



MILLENNIUM & COPTHORNE  
HOTELS plc

## PRESS RELEASE

### M&C Opens First Alcohol-Free Luxury Hotel in Oman

**Singapore, 11 September 2013** – International hotelier Millennium & Copthorne Hotels plc (M&C) continues to tap into the potential of the Sultanate of Oman with the announcement of its second hotel in the region. M&C signed an agreement with Shaza Muscat Company (SMC) to manage and operate Oman's first Sharia-compliant five-star property named the Muscat Grand Millennium Hotel.

Muscat Grand Millennium Hotel is scheduled to open in 2014 and will be Oman's first alcohol-free luxury hotel. This is M&C's second hotel in Oman. The first was Millennium Resort Mussanah which opened in February 2011.

This comes at an opportune time with the recent call for Singapore companies to look at business opportunities in the Sultanate of Oman. Oman with its pristine sand dunes and abundant marine life is located in the southeastern coast of the Arabian peninsular.

Mr Kwek Leng Beng, Chairman of M&C said, "There is great potential in Oman. With increasing interest in the region, Muscat has seen strong growth in their tourism numbers. The Muscat Grand Millennium hotel will cater to this growing industry and will further strengthen M&C's foothold in the Middle East."

At the press conference to announce the agreement, Mr. Ali Hamad Lakhraim Alzaabi – President & CEO of Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, Middle East & Africa said, "The Millennium Resort Mussanah has seen increasing popularity owing to the standards of service and the widespread amenities available to clients, within a short drive from the capital city. It is our area of expertise to create premier hospitality segments and with the signing of this agreement we are certain to create a similar atmosphere for those looking for a five star experience in the heart of Muscat."

Eng. Khamis Mubarak Al Kiyumi, Chairman of SMC noted, "Muscat continues to grow as an attractive tourist destination in the region, and the way forward is to cater to this burgeoning market by offering a full lifestyle and retail experience that meets not only regional, but also global expectations. "

Describing the significance of this agreement, Eng. Mohammed Abu-Baker Al-Ghassani, board member of SMC added, "This partnership with Millennium & Copthorne Hotels will define a one-of-its-kind hospitality destination in the heart of Muscat. The sheer investment of OMR 28 Million in the project is testament to the quality standards that it will reflect."



With a planned footprint of 56,162 sqm, the family and business hotel will include 324 rooms and suites set in an Arabic and global design. The hotel will also comprise a ballroom with capacity for up to 1,000 guests in addition to a large pre-function room, VIP rooms and Majlis. In addition, it will have eight dedicated board rooms and meeting rooms for corporate events and two full sized swimming pools. Located 16 km from both the Muscat International Airport and the Central Business District, the hotel is connected to the Muscat Grand Mall by a sky bridge.

On being a Sharia-compliant hotel where alcohol will not be served, Abdul Rahman Awadh Barham, a board member of SMC, said, “This is not downgrading the hotel by any means, rather it is upgrading it to a better lifestyle.”

Listed on the London Stock Exchange since 1996, M&C is a dynamic, global hotel company, which owns, asset manages and/or operates a worldwide portfolio of over 100 hotels with distinct global brands – Grand Millennium, Millennium, Grand Copthorne, Copthorne, M Hotel, Studio M and Kingsgate – throughout Asia Pacific, Europe, Middle East & North Africa, and North America. It is a subsidiary of City Developments Limited (CDL). Both M&C and CDL are members of the Hong Leong Group Singapore.

To date, the M&C has a total of 14 properties in the Middle East region.

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