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WITH OVER 1,300 HOTEL ROOMS IN PIPELINE, PUERTO RICO CONVENTION CENTER DISTRICT TO BECOME ISLAND’S NEWEST HOTEL ZONE

-- Sheraton Headquarter Hotel Scheduled to Open in November 2009 --

SAN JUAN, November 12, 2008 – The Puerto Rico Convention Center District Authority recently unveiled plans to create new hotel zone to be built within the 113-acre development. Following the first three years of successfully hosting large conventions and events at the new Puerto Rico Convention Center, more than 1,358 rooms are in the pipeline within the District, with the first hotel property, the Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel & Casino, scheduled to welcome its first guests by November 2009.

“A key element of the District project was to not only provide convention delegates with a headquarter hotel that matched the Puerto Rico Convention Center in terms of superlative design and amenities,” Manuel Sánchez-Biscombe, executive director, Convention Center District Authority. “but also to provide a range of accommodation options for all types of visitors to the Island. This includes the individual business traveler, the cruise passenger as well as the sun-seeker.”

The first property scheduled to come on line in the District is the Sheraton Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel & Casino. Serving as the headquarter hotel to the Puerto Rico Convention Center, the Starwood property is scheduled to open in November 2009 and will be the first building to built in the Caribbean under the guidelines of the U.S Green Building Council. The property is also seeking the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification as part of the District’s policy to adhere to “green” building guidelines with all the elements located within the District.

The 503-room, 22-suite property will feature a 57,000 square foot, four-story high outdoor sundeck complete with sweeping panoramic views from Condado to the Bay of San

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Juan, a large infinity swimming pool with poolside cabanas and additional outdoor function space. Other elements include a 9,100 square foot spa; a state-of-the-art Fitness Center; 70,000 square feet of retail space; and a 19,000 square foot casino with more than 500 slot machines and 16 tables. Guests will also be able to choose from a variety of dining options and on-site restaurants.

The hotel's conference center with over 35,000 square feet of state-of-the-art flexible meeting space is exclusively on the second level featuring: the 16,300-square foot San Juan Grande Ballroom, which is divisible into 8 rooms; the 7,700-square foot Miramar Ballroom distinctively remarked by the natural lighting and views plus 7 other meeting rooms, some that can be divided.

In planning for the elements of the District, the PRCCDA aimed to offer convention delegates and other visitors a variety of accommodation choices and announced plans for two additional hotels that will begin construction in 2009. These properties include a 250-room Marriott Courtyard Convention District Hotel and another Starwood property, the 252-room Aloft Puerto Rico Convention Center Hotel.

Groundbreaking for the Marriott property is scheduled for late 2009, with a completion date of December 2012. The Aloft hotel is scheduled to break ground in May of 2009 for completion in May 2012. Designed as an add-on to the headquarter Sheraton property, the hotel will also feature 16,000 square feet of commercial space. Another 700 – 750 hotel rooms are part of the District's master plan and include the development of a 500-room and a 200-250 room property.

Just outside of the District, a former luxury apartment building (The Miramar), is being retrofitted and refurbished to become a 303-room condo-hotel called The Golden Triangle Hotel.

"Puerto Rico's commitment to the meetings and conventions market continues to be unsurpassed," stated Ana María Viscasillas, president and CEO, Puerto Rico Convention Bureau. "The addition of 1,700 hotel rooms within the District creates an entirely new hotel or tourist zone, with the primary purpose of serving large blocks of convention groups while providing an easy to navigate and vibrant backdrop to guests of all types that exemplifies Puerto Rico."

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The Puerto Rico Convention Center District was conceived as a dynamic, multi-use urban center, combining business and entertainment in a 113-acre world-class complex. The \$432 million Puerto Rico Convention Center was conceived by the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as a way of broadening the Island's successful tourism industry with increased group and business travel.

The 580,000 square foot Puerto Rico Convention Center is the largest facility of its kind in the Caribbean and the most technologically-advanced in the Caribbean and Latin America. Since its opening in November 2005, the Center has welcomed delegates from around the globe with groups of up to 10,000 attendees, including the National Guard Association of the United States, the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and others. By allowing Puerto Rico to compete not only in the convention markets of the Americas, but also in the international market, the new Center creates a singular destination for conventions, trade shows, consumer shows and congresses that places Puerto Rico at the forefront of world-class meeting destinations.

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Editor's Note:

The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau is the official marketing and sales agent for the Puerto Rico Convention Center at the Puerto Rico Convention Center District. The Puerto Rico Convention Center opened in November 2005 and is the largest facility of its kind in the Caribbean and the most technologically-advanced in the Caribbean and Latin America. For more information, visit www.prconvention.com. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau is a non-profit organization responsible for promoting and developing group and convention business to Puerto Rico through an integrated marketing strategy for more than 45 years. Based in San Juan, with offices in Chicago, Miami, New York, and Washington D.C., the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau provides sales consultation services to meeting planners in the corporate, incentive and association markets. The Bureau contributes approximately \$118 million annually to the Island's economy. For more information, visit the Bureau's Internet page at www.meetpuertorico.com or send a message at info@prcb.org. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau, representing the capital city of San Juan, is a member of BestCities, a global alliance of Bureaus that represent the highest standards of service in the meetings and convention industry. For more information, visit www.bestcities.net. The Puerto Rico Convention Bureau has also been awarded accreditation from the Destination Marketing Association International as an elite destination marketing organization. DMAI is the world's largest association of CVBs, representing more than 600 destination management organizations in more than 25 countries.

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