

DARWIN CONVENTION CENTRE WINS SIGNIFICANT NEW CONFERENCE BOOKINGS AS IT BOOSTS THE CITY'S ECONOMY

7 May 2012

When Darwin Convention Centre opened its doors in June 2008, it made a commitment to support its host city's evolving position as an international business powerhouse.

The presence of a facility of the international quality and standing of the Darwin Convention Centre has proved to be a powerful additional attraction for Darwin as an outstanding global business destination with the Centre attracting major conferences and events to the city.

Since its opening, the economic benefit generated by the Convention Centre for the city recognised as Australia's Business City of the Future is estimated at \$172 million.

The demand for conferences at the Darwin Convention Centre continues to grow with the Centre holding confirmed bookings for conferences and events through to 2015.

Just last week Darwin was successful in winning the bid to host the prestigious 2013 national conference of the peak national industry body, Meetings and Events Australia (MEA).

Malu Barrios, General Manager of the Darwin Convention Centre, said the MEA win was a win for Darwin and reflected the close working relationship between the Center and NT Convention Bureau. "The event will not only bring an estimated 600 delegates to Darwin but also focus the attention of the industry's media on the city," said Ms Barrios.

And this week (May 9 to 11), the Centre will be privileged to welcome the respected Australian Institute of Company Directors to the Centre for its annual convention.

The high profile nature of many of the conference bids being won by the Centre, and the heavyweight competition they are winning against, is also evident in the bookings for a further ten events through to September 2014, received in just the past eight weeks, including the following:

The Polymer Division of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (ROCI) will bring its 34th Australian Polymer Symposium to the Centre in July 2013. The largest organisation representing polymer scientists, engineers and technologists in Australasia, the division promotes the professional activities of its members, both within its borders and on the international stage. As such, the Polymer Symposiums always attract a significant number of delegates from around the world.

The eminent Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) Conference for General Practice, attracting 1000 delegates, will be held at the Centre in mid-October 2013, having been won in competition against the Melbourne and Sydney Convention Centres.

The Centre will welcome another distinguished medical group to the Centre in September 2014 when the Asia Pacific Paediatric Endocrine Society holds its 8th Biennial Scientific Meeting in Australia for the first time since 2002. This convention was won against a strong bid from Tokyo.

As a member of the AEG Ogden group that manages leading convention centres and entertainment venues around Australia and throughout the Asia Pacific region, the Darwin Convention Centre is making a strong contribution to the success of AEG Ogden. The Centre's recent wins re-affirms the group's industry reputation for delivering international standard venue management services.

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About AEG Ogden:

AEG Ogden is a joint venture between Australian interests and AEG Facilities of the United States.

AEG Ogden manages venues throughout the Asia Pacific region, including Sydney's Acer Arena, the Brisbane Entertainment Centre and the Newcastle Entertainment Centre, and the Perth Arena (currently under construction); the Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin and Kuala Lumpur Convention Centres, the Qatar National Convention Centre (currently under construction), Suncorp Stadium in Brisbane and live theatres including Perth's His Majesty's Theatre and the Perth Concert Hall.

About AEG Facilities

AEG, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Anschutz Company, is the leading sports, entertainment and venue operator in the world. AEG Facilities, a stand-alone affiliate of AEG, owns, operates or consults with 100 of the industry's preeminent venues worldwide, across five continents, and works in concert with affiliated AEG entities, including live event producer, AEG Live, AEG Global Partnerships and AEG Development to support the success of AEG venues across the globe. AEG owns, operates or provides services to venues including STAPLES Center (Los Angeles, Calif.), The Home Depot Center (Carson, Calif.), Nokia Theatre L.A. Live (Los Angeles, Calif.), Citizens Business Bank Arena (Ontario, Calif.), Valley View Casino Center (San Diego, Calif.) Sprint Center (Kansas City, Mo.), XL Center and Rentschler Field (Hartford, Conn.), The Rose Garden (Portland, Ore.), KeyArena (Seattle, Wash.), KFC YUM! Center (Louisville, Ky.), AmericanAirlines Arena (Miami, Fla.), AT&T Center (San Antonio, Tx.), Time Warner Cable Arena (Charlotte, N.C.), Prudential Center (Newark, N.J.), Target Center (Minneapolis, Minn.), Mercedes-Benz Arena (Shanghai, China), MasterCard Center (Beijing, China), The O2 Arena (London, England), O2 World (Berlin, Germany), O2 World Hamburg (Hamburg, Germany), Ahoy Arena (Rotterdam, Netherlands), Pernambuco Stadium (Recife, Brazil), Acer Arena (Sydney, Australia), Globe Arenas (Stockholm, Sweden) and the Qatar National Convention Centre (Doha, Qatar). For more information, please visit www.aegworldwide.com.