



INTERCONTINENTAL®

SAN FRANCISCO

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THE INTERCONTINENTAL SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES PLAN TO SEEK LEED® CERTIFICATION BY 2010

Evaluation of Sustainable Practice and Design Elements Has Property Slated to be One of the Largest “Green” Hotels in the United States

San Francisco, CA (March xx, 2009) – The InterContinental San Francisco announces its plan to achieve LEED® (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification by early 2010. Working in conjunction with the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), the organization that sets the standards and categories for LEED® certification, the InterContinental San Francisco is applying for certification in the “existing build operations and maintenance” category (EBOM) and will be evaluated on every facet of the property from construction and design elements to the types of amenities used in hotel guestrooms.

The InterContinental San Francisco, the first of a new generation of hotels, opened in February 2008. The 550-room hotel is set in the heart of San Francisco, in the city’s bustling South of Market district and adjacent to the Moscone Convention Center. Pursuing LEED® certification was a goal of the InterContinental San Francisco prior to its opening and since its debut the hotel has committed itself to integrating as many sustainable practices as possible into daily operations and upkeep of the property.

“From working with local organic and sustainable farmers at our restaurant Luce to our comprehensive recycling program throughout the property, we are constantly striving to run our business as efficiently and responsibly as possible for both our guests and our community,” says InterContinental San Francisco General Manager Peter Koehler. “We know it is our

responsibility to respect the environment and pursuing LEED® certification is the next step in our commitment for a better future.”

Since opening in 2008, the InterContinental San Francisco has integrated numerous sustainable practices in an effort to achieve this certification. Sustainable measures that have been integrated include **mold free dry wall**, which ensures a safe environment by providing superior indoor air quality for guests and employees alike; **floor to ceiling windows throughout the entire property** that offer an abundance of natural light and reduce the need for electricity; **public terraces** that provide guests with access to nearly 13,000 square feet of outdoor space; **double-paned windows** to reduce UV exposure, noise, and temperature fluctuation and **re-commissioning of its energy systems** by bringing in a third party to evaluate and upgrade its current systems to make them more efficient.

In guest rooms and meeting spaces, **motion sensors** shut down power in unoccupied guestrooms to conserve energy; natural, **automatic sensors** on sinks and toilets conserve water; **digital reader boards** throughout the hotel and in meeting spaces reduce the amount of paper used for special events and a **linen and towel re-use program**, reusable laundry, shoe and newspaper bags and recyclable bins are offered in every guest room.

The InterContinental’s I-Spa uses products that feature **organic** ingredients and **recycled** packaging whenever possible; 100 % micro-fiber sheets and amenity robes **cut down on drying time** and **expendable energy** during the cleaning process and all spa products are free of synthetic fragrances, artificial dyes or colors, paraben and petroleum and are not tested on animals.

Luce restaurant at the InterContinental San Francisco is committed to sourcing **local, organic and sustainable ingredients** and uses **energy efficient** kitchen equipment such as *Rationale Combi-Ovens*. The hotel uses *Green Bull Product*, a microbial based natural cleaner that utilizes microbes and bacteria to eliminate fat, oils and grease that clog pipes which reduces the amount of contaminants and toxins that filter into the city’s sewer system and is the safest option for employees and has implemented a comprehensive **recycling program** that manages 70% of generated waste. Bicycle storage is also offered to all employees encouraging them to use green modes of transportation.

The InterContinental San Francisco expects to receive LEED® certification by early 2010 and will continue to evaluate its current practices, seeking and implementing new sustainable measures and eco-friendly initiatives. For more information on the InterContinental San Francisco and its commitment to sustainability, please visit www.intercontinentalsanfrancisco.com .

About InterContinental San Francisco

The InterContinental San Francisco opened in February 2008 at Howard and 5th streets next to Moscone West Convention Center. The hotel towers 32 stories above the heart of the City and features 550 rooms, 14 suites, 43,000 sq. ft. of flexible meeting space with natural light, a ten-room treatment spa, full-service fitness center, and an indoor pool.

InterContinental Hotels Group PLC (IHG) of the United Kingdom [LON: IHG, NYSE: IHG (ADRs)] is one of the world's largest hotel groups by number of rooms. IHG owns, manages, leases or franchises, through various subsidiaries, over 3,900 hotels and more than 585,000 guest rooms in nearly 100 countries and territories around the world. IHG owns a portfolio of well recognized and respected hotel brands including InterContinental® Hotels & Resorts, Crowne Plaza® Hotels & Resorts, Holiday Inn® Hotels and Resorts, Holiday Inn Express®, Staybridge Suites®, Candlewood Suites® and Hotel Indigo®, and also manages the world's largest hotel loyalty program, Priority Club® Rewards with over 37 million members worldwide.

The company pioneered the travel industry's first collaborative response to environmental issues as founder of the International Hotels and Environment Initiative (IHEI). The IHEI formed the foundations of the Tourism Partnership launched by the International Business Leaders Forum in 2004, of which IHG is still a member today. The environment and local communities remain at the heart of IHG's global corporate responsibility focus.

IHG offers information and online reservations for all its hotel brands at www.ihg.com and information for the Priority Club Rewards program at www.priorityclub.com. For the latest news from IHG, visit our online Press Office at www.ihg.com/media

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