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MCCA ANNOUNCES AAO WILL HOST ANNUAL EVENT AT BCEC IN '09
Receives Temporary Certificate of Occupancy from Department of Public Safety

The Massachusetts Convention Center Authority (MCCA) today announced that the American Association of Orthodontists (AAO) will hold its 109th Annual Session at the new Boston Convention & Exhibition Center (BCEC) in April 2009. 20,000 people are expected to attend the event, bringing an estimated \$28 million in revenue to local businesses, restaurants and hotels. The MCCA also announced that it has received its temporary Certificate of Occupancy from the Department of Public Safety.

“These are two great pieces of news for the BCEC. The AAO is a huge convention and this certificate is our ticket to the finish line,” said James E. Rooney, MCCA Executive Director. “By having the temporary Certificate of Occupancy, we can get into the building and start using the equipment and systems we will use to make shows like the AAO Session a success.”

The American Association of Orthodontists is the oldest and largest dental specialty group in the world. The AAO has over 16,000 members worldwide including ninety-four percent of orthodontists in the United States. The AAO is a professional association of educationally qualified orthodontic specialists dedicated to ethically advancing the art and science of orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics, thereby improving the health of the public by promoting quality orthodontic care.

“The AAO Session is a perfect convention for the BCEC and the City of Boston. I am also thrilled that we received our temporary certificate of occupancy,” said Gloria C. Larson, Chairman of the MCCA. “When we broke ground in 2000, people told us that we would never finish this project on schedule. Receiving this certificate is proof that we will open, as scheduled, and that it is possible to run an efficient major public works project.”

“The AAO Annual Session can only be held in ten cities in North America due to its size and scope. Boston, with its new convention center and soon to be headquarters hotel became one of the ten cities overnight. Boston has the history, facilities and local support (four orthodontic schools in the Boston area) to provide a wonderful experience for the AAO members,” said Dr. Raymond George, Sr., AAO Trustee and AAO’s President in 2009.

The Temporary Certificate of Occupancy from the Department of Public Safety certifies that the building construction is essentially complete and that all life safety systems (such as the fire alarm and the fire protection systems) are installed and operational. The temporary Certificate of Occupancy allows the MCCA administrative and operations staff to move into the building and prepare for the arrival of the first events. The MCCA expects to receive a final Certificate of Occupancy, allowing full and unconditional use of the BCEC, in May.

The BCEC is scheduled to open in June. Currently, there are 42 definite events, 8 contracts pending and 78 tentative events scheduled at the BCEC through 2010.

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