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SMBL selects Mace for £1.1bn British Library development

SMBL, a company partnered with the British Library and wholly owned by Mitsui Fudosan UK Ltd., has selected Mace as construction manager on the £1.1 billion new development of the Library's St Pancras site.

The selection of Mace marks the latest milestone in the project's timeline, following the announcement in March 2025 confirming Mitsui Fudosan's commitment to the development.

Mace is an international consultancy and construction company and has played a key role in delivering major projects such as The Shard, London 2012 Olympics infrastructure and Heathrow Terminal 5.

Mace will join the project under the direction of development manager Stanhope Plc and will contribute construction expertise for the procurement and delivery phase of the development.

The proposals include a 100,000 sq ft (9,290 sq m) extension to the British Library comprising new spaces to enhance the Library's public service offer, provide more than 600,000 sq ft (55,742 sq m) of commercial facilities and integrate Crossrail 2 infrastructure. The project includes exhibition galleries, events spaces and learning facilities. Located at the heart of London's Knowledge Quarter, the development will incorporate circulation areas to connect it with the existing Library building and provide easy access from all directions through the enhanced facility. It will also include provision to extend the Library's business offer, with maker spaces to create and pilot products. The Library is launching a major fundraising campaign to bring these areas to life.

Construction is due to start on site in 2026 once detailed design is complete and planning conditions met. The construction work is expected to take around six years to complete.

Jason Millett, Mace Group Chief Executive said: "We are delighted to be selected as Construction Manager for the British Library development proposals. This is a high-profile project with international significance and Mace's long-established expertise and track record in delivering other major schemes make us well placed for this role."

ENDS

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Notes to Editors

About Mitsui Fudosan

Mitsui Fudosan Group

Since its founding more than 80 years ago, the Mitsui Fudosan Group has embraced a host of challenges. During Japan's period of rapid economic growth, the company was involved in land reclamation projects and helped to support wider economic investment. Mitsui Fudosan delivered Japan's first skyscraper, the Kasumigaseki Building, in the 1960s.

More recently, the company has focused on sectors including planning, residential, retail, hotels & resorts, sports & entertainment and mixed-use schemes. The company is renowned as a pioneer of innovative development and in recent years, has expanded its operations to include Life Sciences and related industries. Mitsui Fudosan operates on a global scale across Asia, Australia, North America and the UK/Europe.

Mitsui Fudosan UK

Mitsui Fudosan UK is the UK subsidiary of Japan's largest real estate company, Mitsui Fudosan Co., Ltd. which is headquartered in Tokyo and listed on Tokyo Stock Exchange. Mitsui Fudosan UK is responsible for Mitsui Fudosan Group's real estate investment and development activities in Europe. Mitsui Fudosan established a London office in 1990. Significant developments in the UK include:

- British Library, King's Cross
- 5 Hanover Square, Mayfair
- 1 Angel Court, City
- Television Centre, White City
- White City Place, White City
- EDGE Liverpool Street, City
- South Molton Triangle, Mayfair
- Wilson's Lane, Coventry

For further information on Mitsui Fudosan see: www.mitsuifudosan.co.uk/

About The British Library

We are the national library of the UK and we are here for everyone. Our shelves hold over 170 million items – a living collection that gets bigger every day.

Although our roots extend back centuries, we aim to collect everything published in the UK today, tomorrow and far into the future. Our trusted experts care for this collection and open it up for everyone to spark new discoveries, ideas and to help people do incredible things.

We have millions of books, and much more besides. Our London and Yorkshire sites hold collections ranging from newspapers and maps to sound recordings, patents, academic journals, as well as a copy of every UK domain website and blog. Our public spaces provide a place to research, to meet friends, to start up a new business or simply to get inspired by visiting our galleries and events. We work with partners and libraries across the UK and the world to make sure that as many people as possible have the chance to use and explore our collections, events and expertise. And we're always open online, along with more and more of our digitised collection. See: <https://www.bl.uk/>

For further information on the British Library please contact: Eleanor.Nimmo@bl.uk

About Stanhope PLC

Stanhope PLC is the developer and asset manager behind many of London's most dynamic and longstanding landmarks from the Tate Bankside to Television Centre. We originate, design, deliver and manage great places that stand the test of time – experts in the whole lifecycle of a development, from the earliest ideas to managing a place. Recent completed projects include refurbished and extended offices at Woolgate (EC2) and 76 Southbank (SE1), as well as the City's most sustainable tall building at 8 Bishopsgate (EC2).

Currently Stanhope and Mitsui Fudosan UK (MFUK) are partnering with the British Library on its extension creating new galleries, learning and event spaces together with 600,000 sq ft (55,800 sq m) of commercial, primarily targeting occupiers in the life sciences sector. In Central London we are under construction at 1 Victoria Street (SW1), providing 750,000 sq ft (69,677 sq m) of offices and, also with MFUK, Phase 2 of Television Centre (W12), providing 369 new homes to complete the masterplan. Outside the capital we are developing the first phase of Oxford North which will total one million sq ft (92,903 sq m) of labs and workspaces as well as three new public parks.

Overall, Stanhope has delivered more than 35 million sq ft (3,251,606 sq m) and achieved £40 billion of end value. The company typically manages around £3 billion of construction value on site and in its pipeline and has £4 billion of assets under management.

Stanhope's team include specialists in property, construction and asset management and are experts in the whole lifecycle of a development, from the earliest ideas through to managing completed projects.

Stanhope is unique for having specialist skills for every stage of a project - a knowledge network that keeps it at the forefront of the market. Through this the team generates consistent returns for its partners while setting new standards for workplaces, homes and cultural spaces that people love to use. See: www.stanhopeplc.com

For further information on Stanhope, please contact: katie.molyneaux@thisislca.com or keziah.harrison@thisislca.com

About Mace

Mace is a global company of delivery consultants and construction experts.

Through its two engines – Consult and Construct – it brings to life iconic skyscrapers, state-of-the-art data centres, life science facilities, social infrastructure and regeneration projects that support communities across the world.

The company has an annual turnover of £2.79bn and employs over 8,000 people across four global hubs in the UK & Europe, the Middle East and Africa, the Americas and Asia Pacific.

Mace is driven by its purpose to redefine the boundaries of ambition. Founded out of a belief that the industry could be more efficient, innovative and responsible, since 1990 Mace has built a reputation and track record for delivering projects safer, faster, greener and better than ever before.

On 23 July Mace announced a majority investment in Mace Consult from Goldman Sachs Alternatives. More can be read about this [here](#).

Find out more at www.macegroup.com