

## **SANDMAN HOTEL GROUP PLANS FOUR-STAR HOTEL IN THE CITY CENTRE OF ABERDEEN, SCOTLAND**

**VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA** (July 8, 2014) - Robert Gordon University (RGU) has sold its St Andrews Street building in the heart of Aberdeen city centre to Canadian hotel chain Sandman Hotel Group in a multi-million pound deal which will allow the university to continue with the development of its Garthdee campus.

Sandman Hotel Group, Canada's fastest growing privately owned hospitality company, will transform RGU's St Andrews Street building into a four-star premium hotel complex with 220 rooms, including 61 one-bedroom suites, a restaurant, and convention facilities.

Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski, Principal of RGU said, "The sale of St Andrews Street to Sandman Hotel Group will provide major benefits to the city as well as RGU. The capital received will allow us to continue with the development of our teaching and learning facilities, providing our students with an outstanding educational environment. In addition, the city will benefit from a new four-star hotel and a development which will help drive forward the regeneration of Aberdeen's city centre."

"We are thrilled to open our first hotel in Scotland and partner with RGU," said Taj Kassam, President of Sandman Hotel Group and The Sutton Place Hotels. "Our brand of hospitality fits perfectly into the iconic city of Aberdeen. I was educated in Scotland and this is where I began my career, so it gives us a great feeling of pride and excitement to open a property here."

RGU is currently in the process of building new facilities for the Scott Sutherland School of Architecture and Built Environment as part of the ongoing development of the university's Riverside East building which opened to students in September 2013.

Professor von Prondzynski added, "Staff and students of the Scott Sutherland School will benefit from working closely with colleagues from other disciplines than has previously been possible. In addition, the development of our campus is allowing us to better engage with our professional and industry partners."

The new facilities will complement the university's existing buildings at the east end of the campus in terms of their innovative design and style, while providing an outstanding educational environment for its students. The campus will retain its park-like ambience and provide a recreational setting for the benefit of staff, students, and the local community.

For further information, or to arrange interviews, please contact:

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