OLYMPIC SUCCESS FOR DARWIN PROPOSED CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION CENTRE OPERATOR

Ogden International Facilities Corporation (IFC) - the proposed Convention and Exhibition Centre operator within the preferred consortium for the $1 Billion Darwin City Waterfront - has been selected to provide advice for the Beijing Olympics.

Acting Chief Minister, Syd Stirling, said that the company will provide technical and operational advice for the 80,000 seat stadium being built for the 2008 Games and was selected from a strong international field.

Their role will include reviewing the stadium design, advising on the operating effectiveness of the design and providing recommendations to China’s National Stadium Company.

“The Territory Government is committed to the development of a high quality Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the $1 Billion Darwin City Waterfront because it will drive growth and keep the Territory moving ahead,” he said.

“Ogden IFC has shown that it is a world leader in managing venues and we believe their involvement will see our Convention and Exhibition Centre deliver significant economic benefits and jobs for Territorians for many years to come.”

Mr Stirling said that the Convention and Exhibition Centre would be able to seat 1,500 people, has 4,000 square meters of exhibition space and would attract thousands of people to Darwin and through the Territory every year.

“A Convention and Exhibition Centre is long overdue for Darwin and this Government is proud to be delivering it,” he said.

“It’s expected to be operational by mid-2007 and will allow Darwin to take full economic advantage of large conferences and meetings, concerts and exhibitions that we currently miss out on because we don’t have a big enough indoor facility.

“Thousands of convention delegates will catch planes, eat at restaurants, use taxis, take tours and visit shops - especially those travelling with their families - injecting approximately $200 million into local business over 20-years.”