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MULTIPLIX GROUP TO INSTALL WORKPLACE CARDIAC RESPONDERS IN GLOBAL SAFETY INITIATIVE

Sydney, Australia, August 10, 2005: Multiplex Group today announced it had begun a global safety initiative and is in the process of installing a Cardiac Responder system, complete with automatic defibrillators, into each of its construction, development and office sites across the world.

The units, which come with a unique back-to-base monitoring system and training support, will be on-hand should any of the property company's 1800 employees or 17,000 subcontractors ever experience a sudden cardiac arrest.

Multiplex Group Manager Safety Ken Kelman said heart attacks killed more than 33,000 people in Australia alone each year.

"Even a seemingly healthy person can suffer cardiac arrest without warning," Mr Kelman said.

"There have been 25 cardiac arrests at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in the past few years and 75 per cent of those victims have recovered because of early Intervention with an automatic Defibrillator."

The system has been purchased from Securitol, who will also supply the back-to-base monitoring service, while training is being carried out by St Johns Ambulance.

St John (NSW) Chief Executive Officer Rhonda Bignell said: "The current survival rate from sudden cardiac arrest outside a hospital is less than five per cent. Unfortunately, CPR alone is often just not enough.

"If someone receives defibrillation within the first three minutes of having a sudden cardiac arrest, their chance of survival improves dramatically, well over 50 per cent. They are a critical step in the chain of survival in these circumstances."

Mr Kelman, who is also a St Johns Ambulance volunteer, said while prevention was always better than a cure, Multiplex wanted to protect its staff at the highest possible level.

"These machines will be used on our construction sites and in each of our offices across Australia, New Zealand, the United Arab Emirates, the UK and Europe," he said. In all, 50 machines have been purchased by Multiplex to install across the various Multiplex sites and offices.

But Mr Kelman said the machines will not only be there to help workers, but the community at large.

"Think about where our construction and development sites are located. Often they are in the heart of the city, where thousands of people pass by every day. If something should happen at the entrance to a Multiplex site, we want people to know Multiplex can help with trained First Aiders," Mr Kelman said.

Key Multiplex staff will be trained by St Johns Ambulance to use the equipment, which will be provided by the life safety firm Securitol, the only company in Australia providing CARDIAC Responder systems, the world's most comprehensive early defibrillation management system featuring back-to-base monitoring, data management and medical consulting.

For the technically minded, the defibrillation unit is a Powerheart AED G3 Automatic defibrillator from Cardiac Science.

Securitol Chief Executive Officer Reno M. Aprile said the property and construction industry was held to high standards when it related to safety.

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“Multiplex realised it was just as important to protect its workforce from cardiac arrest as it was to protect them from a fire or other hazard. Once a large corporate enterprise, or a small business for that matter, understands the importance of having a cardiac responder system, it’s simply a smart decision to invest in deploying these life saving systems.”

Multiplex’s Mr Kelman said: “When you work in the property industry, workplace safety is paramount to achieving an injury-free workplace. We are committed to continually updating and educating our workers on the best measures to achieve this.”

The responder systems will be installed in the following locations:

Victoria: Carlton Office; Freshwater residential; Royal Domain; Melbourne Showgrounds; Southern Cross; Urban Workshop; and, Victoria Point.

South Australia: Centro Colonnades.

Western Australia: Raffles Waterfront; Midland Gate Shopping Centre; District Courts Building; Regional Office - Old Swan Brewery; and, Kwinana Desalination plant.

New South Wales: Kent Street head office; King Street Wharf; Regent Place, George St; Trades and Labour Council Building; Centro Bankstown; and, Argyle Mall, Goulburn.

Australian Capital Territory: Sky Plaza.

United Kingdom: Wembley; White City; High Wycombe; Project Lateral; and, UK head office

New Zealand: Sylvia Park; 424 Residences; and, Chancery office

Middle East: Dubai Head Office; Burj Residence 1&2, Dubai; Burj Residence 3, Dubai; Dubai Marina7WX; and, AL JADER Hotel site, Qatar.

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