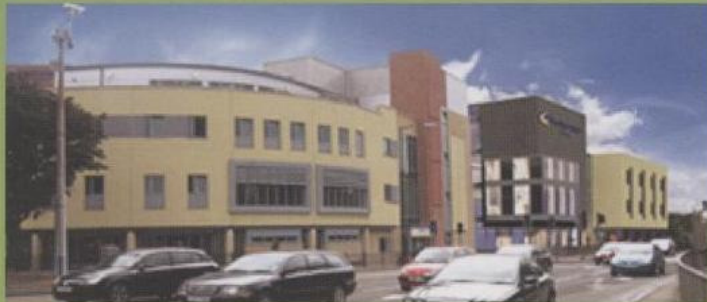


Regional Contractor SDC lands £70m Northampton College Scheme

Regional construction company SDC, from Bedford, beat off major league players to emerge as the preferred bidder for the prestigious £70m redevelopment of two of Northampton College's campuses.



The ambitious project will see the 21-acre Booth Lane site completely rebuilt and the Lower Mounts town-centre site significantly extended. Sustainability is a primary focus and the design team is looking at a range of green energy technologies.

Enabling work for the first phase of five buildings commences shortly with the main construction work starting in January and with a planned completion in 2010 to allow College occupation for the new academic year.

The Lower Mounts Campus has been designed in keeping with the current structure but advanced technology and up-to-date materials will result in a five-storey, uncompromisingly modern building. A central 'street' will allow natural light to flood into the heart of the building.

Facilities include state of the art hairdressing salons for hair and beauty students and a silver service

restaurant for the College's hospitality and catering students.

The new Booth Lane facilities will embrace the College's ethos for learning and allow for the predicted expansion in student numbers in the future. Facilities will include restaurants, a computer centre, childcare facilities, workshops for welding and engineering, and a learning resource centre, as well as office and classroom spaces, a performing arts centre, science laboratories and provision for those with special needs. A central courtyard with open-air amphitheatre and tented stage will feature in this innovative and exciting scheme.

This will all culminate in an impressive development at Northampton College that will inspire staff to teach and students to learn.

SDC and HBG top lists for education deals

Regional contractor lands £70m Northampton College scheme.

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TWO CONTRACTORS are in line to tackle £100m-plus worth of major college redevelopment work in the South Midlands and the South East.

Sources say regional contractor SDC has emerged as the preferred bidder for the £70m Northampton College scheme, while HBG is set for its second major deal with North West Kent College.

Bedfordshire-based SDC beat off major league players to the Northampton project - its rivals were Kier, Balfour Beatty, Laing O'Rourke, Norwest Holst and Miller.

A source said: "The firm has done really well to land such a big contract,

especially bearing in mind the strength and experience of the opposition."

At the college's Booth Lane site, 21,000m² of outmoded buildings will be demolished and replaced with a new 27,000m² facility. Work on site should start early in 2009, with completion expected in 2011/12.

And at the college's town centre Lower Mounts site, an additional building spanning 3,000m² will be constructed and open for business in March 2010.

Meanwhile, following its earlier £15.5m win at North West Kent College's Gravesend campus, HBG has beaten rivals ISG and Geoffrey Osborne to £35m-worth of work at the college's Dartford campus, about 15km away.



ACADEMY AWARD Willmott Dixon has beaten Kier to become the preferred bidder for a £16m Academies National Framework deal for Rochdale Borough Council. Work is planned to start next January on the 900-place St Anne's Academy in Middleton. The academy will open in time for the September 2010 term.

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