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New Lancaster County Convention Center and Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square Celebrates Ceremonial “Topping Off”

LANCASTER, Pa. – Oct. 1, 2008 – The Lancaster County Convention Center (LCCC) and Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square is conducting a ceremonial “Topping Off” event at 11:00 a.m. on Oct. 1, 2008, at its construction site. This new \$170 million integrated facility is a major force in the revitalization of downtown Lancaster, Pa., and is one of the most important regional economic development initiatives in decades.

The event is focused around the last piece of structural steel for the facility and includes a beam signing and hoisting, as well as the signing of one of the facility’s latest contracts – with the PA League of Cities & Municipalities (PLCM).

Key speakers include: PA State Senator Gib Armstrong; PA State Representative Mike Sturla; Lancaster County Commission Chair Dennis Stuckey; Lancaster Mayor Rick Gray; Nevin Cooley, president of Penn Square General Corp.; Kevin Molloy, executive director of Lancaster County Convention Center Authority (LCCCA); Tim Lease, PA Dutch CVB chair; Jack Garner, executive director of the PLCM; and Josh Nowak, director of sales and marketing for the hotel and convention center.

“We’re very excited about this milestone, which represents continued progress toward opening a superb facility whose positive economic impact will be felt in downtown Lancaster and throughout the county,” stated Lease of the PA Dutch CVB.

Situated in the heart of downtown Lancaster and seamlessly incorporating the façade of the historic Watt & Shand department store, the convention center and adjoining 300-room hotel will offer a combined 90,000 square feet of meeting space and the latest technology for conventions, events, and trade shows.

“Today’s event is another great step in creating a first-class hotel and entire facility with a distinctive flair that will be unique in this region and very proudly welcome visitors to Lancaster,” said Cooley of Penn Square General Corp., which will lease the Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square from the Redevelopment Authority of the City of Lancaster.

Molloy with the LCCCA – owner of the convention center – echoed that sentiment. “This ‘topping off’ marks an important day in the facility’s development, as it serves to remind our community, the Commonwealth, and the region that the Lancaster County Convention Center is poised to open next spring.”

Unique from traditional northeast meeting locations, Lancaster is centrally located to the metropolitan cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Washington, D.C. and New York, yet offers a wonderful blend of urban style and rural splendor. Both the convention center and hotel are scheduled to open in spring 2009 (<http://www.lancasterconventioncenter.com>).

To book a meeting, convention or event at the new facility, visit www.lancasterconventioncenter.com or call Josh Nowak at 717-239-1601.

The Lancaster County Convention Center and Marriott Lancaster at Penn Square is operated by Interstate Hotels & Resorts, the nation’s largest independent hotel management company. For more information about Interstate Hotels & Resorts, visit the company’s Web site: www.ihrco.com.

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For a virtual tour of the facility, visit <http://www.lancasterconventioncenter.com/vrtour.asp>.