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ALLEN JACK+COTTIER DESIGNED RACEWAY AT MT PANORAMA WINS ACCOLADES

Sydney 23 September 2005

One of the world's finest race facilities – including a world-class circuit, race pits, and spectator and competitor facilities that are among the most technically advanced anywhere – will operate at full capacity for the first time at this year's Super Cheap Auto Bathurst 1000 on Sunday October 9.

Designed by leading Sydney based architects Allen Jack+Cottier with engineers and planners Kellogg Brown & Root, and constructed by Arenco, the Mt Panorama facility at Bathurst, in New South Wales, Australia, includes a new entry building, a state-of-the-art control tower, redesigned and larger pit bays, corporate suites, medical centre, catering facilities, and a redesigned, larger pedestrian bridge over the pit straight.

The Allen Jack+Cottier Director responsible for the project Michael Heenan said: "The pit and corporate facilities now rank among the best anywhere in the world, in terms of their simplicity, functionality and strength of design.

The building, set in such a spectacularly beautiful setting, is designed to reflect the speed and excitement of race day. A series of colour-coded elements on the building can be read from varying vantage points.

"From up close, the tall orange towers mark entry points to the building and from up on the mountain, the whole building becomes a giant multi-coloured barcode. Both we, and our client, are absolutely delighted with the result," Heenan added.

The 400-metre x 15-metre building is on three levels, and is divided into identical eight-metre bays punctuated by vertical service towers and a commanding cantilevered control tower. The mid- and upper-levels comprise corporate suites and other facilities for VIP spectators, and the mid-level is enclosed by a folded glass façade that cants forward over the pit apron. The lower level, containing the garages and pit service facilities, is all frantic action during races.

Stage One was completed in October 2004, and hosted the V8 Supercars™ to the widespread acclaim of competitors and over 65,000 spectators. Stage Two, which completes the Mt Panorama project and comprises a second level of corporate suites, a new entry/welcome building with medical centre and a spectacular new pedestrian bridge, will open when racing begins on Thursday October 6th.

The design team from Allen Jack+Cottier made it their business to understand every aspect of the racetrack before starting design work, sitting alongside the race director in the control room, interviewing the drivers, mechanics and race-callers, spending time in the medical centre and with television crews. They spoke to 100 stakeholders including cooks, caterers, refuellers, mechanics, sponsors and spectators, asking what they wanted from the building. The result is spectacular, and by all accounts, meets their needs.

Mt Panorama has been a tourism drawcard for the Bathurst Region for more than half a century. More than 2.5 million Australians watch the annual Bathurst 1000 Supercar™ race on TV, and it is beamed into another 700 million homes in 54 countries globally.

The \$24 million redesign of the Mt Panorama facilities is part of the Bathurst Regional Council's strategy to develop a world class tourism and recreational precinct.

For further information and images of the project:

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