

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Cardno Acil helps deliver new island home for Maldives tsunami survivors

More than 3500 people, whose island home in the Maldives was rendered uninhabitable by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami, can now look forward to re-establishing their lives assisted by the efforts of Australian company, Cardno Acil.

The Maldivian Government have appointed Cardno Acil to undertake design and supervision services for the construction of major elements of a complete town on the currently uninhabited Dhuvaafaru island in Raa Atoll.

The total cost of the works Cardno will manage is US\$25M (\$33M AUS) and the funding agency for the project, including the consultant fees, is the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Cardno's Managing Director, Andrew Buckley believes that the work secured in the Maldives builds on the company's existing commitment to strengthen capacity and help reconstruction efforts in countries affected by the tsunami.

"Cardno Acil are already working in Aceh and Nias monitoring the implementation of US\$400M (approximately A\$550 million) of contracts awarded to build bridges, roads, irrigation and drainage.

"In Aceh our task is significant. We will also be working closely with local consultants, contractors and Indonesian government agencies to build the capacity to manage projects locally," said Mr Buckley.

In the Maldives Cardno Acil will undertake project management for the design and supervision for the building of 600 houses, four schools, an administration centre, sports grounds, a community centre and guest house and a power station and the electrical reticulation network. The IFRC will also fund other facilities for the new island community including a desalination plant and waste water management.

Cardno Acil's project manager, Ed Vowles, said, "Things will move quickly now. The government is pushing ahead to move from a period of temporary relief to rebuilding and construction of new permanent facilities."

When complete, approximately 3500 people will be relocated to Dhuvaafaru Island from adjoining islands where they are being housed temporarily. Currently, more than 10,000 Maldivians continue to endure basic accommodation with minimal infrastructure support.

"We're up against a tight timeframe – the entire island construction, including designs must be completed within 14 months. We are not merely rebuilding, we are starting from scratch. There is nothing on the island – apart from a few coconut trees. The island, 1.5 kilometres long and 0.5 kilometres wide, is about 200 kilometres from the capital of Male," said Mr. Vowles.

"The logistics of delivering materials to the Island, recruiting staff and housing a significant workforce will be a critical element of the project. Supply boats take a minimum of 12 hours for the one way trip from the capital, and virtually all materials will have to be imported from other countries and everything, including food supplies, has to be brought in by sea.

"The logistics and time frame for the reconstruction program will test us. We need to build virtually a complete community – from the ground up – in about 12 months. Fortunately Cardno

Acil has the right mix of expertise and experience to deliver a highly professional and humanitarian outcome,” Ed Vowles advised.

Some design elements have already begun, and tendering for the 600 houses design and construct contract is underway. Full mobilisation will begin early in the New Year, and a team of architectural and engineering staff from Cardno Acil, together with associates from Sri Lanka will bring together the detailed design, tender documentation and provide all site supervision.

“Cardno Acil will play a major part in ensuring that, within two years of the tsunami disaster, thousands of victims can start to reclaim their social and economic future,” said Mr. Vowles.

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For more information contact:

Andrew Buckley, Managing Director, Cardno ph: 07 3369 9822 mobile: 0412 059 526

Media Liaison:

John Bright, Media Consultant, mobile: 0407 234 490

Please note: Photographs are available on request.

About Cardno:

Cardno Acil is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cardno Limited an ASX (CDD) listed company. Cardno provides professional services to create better communities across the globe through planning, design and delivery of physical and social infrastructure. From its foundations as a civil engineering consultancy, Cardno has expanded to also include management and environmental services as well as project management of international development assistance programs.