

Press Release

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Skanska Completes Elizabeth A. Connelly Emergency Center at Staten Island University Hospital

Construction Manager meets schedule that was accelerated to fulfill urgent community need at North Shore LIJ System's newest building

Staten Island, NY – Mayor Michael Bloomberg, NYS First Lady Michelle Paterson, hospital officials and Steve Pressler of Skanska USA Building Inc. cut the ribbon today [June 26, 11a.m.] on a new two-story trauma and emergency room building abutting Staten Island University Hospital [SIUH].

The new Elizabeth A. Connelly Emergency and Trauma Center will triple the emergency room capacity and provide the major E.D. facility in the borough, according to Joseph Weiner, Director of Facility Development at North Shore LIJ Health System, corporate parent of SIUH. The hospital is located at 475 Seaview Avenue, on the east side of Staten Island.

“Thanks to exceptional coordination between the hospital's staff and our team, our work at SIUH will be completed in record time,” says Pressler, Skanska Executive Vice President and New York Area General Manager. “All that remains now is to break through to the existing ER, which will happen as soon as this new building is occupied.”

Skanska – consistently ranked as one of the leading healthcare construction managers in the US by *Modern Healthcare* magazine – has more than \$5 billion in healthcare projects currently under construction in the US.

“Staten Island's need for these healthcare facilities is urgent,” according to Dr. Brahim Ardolic, SIUH Chairman of Emergency Medicine. The hospital currently has 100,000 emergency room visits each year, but the existing E.R. was built to handle 25,000. “This new structure provides 56 stations, decreases wait times, improves patient confidentiality and privacy and introduces the newest technology,” says Ardolic.

The \$39-million addition, placed on angle to the hospitals' original 1979 structure, will house a 39,000-sf emergency and trauma center on the first floor and a 24,900-sf educational center on the second floor. The education center will be used for residency programs for doctors, medical education for the community and a medical library.

Construction had already started on the project when Skanska stepped in as construction manager in late 2007, taking over on a job that had already ordered steel. Jenny Freeman, Skanska's Project Executive, indicates that the entire project – which includes improvements to the hospital's existing facilities – was put on a fast track to open six weeks earlier than planned.

“Skanska performed just as we had hoped,” states Weiner, “They got involved on a tight schedule and worked closely with the hospital to bring us a fine building on time. This is a great benefit to the Staten Island community.”

“Any hospital project comes with challenges; Skanska's job was to overcome those challenges,” according to Skanska's Project Manager Susan Loheide, who has been building healthcare projects for most of her career. Beyond scheduling, interface was the principal construction challenge. Workers had to break through existing walls to tie in to the new structure and not disrupt the sterility of the adjacent second-floor operating suite and the ground floor emergency room and trauma center. “With operating and emergency rooms in such high demand, we couldn't just shut down the hospital,” Loheide comments.

Traffic circulation was another logistical issue, since access to the construction site is the same as to the emergency center. Another challenge was that, when steel beams were delivered to the roof, the code requires that everybody be evacuated for two floors below. This was done, as Loheide explains, by Skanska's coordinating “very elaborate work plans” with the hospital's plant operations staff. Temporary partitions that seal off construction areas and off-hours work were some of the solutions.

Loheide further points out that, “Certainly it was critical not to interfere with the flow of medical gases, steam lines, and chilled water.” Since it became evident that it was impossible to transport these mechanical systems through the functioning hospital, Skanska decided that these utility lines had to go over it. They installed an upset beam on top of the existing building columns, thus creating a cradle that could safely transport the conduits across the roof. “This involved intensive routing and timing, so as to not disturb the patient rooms and burn units below,” she adds.

“Although the new emergency room has opened, Skanska's job is only about 80% complete,” explains Freeman. “We still have to renovate the inside of the old space and complete the last of the five connections between the two buildings.” The project completion date is scheduled for this coming fall.

Note: Pictures of dedication event are available Friday afternoon from Anthony Angelico, Capelin Communications, Tel 212.779.4949, aangelico@capelin.com.

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Skanska USA Building Inc. is a leading national and local provider of construction, pre-construction consulting, general contracting and design-build services to a broad range of U.S. industries including healthcare, science and technology, education, high-tech, aviation, transportation and sports and entertainment. Skanska USA Building also provides pharmaceutical validation services to clients. The company, part of the Skanska AB global group of companies, is headquartered in Parsippany, New Jersey, and has approximately 4,700 employees.

Skanska is one of the world's leading construction groups with expertise in construction, development of commercial and residential projects and public-private partnerships. The Group currently has 56,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, in the U.S. and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden, and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska's sales in 2008 totaled \$22 billion.

In healthcare: Skanska is a leader in healthcare construction with more than \$5 billion in projects currently under construction in the U.S., including a new 484,000-square-foot patient tower at Miami Valley Hospital in Dayton, Ohio and a new 12-story hospital at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center in Memphis, Tennessee.

In New York City: Besides renovations to the 32nd floor of the Empire State Building for its own regional offices, Skanska's New York office is involved in the new Brooklyn Bridge Park, the new pier for the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum, Brooklyn Children's Museum (just completed), and the City University of New York Advanced Science Research Center at City College of New York.