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ANGLO FRENCH TEAM TO DESIGN NEW F1 CIRCUIT IN FRANCE

A consortium of French and British firms is to oversee design and construction of the new home of the French Grand Prix. At a press conference today it was revealed that circuit will be located in the municipalities of Flins-sur-Seine and les Mureaux just west of Paris in the Département des Yvelines and will see the return of Formula 1 to France.

Internationally renowned firm Apex Circuit Design has invited long term technical partners Scott Wilson and Ridge to provide design services, including track civil engineering, project management and quantity surveying to the lead consultant, Wilmotte and Associates, France's premier architect. In addition, SNC-Lavalin will be the engineering consultant for all buildings and will be lead project cost consultant, with Sogreah acting as water consultant. The overall client is the Conseil General des Yvelines and public funding has been secured for the project.

Design work will start immediately, with the track due to be completed in spring 2011 in time to be able to host the race later that summer.

The project site provides an ideal setting for a national sporting venue as it is adjacent to the River Seine and has a gently undulating topography and rural feel, despite nearby urban areas. Multiple overtaking opportunities and a challenge for drivers are included in the circuit design developed by Apex. It will be integrated into a parkland landscape and will be engineered to reduce flood impact, enhance ground water protection, and apply best-practice for noise attenuation.

Clive Bowen, Managing Director of Apex observed at the public announcement, "we're delighted to team up with such a prestigious group and have enjoyed building a rapport with our French co-consultants". He added "we look forward to introducing a new era of exciting, interesting and safe Formula One circuits which will be modest in terms of cost but of great value to the sport and industry."

RIDGE



Guy Austin, the Equity Partner at Ridge who runs motorsport projects for the company followed by saying; “our philosophy to manage project cost and schedule through design to conclusion of construction is proven in motorsport”. He went on to say “we’ve now teamed with Apex and Scott Wilson on several projects and are genuinely excited by the additional partnership with Wilmotte and the French team”.

John Horgan, Scott Wilson’s Group Managing Director of International Operations, commented; “This prominent project marks the revival of F1 in France. The new world-class track will add to the excitement of the sport, rivalling its international counterparts. We are delighted to be part of such a skilled UK team to design this state-of-the-art facility and to be at the forefront of motorsport design services.”

~Ends~

For further information from Apex, please contact Sam Collins on 07814 970734 or at sam.collins@apexcircuitdesign.com

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Apex Circuit Design Ltd.

Apex is an internationally recognised motorsport circuit design consultancy, initially established in 2001 by Clive Bowen who has designed motorsport destinations since 1997. The primary business of Apex is the design of FIA, FIM and CIK homologated racing facilities, working in association with world-class architects and civil engineering consultants to create commercially viable motorsport destinations.

Among the 31 design commissions undertaken since 1997, Clive Bowen and Apex's portfolio includes the Dubai Autodrome (UAE), Silverstone Circuit upgrade (UK), Iceland MotoPark (Iceland), Hampton Downs race circuit (NZL), Eurasia Autodrome Domodedovo (Russia) and the Bahrain International Kart Circuit (Bahrain).

The bespoke service provided by Apex to its clients ensures that high quality, exciting and safe race circuit design is integrated into a master plan to maximise event and revenue opportunities; each new Apex project includes collaboration and advice from world-renowned racing drivers and teams.

The Apex design team employs graduate engineers in Motorsport Technology and Management, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering and Automotive Engineering and includes proven professional race circuit managers to provide the highest quality engineering design and project management service.

www.apexcircuitdesign.com



Ridge and Partners LLP

Ridge, established in 1946, is a multi-disciplinary Partnership, providing a range of building management, construction and property consultancy services. Core disciplines include Building Surveying, Quantity and M&E Services design, Project Management Advice, Architectural Design, Legal Support Services and Property Consultancy.

Ridge's priority is to understand a clients business and provide a flexible, high quality service, tailored to meet specific needs. Ridge provides professional services relating to all facets of property and construction, allowing our clients to focus on their own activities.

Ridge has offices in seven locations in the UK and undertake projects all over the World for clients including the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Ridge is an LLP and has 25 partners and a staff of nearly 300.

Ridge has worked in the motorsport industry for over ten years. Their involvement with the Rockingham Motor Speedway, Silverstone (and the BRDC), their work on proposed new circuits in Moscow, Brazil, Thailand and China, their projects with six Formula One teams (Arrows, Benetton (now Renault), British American Racing (now Brawn), Jordan (now Force India), Prost and Prodrive), and their commissions from motorsport constructors (Reynard, Xtrac, TWR Group and Lola) gives them a unique insight into how the motorsport industry operates.

The understanding gained from working with, and continuing to work, for all of the above has been recognised by race circuit developers and has resulted in Ridge being appointed by Silverstone and their owners, the BRDC, for a number of projects at the home of the British Grand Prix. Ridge were design and management consultants for the Rockingham Motor Speedway in the UK and, working with Apex Circuit Design, most recently on the Eurasia Autodrome Domodedovo in Moscow.

www.ridge.co.uk

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Scott Wilson Group plc

Scott Wilson Group plc is a multi-disciplinary international design and engineering consultancy for the built and natural environments. With over 6,500 members of staff, the Group offers integrated professional services in the transportation, buildings & infrastructure, environment and natural resources sectors.

The Group, from its UK headquarters, currently controls a worldwide network of 80 offices, of which 40 are in the UK. The main international centres are located in Australia, Canada, China, Eastern Europe, Hong Kong, India, the Middle East and South East Asia.

There have been a significant number of recent high profile contract wins. These include the Waverley Railway Project, Lancashire Waste, Airdrie Bathgate Rail Link, M1 junctions 10-13, East London Line, London Crossrail, Three Counties Alliance, Combe Down Mine Stabilisation, Bahrain Islands Developments, and major highway projects in Poland, Azerbaijan, Sri Lanka, India and Greece.

Scott Wilson have provided civil engineering consultancy on a number of motorsport projects in the recent past, including the Eurasia Autodrome Domodedovo (Russia), Eastern Creek Raceway (Australia) and Bahrain International Kart Circuit (Bahrain).

www.scottwilson.com