



## NEWS RELEASE

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## United States Institute of Peace Selects Akridge to Manage Landmark Headquarters Building

### Work Already Underway in Preparation for 2011 Occupancy

(Washington, DC) – The United States Institute of Peace (USIP) has awarded the care and maintenance of its dramatic new headquarters facility to comprehensive real estate services firm Akridge. The glass-domed structure, prominently located at 23rd and Constitution adjacent to Washington's National Mall, is being built by Clark Construction and will open to the public in the Fall of 2011. USIP staff will move into their new facility in the Spring of 2011. Akridge has already assumed property management responsibilities, and is currently working with Stranix Associates, owner's representative for USIP, to help prepare the building and its occupants for initial move-in and future operations.

Designed by internationally renowned architect Moshe Safdie, the 154,000 square foot facility is organized around a north and south-facing atria. The north atrium serves as the centerpiece of the spaces and is devoted to USIP's work and research; the south is focused on public programs and conferences. The roof's undulating, wing-like elements are constructed of steel frame and translucent glass which appears opaque and white during the day and glows gently from within at night. The finished facility will serve as a national resource for advancing the study and practice of peacebuilding. Akridge and four other area companies pursued the prestigious and complex property management assignment.

After reviewing the qualifications of five firms and touring an Akridge-managed building, USIP retained Akridge to provide management assistance with their conference and event facilities as well as day-to-day custodial and Client services. Akridge manages a commercial real estate portfolio totaling nearly seven million square feet.

"We feel fortunate and honored by USIP's selection of Akridge to operate this architectural symbol of the country's commitment to peace," said company president Matthew J. Klein. "We have assembled a 'best of the best' team that is inspired by the opportunity to take responsibility for this asset and manage it in a manner commensurate with the stature of USIP's organization and mission."

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### About Akridge

Akridge is a comprehensive real estate services company that provides acquisition, development, construction management, asset management, property management, leasing and consulting services. The industry's foremost benchmarking firm, CEL & Associates, has ranked Akridge the number one real estate firm in the country for Client satisfaction, among firms of similar size, ten times since 1999. Akridge has been honored with the National Capital Business Ethics Award, awarded by the Society of Financial Service Professionals, and has also been recognized as the Best Place to Work in Greater Washington by the *Washington Business Journal*. For more information, please visit [www.akridge.com](http://www.akridge.com).

### About the United States Institute of Peace

Established in 1984, the United States Institute of Peace is an independent, nonpartisan, national institution established and funded by the U.S. Congress. Its goals are to help prevent and resolve violent international conflicts, promote post-conflict stability and development, and increase peacebuilding capacity, tools, and intellectual capital worldwide. The Institute does this by empowering others with knowledge, skills, and resources, as well as by directly engaging in peacebuilding efforts around the globe. The Institute is constructing a new headquarters building at the northwest corner of the National Mall in Washington, DC to serve as a working headquarters for the Institute and a national center for the pursuit of its goals and mission. For more information, please visit [www.usip.org](http://www.usip.org).

### About Clark Construction

Clark Construction Group, LLC has steadily grown from a small excavating company begun in 1906 into one of the nation's most experienced and respected providers of construction services. Based in Bethesda, Maryland with six regional offices in the United States, the company oversees projects ranging from small interior renovations to some of the most recognizable architectural landmarks throughout the country. As of 2008, Clark ranked as the 13th largest general contractor in the country. For more information, please visit [www.clarkconstruction.com](http://www.clarkconstruction.com).

### About Stranix Associates, LLC

Under the leadership of John Stranix, Stranix Associates provides project management and owner representation services on unique, large-scale projects, including such landmarks as the Verizon Center, Nationals Park, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art. The firm's success relies on the establishment of an effective relationship between owner, architect, and contractor at the beginning of the design process. This team approach promotes communication throughout the project life cycle, ensures common understanding of individual and project goals, eliminates traditional adversarial relationships, and delivers timely solutions through rational and effective decision-making. For more information, please visit [www.stranixassociates.com](http://www.stranixassociates.com).

### About Moshe Safdie

Moshe Safdie is a leading architect, urban planner, educator, theorist, and author. Embracing a comprehensive and humane design philosophy, Safdie has been influential in architecture and urban planning for over forty years. He is committed to architecture that supports and enhances a project's program; that is informed by the geographic, social, and cultural elements that define a place; and that responds to human needs and aspirations. Completing a wide range of projects, such as cultural, educational, and civic institutions; neighborhoods and public parks; mixed-use urban centers and airports; and master plans for existing communities and entirely new cities, Safdie has enhanced the quality of life in cities and neighborhoods around the world.

Moshe Safdie's recent and current projects include the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives in Washington, DC (May 2008); Mamilla Alrov Center, Jerusalem, Israel (January 2010); Marina Bay Sands Integrated Resort, Singapore (December 2010); Khalsa Heritage Centre, located in the state of Punjab, India (April 2011); Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Missouri (September 2011); and Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville, Arkansas (2011).

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