being developed by Sodexo and John Laing Social Infrastructure for University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust and Stoke-on-Trent Primary Care Trust. Full integrated facilities management services will be provided by Sodexo. Construction, which will be undertaken by Laing O'Rourke, will begin immediately. RyderHKS is the architect.

Iain Anderson, Managing Director of Sodexo Healthcare said: "I have had a team dedicated to this project for several years and they have worked very closely with John Laing and the Trust in developing the intricate services that will support the Trusts' local Healthcare ambitions. I am delighted that we will be working together to deliver these to the local community".

David Hardy, Managing Director of John Laing Social Infrastructure, said: "We are absolutely delighted to have reached this important milestone in this major project. We look forward to working in partnership with the Trust to support its vision of providing modern, world-class facilities and healthcare provision for the people of North Staffordshire."

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Notes to Editors

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About Sodexho

In the UK and Ireland, Sodexho employs 48,000 employees, and provides food and facilities management services to clients at over 2,300 locations in the business and industry, education, healthcare, leisure and defence sectors.

Many companies rely on Sodexho for cost-effective solutions to their employee or hospitality catering, or to deliver services such as cleaning, reception, switchboard and help desks, mailroom, reprographics and grounds maintenance.

Sodexho is part of Sodexho Alliance the leading global provider of food and management services, with more than 332,000 employees at 28,300 sites in 80 countries.

About John Laing

John Laing is one of the UK's leading investors, developers and operators of privately financed, public sector infrastructure projects such as health, education, roads and railways. Its core business is focused entirely upon the development of PFI/PPP projects and operations. The Group currently invests in a total of 55 projects.

About the Trusts:

University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust:

The University Hospital of North Staffordshire serves a population of half a million in Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme, the Staffordshire Moorlands and surrounding areas, providing a wide range of services. The Trust also provides specialist care for an area covering Staffordshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire and Wales. Over 6,000 staff are employed and areas of particular specialty include cancer, cardiac, respiratory, renal and trauma services, paediatric and neonatal intensive care.

Stoke Primary Care Trust

Stoke on Trent Primary Care Trust (PCT) was formed following the merger of North Stoke PCT and South Stoke PCT in October 2006. Serving a registered population of over 270,000 and employing over 1,700 staff, the PCT holds the health services budget for the people it serves. It is responsible for improving the health of the local population through investment and modernisation and its services include three hospitals, 58 GP Practices, 59 Pharmacies, 25 Dental Practices and 27 Optometric Practices.