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Woods Bagot's 'Translational Research' Key in Race to Design London Cancer Treatment Centre

Woods Bagot, BDP and Brookfield have been named as one of six remaining consortiums vying for the opportunity to design and construct the new Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital Cancer Treatment Centre, London UK: a world first in sustainable healthcare facilities.

Launched last month, the competition to design the £90 million Cancer Treatment Centre has Woods Bagot enlisting the expertise of its global network's most progressive healthcare specialists – including Melbourne's own Mark Kelly (Director) and John Breguet, in support of London's Nik Karalis (Director) and James Berry, to make the NHS Foundation Trust's vision of an innovative, cost-effective, value-added design a reality.

The Trust stated: "The building will be required to lift the spirits for those who use it and achieve the highest standards of sustainability. The successful team will recognise the need to strike a balance that considers cost, long-term value and architecture. The winning consortium needs to display the ability to work together as a team, and with the client and other key stakeholders to generate an outstanding vision and to see the vision through to completion on site."

Having recently announced the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI) as its most ambitious healthcare project to date, Woods Bagot is poised for the challenges expected by the final stage of the Cancer Treatment Centre competition.

Returning from the team interview in London last week, Woods Bagot Director Mark Kelly emphasised the emergence of 'Translational Research' as a key plank in the design of cancer facilities around the globe.

"Translational Research involves the integration of basic science discoveries arising from the laboratory, clinical and or population studies into clinical applications and hence the functional design of the facility to support this integration becomes paramount. Our experience from our recent international study tour of 16 world leading cancer centres further supports this as the future direction for all major healthcare facilities."

The Woods Bagot consortia (including BDP and Brookfield as contractor) were in agreement with the Trust that change in the clinical brief – in the design stages, and during the life of the building – are inevitable. Subsequently, Woods Bagot's design will ensure that the sequences of public and private spaces which cancer patients and their carers will engage with adhere to the Trust's brief and are "recognisable, understandable and memorable."

Woods Bagot, BDP and Brookfield progressed through to the shortlist of six after Fosters + Partners, Zaha Hadid and Will Alsop were eliminated from a previous list of 13. A design brief is expected to be issued to all shortlisted candidates prior to the successful bid team being announced in Mid-August.

The Cancer Treatment Centre is the first phase of the wider development of the Guy's Hospital site which aims to modernise the London facilities and drive sustainable health care provision.

END

PROJECT SUMMARY: Cancer Treatment Centre for Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital

Estimated Budget: £90 million (consists of construction cost, design fees, planning contingency and inflationary uplift).

Area: Approx. 19, 000m2 (standalone building) and 125, 000m2 (entire site)

Shortlist (in no particular order):

1. Woods Bagot / BDP / Brookfield
2. Anshen & Allen Associates / Rogers Stirk Harbour & Partners / Laing O'Rourke
3. Hopkins Architects / Skanska Construction UK
4. Grimshaw / Jonathan Bailey Associates / Bovis Lend Lease
5. Make / Mace
6. Allies & Morrison / Devereux Architects / Kier Regional

ABOUT WOODS BAGOT

Woods Bagot's commitment to global excellence has resulted in a workforce of 650 staff based in five regions, in cities such as Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Sydney, Beijing, Hong Kong, London and most recently San Francisco, New York and Shanghai. Woods Bagot has also announced planning permission for what will be one of the world's most luxurious hotels at 10 Trinity Square, London and unveiled plans for the Middle East's tallest tower – at more than 1km high – in Dubai.

Woods Bagot's Australian studios have recently completed several award-winning flagship projects, including ivy, Sydney (with collaborative partners HP&G and Merivale), Qantas International First Lounges (with collaborative partners Marc Newson and Sebastien Segers) and the University of Western Australia Business School, Perth. Recently unveiled by Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Premier Mike Rann, Woods Bagot Adelaide has also designed the new AUD \$200 million South Australian Health & Medical Research Institute (SAHMRI). A transparent 'cocoon for ideas' the SAHMRI is expected to be a building established from unprecedented sustainable design principles that will foster excellence in medical research.

For all further information, interview requests or images please contact:

Anika McLaren

PR Manager (Australia)

+61 2 9249 2579

anika.mclaren@woodsbagot.com

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