



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tom Evans
602.448.5483
tom@evanspubrelations.com

Two Plaza Companies Projects Earn Coveted “Energy Star” Certification From U.S. EPA

Recognition is Result of Commitment to Superior Green Building Practices

PEORIA, Arizona (January 12, 2010) — Two Plaza Companies projects have been awarded the prestigious Energy Star certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Paradise Valley Medical Plaza, located on the northwest corner of the Paradise Valley Hospital campus at 3805 E. Bell Road, and SkySong I at SkySong, the ASU Scottsdale Innovation Center at 1475 N. Scottsdale Road, have received the designation.

The Energy Star designation identifies a building as “one of the most efficient buildings in the nation,” according to the EPA’s announcement. It is the latest in a string of significant sustainable building recognitions for the Plaza Companies and its projects.

According to the EPA, commercial buildings that earn the Energy Star status use an average of 40 percent less energy than typical buildings and release 35 percent less carbon monoxide into the atmosphere.

“We are very honored to have two of our projects receive the prestigious Energy Star certification,” said Sharon Harper, President & CEO of the Plaza Companies, one of the co-developers of SkySong. “Plaza Companies is strongly committed to creating projects that utilize the best sustainable building practices, and it is gratifying to see all of our hard work in this area recognized with such an important designation.”

Energy Star was introduced by the EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings.

In 2009, SkySong I and SkySong II earned the coveted LEED Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, and an Award of Merit for its environmental stewardship from Valley Forward.

SkySong is a mixed-use development consisting of 1.2 million square feet of office and retail space at full build out in addition to residential units. Organized around a central plaza with the project’s signature, iconic shade structure and a grand boulevard lined at ground floor with retail, SkySong is designed for innovative companies whose global business success is enhanced by a facilitated collaboration with ASU’s human and technological assets.

Higgins Development Partners and Plaza Companies are co-developers of SkySong in partnership with the Arizona State University Foundation and USAA Real Estate Company.

Paradise Valley Medical Plaza is a five-story Class “A” medical office building, which received its certificate of substantial completion on December 31, 2007, and was occupied by its first tenants in March of 2008. The building consists of 104,213 rentable square feet, with 91,156 RSF are currently under lease (87.5%) and 70,829 RSF occupied (67.97%) as of January 10. The building received the NAIOP, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association “Best of NAIOP” award in 2009 for spec office development.

Plaza Companies built and developed the Paradise Valley Medical Plaza in partnership with USAA Real Estate Company.

“We’ve been very pleased with the response from the commercial real estate community to both of these projects, and are proud of the recognition they have received for their environmentally sensitive construction,” said Pat Duncan, Chairman and CEO with USAA Real Estate Company. “The partnership between Plaza Companies and USAA Real Estate is truly resulting in some of the finest commercial projects in the Southwest.”

— 30 —

Plaza Companies, based in Peoria, Arizona, is an award-winning leader in the development and management of medical office properties, technology and bioscience facilities, and senior housing communities. Founded in 1982, Plaza Companies is a full-service firm with a portfolio of approximately 5 million square feet valued at more than \$1 billion. For more information about Plaza Companies, visit www.theplazaco.com.

USAA Real Estate Company, with over \$5 billion of assets, provides co-investment, acquisition, build-to-suit and development services for corporate and institutional investors. In addition the company provides investment vehicles for domestic and foreign investors. The USAA portfolio consists of office, industrial, retail and hotel properties with annual volume transactions exceeding \$3 billion. USAA Real Estate Company is a subsidiary of USAA, which has served military families since 1922 and has become one of America’s leading financial services companies. For more information about USAA Real Estate Company, visit www.usrealco.com.