

IHG Announces Crowne Plaza Hotel Coming to the Heart of Illinois

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Bloomington-Normal hotel boasts over 9,000 square feet of meeting and banquet space

IHG (InterContinental Hotels Group) [LON: IHG, NYSE:IHG] today announced plans for a Crowne Plaza hotel in Bloomington-Normal, Ill. (U.S.) The \$11.5 million conversion hotel is expected to open in Q4 2008, following a complete renovation of a former Holiday Inn that began May 1, 2008. Renovations include a new guest tower roof, new exterior surfaces, new landscaping and all-new guestroom soft goods.

Located just eight miles from the Central Illinois Regional Airport, the Crowne Plaza Bloomington-Normal is conveniently located in Bloomington's business district and is within a mile of Interstates 55, 74 and 39/51. The Crowne Plaza will be just minutes from several corporate headquarters including State Farm Insurance, Mitsubishi, Country Company Insurance, Caterpillar, Bridgestone-Firestone and Verizon. Guests will also be a short distance from Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University as well as leisure attractions including the Arnold Palmer signature golf course and The Constitution Trail, popular for hikers and bikers.

'We are looking forward to joining Bloomington's flourishing community right in the heart of the business district," said Gina LaBarre, vice president, Brand Management, Crowne Plaza Hotels & Resorts, the Americas. "The hotel's expansive meeting and banquet spaces will be an excellent resource for the numerous corporations located nearby.'

The five-story Crowne Plaza will offer 160 guest rooms and a variety of amenities, including a 24-hour fitness center, indoor pool, business center and restaurant and lounge.

The hotel will feature the Crowne Plaza Sleep Advantage program, which is available at all Crowne Plaza hotels in the Americas. Sleep Advantage encompasses the entire sleep experience, from training staff on how to create and maintain a restful environment to providing innovative products and services. Program components include new bedding, guaranteed wake-up calls, designated quiet zones, night lights, drape clips, sleep CDs, sleep tips and amenities such as eye masks, ear plugs and lavender spray.

Also consistent with the Crowne Plaza brand, the hotel will offer a comprehensive meetings package to ensure a seamless planning process and exceptional meeting experience consisting of three key components: a Two-Hour Response Guarantee, Crowne Meetings Director and a Daily Meetings Debrief. The Crowne Plaza Bloomington-Normal will feature more than 9,000 square feet of exceptional meeting and banquet space for business functions or special events.

The Crowne Plaza Bloomington-Normal will be located at 8 Traders Circle, Normal, Ill. It is owned by Normal Hospitality, LLC, and managed by Global Hotel Management of Normal, Ill., under a license agreement with a company in the InterContinental Hotels Group.

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