



PRESS RELEASE
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Hospitality Performance Network and Meetings International announce the creation of the world's most global site selection service provider

Scottsdale, Ariz., USA (Monday, Nov. 30, 2009) – [Hospitality Performance Network](#) (HPN) and Meetings International announced today a joint venture that will result in a rebranding as HPN Global. The joint venture will take effect March 1, 2010 and through a variety of growth strategies, will make the new entity the world's most global site selection and meeting procurement company. HPN Global will provide bespoke site selection and meeting planning services to corporate, association, and government clients worldwide. HPN Global will be headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona and provide coverage to clients globally through a team of seasoned and professional meeting planners.

Bill Kilburg, Chairman & CEO of HPN stated, "We are creating a new industry leader – not one founded on being the largest company, but one focused on being the best. The meetings industry has changed dramatically over the last 18 months. We recognize that future success will be driven by the depth of the relationship with the customer. Our philosophy and user friendly systems make everyday processes more efficient allowing our associates to focus on the customer, which is a tremendous advantage over other more traditional site selection companies. Meetings International embodies the same core values we do and is well respected in the industry. The new combined company will be better suited to compete in the international marketplace and we couldn't be more pleased to start offering global services to our clients in 2010."

Ian Quartermaine, CEO of Meetings International, added, "Our new company is innovative, nimble and 100 percent client focused. Our history is deep in the international meetings industry. Prior to the formation of HPN Global, Meetings International spent 10 years developing an unrivaled team that lives and breathes site selection on a global basis. We understand the cultural needs from a local perspective. Our focus has always been on customer service delivery at the highest level. HPN has a culture and vision that we share. Our customers will appreciate the higher level of support we can now deliver. It is a brand new world and we have embraced the changing needs of the marketplace."

Beginning March 1, 2010, HPN Global will offer its clients a customized and comprehensive approach to consolidating their meeting procurement needs; including site selection, contract negotiation, destination management, recreation, transportation, housing, registration, and production.

The new combined company will benefit from a highly experienced management team. All four founding partners have extensive experience in hotel management, site selection, meeting procurement, sales and marketing, and finance. HPN and Meetings International will continue to operate independently until the joint venture is final on March 1, 2010.

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About HPN Global

Launching in March 2010, HPN Global is the world's most global site selection service provider with meeting procurement professionals throughout the world. The company formed as a result of a joint venture between Hospitality Performance Network and Meetings International. The Scottsdale based company's client portfolio includes association, non-profit, corporate, and government agencies. Both companies have been serving the needs of meeting planners for 18 years collectively. They offer state of the art RFP services and consistently outperform their competitive set. Their RFP system was built from the ground up and was driven by the needs of the customer and associates. To learn more, visit www.HPNGLOBAL.com.

Executive Bios

Bill Kilburg CPA

CEO, HPN Global (effective March 1st, 2010)

Mr. Kilburg acts as Hospitality Performance Network's Chairman and CEO with specific responsibilities for the strategic growth of the company. He has over 30 years of entrepreneurship and involvement in the hotel and meetings industries. In addition to HPN, he is the founder of both Epix Hotels and Resorts and Set Solutions Inc. Epix Hotels is an entrepreneurial resort turnaround firm which has been involved with over 30 properties in the last ten years. Set Solutions is an industrial hard set and theming company based in Phoenix. Bill started his career in the industry as a bellman, working his way up to Chief Financial Officer of a resort ownership firm.

In addition, he spent time as a Hotel Investment Banker, and was formerly the President of the hotel division of Samoth Capital, a publicly traded Canadian mezzanine lender. Responsibilities included 30 hotel assets comprising 5,000 rooms. In that capacity, he was primarily responsible for all the organizations asset acquisition and disposition activities. Other background includes time spent as the CEO of the opt-in ethical email marketing firm Whitehat Inc. and also founder of the Entrepreneurial Incubator/Venture capital firm Lucky Napkin. Mr. Kilburg is also a certified public accountant.

Joe Forster

President & COO, HPN Global (effective March 1st, 2010)

Joe Forster is co-founder of Hospitality Performance Network and serves as president and chief operating officer. He is responsible for day-to-day operations and works diligently with industry leaders to increase HPN's effectiveness in the marketplace.

Prior to founding HPN, he spent 20 years selling and managing various Conference Center properties, spending the last seven years as Executive Vice President of the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. In this role, he was responsible for overseeing operations, sales and marketing, destination management, and the meeting planning/travel department for the 404-room, four-star conference resort.

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Additional experience includes time spent as Vice President, Sales and Marketing and Management company principle at the Seabrook Island Conference Resort in Charleston SC. Prior to Seabrook, Forster served as Director of Sales and Marketing for Westfield's International Conference Center outside Washington DC., and began his career, in 1984, as a national accounts manager at the Scottsdale Conference Resort.

Ian Quartermaine

CEO, International of HPN Global (effective March 1st, 2010)

Ian Quartermaine is a highly successful international executive with over 20 years experience, primarily in the international sales distribution areas with airlines and the meetings industry. Prior to forming Travel PIE Group in 2000 (later to become The Big Sky Group in January 2008), Ian was V.P. International Sales for the airline division of GetThere.com. GetThere leverages technology and travel expertise with the leading online booking tools. Before his work with GetThere, Ian was V.P. for The Americas for Air New Zealand based in Los Angeles. He has considerable experience in the management and development of international sales and marketing distribution channels. Ian has previous senior management experience gained in companies such as British Airways and was responsible for business development at Discover the World Marketing. Within The Big Sky Group, Ian is responsible for the direction of the three independent companies owned by the holding company. These include Meetings International which currently has the license for the international division of a large site selection company. Meetings International's primary role is to manage, develop, and grow the international revenue and associate base. This group has operations in over 45 countries and grown the international network to over 150 associates. Travika is a travel and tourism global representation (GSA) network with offices in over 40 countries. Dezika is an electronic distribution company. Ian is a Fellow of Chartered Institute of Management, and is past Chairman of the British American Business Council of Arizona

Bob Gilbert

Executive Vice President – International of HPN Global (effective March 1st 2010)

With over 30 years of global travel and hospitality marketing experience, his résumé includes current president of The Big Sky Group, which operates the international sales network of Meetings International with over 150 associates in 45 countries. Previous to that, he was Executive Vice President at CRM leader, ClickSquared. Clients include, Grupo Posadas, Hyatt, Four Seasons, Omni Hotels, One&Only Resorts, Loews, Montage, and Starwood. Bob also led the global sales and marketing efforts for Best Western International, where he introduced "the world's largest hotel company" branding and secured the position as the official hotel of NASCAR. Bob was also SVP with SuperClubs, Vice President Worldwide Sales and Intermediary Marketing at Choice Hotels; and served as Vice President with Walt Disney Attractions and Walt Disney Travel Company.

A well known travel industry leader and speaker, he was named 2004 Supplier of the Year by ASTA, Chairman for TravelCom 2008, and was Chairman of the 2007 Eye for Travel CRM summit. Bob became a published author on international marketing while serving as Chairman for the American Hotel & Lodging Association international marketing committee. Bob speaks French, German, Italian, and Spanish and has worked in UK, Italy, Benelux, Germany, France, and USA. He is a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing (UK) and lives in Arizona with his wife Julie and 2 children.