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### **Innovation Park Plans for Future Expansion**

Management of Stirling University Innovation Park (SUIP) has commissioned the development of a blueprint for a future expansion of the campus.

International planning consultants The Halcrow Group Ltd (Halcrow) has been appointed to create a masterplan for the growth of the business park that would almost treble its current size. Halcrow as lead consultant is supported by architects Nicoll Russell Studios and property agents Ryden.

Halcrow has been tasked to submit its final report in February 2008 to steering committee of the project partners, Stirling University, Stirling Council and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley.

Currently the business park, set in the grounds of Stirling University, extends to approximately 6 hectares (15 acres). It offers 10,200sq m of high class accommodation for more than 40 companies employing almost 500 people.

Halcrow has been asked to submit plans for the development of the park that can be implemented over a 5 -10 year period and will include an additional 10 hectares (24 acres) . The additional area includes currently undeveloped ground and a site on which there is an existing operational university building.

The masterplan will detail how both existing facilities and development sites could best be utilised to deliver maximum economic impact.

SUIP recently revised its business plan to focus its support on the key growth sectors of life sciences, sports related and environmental sciences and convergent technologies.

The masterplan will be drawn up to deliver the optimum development potential for companies operating in these strategic development areas.

Lynn Blaikie, SUIP's Manager of Operations and Business Development, said: "We have already identified the business development areas that offer exciting growth potential for the Innovation Park. We have now embarked on how we can best develop the Innovation Park's facilities to realise that potential."

"We have one of the finest business parks in Europe here in Stirling offering 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities in an environmental setting without equal. We have appointed Halcrow, one of the world's leading planning consultancies, to create a masterplan that will take advantage of our location and help us deliver our vision for the future of a dynamic, connected and enterprising business park."

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Masterplan/

Stephano Smith, Associate Director and Head of Development Planning (Scotland), at Halcrow, commented: "Stirling University Innovation Park plays a strategic role in the support and development of Scotland's enterprising business community. The site has enormous development potential and we are delighted to be given the opportunity to design the infrastructure that will deliver continued success for SUIP. A clear, deliverable masterplan capable of adding value is vital to the on-going success of the innovation park."

He added: "The importance of creating a high quality development is established at the top of both the UK and Scotland Governments' national agenda. Good design is an integral part of a confident and competitive Scotland."

Stirling University Innovation Park was established in 1986 and is both a physical entity and a partnership between three key organisations, Stirling University, Stirling Council and Scottish Enterprise Forth Valley working to deliver economic growth in central Scotland.

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Editors Notes

For further information on SUIP visit: [www.suip.co.uk](http://www.suip.co.uk)

For details of the Halcrow Group log on to: [www.halcrow.com](http://www.halcrow.com)

Issued on behalf of SUIP Ltd by fs communications

For further information contact:

Frank Sullivan

Telephone: 07718660122

Email: frank.sullivan@btconnect.com

Stefano Smith

0131 272 3300

Email: smithsb@halcrow.com