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News

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Skanska Tops Out New Emergency, Education Centers at Staten Island University Hospital

Staten Island, NY (April 10, 2008) – Skanska USA Building Inc.

announced today it has raised the last steel beam into place on a new trauma and emergency room building abutting Staten Island University Hospital. The new facility, located in the Ocean Breeze section of Staten Island, will double the island's emergency room capacity.

The new \$40-million building, placed on angle to the hospitals' original 1970s structure, will house a 39,000-square-foot emergency and trauma center on the first floor. Another \$10 million will cover the initial structural costs of a 24,900-square-foot 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. Staten Island University Hospital is part of the 15-hospital North Shore–Long Island Jewish Health System.

Skanska has been managing the construction for Staten Island University Hospital's emergency department modernization project since late 2007. Steve Pressler, Skanska Executive Vice President, indicates that the entire project, which includes improvements to the hospital's existing facilities, will be completed in fall

2009. The company – consistently ranked as one of the leading healthcare construction managers in the nation by *Modern Healthcare* magazine – is one of the most prominent builders worldwide. “Delivery of quality healthcare and quality construction need to go hand in glove,” says Pressler.

“We have 100,000 emergency room visits each year at our North and South Site hospital facilities. The busiest is our North Site ER, built in 1979 to accommodate 25,000 annual patient visits,” explains Anthony C. Ferreri, President and CEO. “With this new structure, we can look forward to decreased wait times and length of stay, improved patient confidentiality and privacy, and introduction of new technology to improve delivery of care.”

Interface is the principal construction challenge, according to Skanska’s seasoned Senior Project Manager Susan Loheide. Workers breaking through the existing walls to tie in to the new structure must not disrupt the sterility of the adjacent second-floor operating suite and the ground floor emergency room and trauma center. “It’s not easy to do this with operating and emergency rooms in high demand,” Loheide comments. “And certainly you don’t want to interfere with the flow of medical gases, steam lines and chilled water.”

External circulation is another logistical issue, since access to the construction site is the same as to the emergency center. Another challenge is that, when steel beams are delivered to the roof, it’s a code requirement to make sure that everybody is evacuated for two floors below. In response, Skanska coordinates “very elaborate work plans” with the hospital’s plant

operations staff. Negative airflow, temporary partitions that seal off construction areas and off-hours work are some of the solutions.

One uncommon challenge to construction flow is a flock of 20 wild turkeys that considers the hospital grounds its sanctuary. Loheide said her team photographed the turkeys, painted hardhats on the pictures and posted them at the entrance to the site with the caption: “Don’t be a turkey. Wear your hard hat.”

When the new center is finished and the entire existing emergency department has relocated into the new structure, Skanska will build an elevator directly from the new emergency room’s trauma area to the existing operating room suite, gut the existing emergency department, and renovate that space for office administration.

Skanska also will do site work to provide a new ambulance entry bay, separate emergency room parking and revised landscaping to enhance the hospital’s appearance.

The architect of record is Perkins Eastman.

Skanska USA Building is a leading national and local provider of construction, pre-construction consulting, general contracting, and design-build services. Part of the Skanska AB global group of companies, one of the largest construction companies in the world, Skanska USA Building is headquartered in Parsippany, NJ, and has approximately 4,700 employees.

Skanska AB 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 60,000 employees in selected home markets in Europe, U.S., and Latin America. Headquartered in Stockholm, Sweden and listed on the Stockholm Stock Exchange, Skanska had 2007 sales totaling \$20 billion.

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