



## **AECOM, Rice, and UH to Help Modernize Libya's Housing and Infrastructure**

May 22, 2008

**Houston, Texas - May 22, 2008** - Mayor Bill White, Rice University, the University of Houston and AECOM Technology Corporation (NYSE: ACM) today announced a collaborative program to train Libyan engineers to build and maintain homes, roads and water systems in their homeland.

The initiative is part of a \$50-billion-plus capital-improvement program managed by AECOM and the Libyan Housing and Infrastructure Board (HIB) to modernize urban housing and water systems for major Libyan cities. The project is being led from AECOM's Houston and Tripoli offices.

"The city of Houston is excited and honored to host the Libyan engineers over the next year as part of this program," said Houston Mayor Bill White, who announced the program at Rice University today while welcoming HIB executives who will be living in Houston for a year. "Our city will play an integral role in the sustainability of Libyan housing and infrastructure as the HIB professionals study our public agencies and learn from our top research universities."

For the next year, the HIB executives - Dr. Abdulgader Mohamed Slama, Dr. Ibrahim M. Khalifa Shoukrie and Dr. Ali A. Rashaida - will participate in an intensive program to hone their project- and construction-management skills to help prepare them to oversee and maintain Libya's housing and infrastructure on a long-term basis.

The executives will tour projects, facilities, laboratories and other sites in the greater Houston area and learn firsthand from Houston's Public Works Department, the Greater Houston Transportation and other public and private entities involved with housing- and infrastructure-related capital-management programs. In addition, they will explore capital-intensive projects managed by AECOM nationwide to learn about the issues and strategies employed in the delivery of large-scale, complex projects.

"Transfer of knowledge is an integral component of AECOM's long-term partnership with the Libyan Housing and Infrastructure Board," said Jim Thompson president of AECOM Libya Housing and Infrastructure. "By spotlighting and sharing the expertise and best practices in urban development and engineering, AECOM - together with Rice University, University of Houston, Texas A&M University and the city of Houston - will help the people of Libya enhance and sustain the built, natural and social environments of their country."

In addition to executive development, the initiative will include a civil and environmental engineering student training program for HIB employees with technical education backgrounds currently managing various parts of Libya's national infrastructure and housing.

The student training is a 13-week program focusing on urban systems and urban development. The student curriculum was developed by two of Houston's renowned engineering professors - Dr. Philip Bedient from Rice and Dr. Hanadi Rifai from the University of Houston - and is specifically tailored for the Houston-Libya Knowledge Transfer Program. Faculty from Rice, UH, Texas A&M and other institutions will teach numerous courses on water and wastewater treatment, road and bridge systems and residential development. Four groups of 25 students each will be trained over the next two years.

"Rice University is pleased to partner with the University of Houston and other Texas institutions to provide the education and expertise that will contribute to improved living standards for the people of Libya," Rice President David Leebron said. "This kind of engagement builds knowledge and understanding that can build stronger relationships between our two countries and, in turn, contribute to a more prosperous and peaceful world."

For more information on Libya's housing and infrastructure modernization program and its knowledge transfer component, please visit <http://www.aecom.com/NewsMedia/53/88/index.jsp>.

### **About AECOM**

AECOM (NYSE:ACM) is a global provider of professional technical and management support services to a broad range of markets, including transportation, facilities, environmental and energy. With more than 35,000 employees around the world, AECOM is a leader in all of the key markets that it serves. AECOM provides a blend of global reach, local knowledge, innovation and technical excellence in delivering solutions that enhance and sustain the world's built, natural and social environments. AECOM serves clients in more than 60 countries and had revenue of \$4.2 billion during fiscal year 2007. More information on AECOM and its services can be found at [www.aecom.com](http://www.aecom.com).

### **About Rice University**

Located in Houston, Rice University is consistently ranked one of America's best teaching and research universities. Known for its "unconventional wisdom," Rice is distinguished by its: size -- 3,001 undergraduates and 2,144 graduate students; selectivity --12 applicants for each place in the freshman class; resources -- an undergraduate student-to-faculty ratio of 5-to-1; sixth largest endowment per student among American private research universities; residential college system, which builds communities that are both close-knit and diverse; and collaborative culture, which crosses disciplines, integrates teaching and research, and intermingles undergraduate and graduate work.

### **About the University of Houston**

The University of Houston, Texas' premier metropolitan research and teaching institution, is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes and

sponsors more than 300 partnerships with corporate, civic and governmental entities. UH, the most diverse research university in the country, stands at the forefront of education, research and service with more than 35,000 students.

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