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Woods Bagot Lifts Veil on Completed Qatar Science & Technology Park

Internationally renowned architecture and design practice Woods Bagot has today announced the completion of structural works on Qatar Science & Technology Park (QSTP).

Part of Qatar Foundation's Education City, the aesthetically striking QSTP build will host technology centres of some of the world's top companies, including EADS, GE and Shell, from mid 2008. It will also comprise a business incubator to commercialise the fruits of Qatar Foundation's strong investment in research.

The iconic science park has a key role in generating opportunities for Qatar's scientists and entrepreneurs, by creating an international hub for technology-based business and spurring the country's knowledge economy.

The building has a floor area of 98,500 sq m, based on a built-up podium. The QSTP site comprises the Emerging Technology Centre, housing its business incubator, administration and serviced offices for small-to-medium companies, and two flanking Innovation & Technology Transfer Centres where large companies are now installing their R&D centres.

"The scale of QSTP is obviously one of its most immediately recognisable features," said Mark Mitcheson-Low, Regional Managing Director of Woods Bagot Middle East. "It is a statement of serious intent on behalf of the people of Qatar. It represents a dedication to develop a knowledge-based economy that will continue to sustain Qatar should the oil-based economy slow down."

The size of QSTP is, however, both architecturally elegant and fitting with the site as a whole. The approach to the park is dominated by the distinctive, undulating roof, and the structure is visible from the centre of Qatar's capital Doha.

The significance of this location has been marked by Woods Bagot through the use of a perforated, aluminium 'veil', that runs along the front length of the site. Shimmering in the desert sun, the veil is at once functional, providing shade and the basis for the development of microclimatic environments through the careful selection of finishes and softscape areas, and the re-interpretation of the shapes of the surrounding desert and other influences from Qatari culture.

"The vision for the Masterplan is to create both a physical and virtual hub for the knowledge economy in Qatar," said Mark. "It will be an effective environment for research, with an identity that is both unique to Qatar and of global stature."

Divided into eleven distinct zones, Education City involves a total built-up area of 2.1 million sq m and represents considerable investment in the development of education infrastructure in Qatar. At completion, Education City will become a city in the true sense of the word, fully dedicated to serving and developing a research and education community.

Sited on Zone 4 of Education City, QSTP has received over \$300m in investment from the Qatar Foundation and over \$225m from private investors and future tenants.

Mark Mitcheson-Low, added: "As part of its long-term vision, QSTP's purpose is to become an internationally recognised hub for research and commercialisation. To this end, the world-class design of the building is already providing a draw to global technology leaders and will become a focus for its business goals."

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About Woods Bagot

International design practice Woods Bagot provides its clients with innovative design solutions that are both functional and inspiring. This is demonstrated by the successful delivery of a range of high profile projects within the commercial workplace, hospitality, mixed-use, education and science sectors.

Established in 2001, Woods Bagot's London studio now has a dynamic team of over 100. Since its inception, its young, integrated team has developed a diverse portfolio of significant projects including:

- Piccadilly Tower, Manchester
- Liverpool Central Village
- Minthis Hills Resort, Cyprus
- ANZ London
- Rolls building, London
- Walkers Cayman Islands