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Hilton Sydney collects a host of awards at the HM Awards

Sydney, Australia –September 7, 2011 – Hilton Sydney has won the coveted awards for 'Australian General Manager' (Paul Hutton), 'Hotel Bar of the Year' (Zeta Bar), Hotel Engineer (Craig Cavers) and Hotel Brand at the ninth annual HM Awards for Hotel & Accommodation Excellence.

Regarded as the leading awards in the industry, the HM Awards recognise excellence in people and departments, properties and chains in 48 categories across properties in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific.

Paul Hutton, General Manager of Hilton Sydney, whose hospitality career spans 25 years across destinations worldwide, said, "I feel tremendously proud of this accolade and it is testament to the hard work and impeccable standards of an internationally diverse Hilton Sydney team.

"A mid-city icon for four decades, Hilton Sydney firmly re-established itself after a two and a half year closure and its re-opening in July 2005 as a more exciting and vibrant property than ever. This honour sets the tone for next year and beyond and will see Hilton Sydney continue to take its place as a truly iconic Australian hotel offering world-class service.

"I'm delighted to see Zeta Bar collect the 20th award in its six-year history, making it the most awarded cocktail bar in Australia. This is an outstanding achievement and proves that we continue to lead the way in cutting-edge bar trends and set internationally pioneering standards.

“Lastly, but by no means least, it’s always pleasing to see individual recognition so I am thrilled for Craig Cavers’ thoroughly deserved engineering award. He is a vital cog in the Hilton Sydney machine, so I congratulate Craig and thank his team wholeheartedly.”

Ashley Spencer, Vice President Operations, Australasia, Hilton Worldwide, accepted the Hotel Brand award during the ceremony and said, “I am thrilled to accept this major award and showcase to the Australasian hospitality industry why Hilton is the number one hotel brand in Australasia; a success which demonstrates the strength of our international team.

“In addition, it was extremely pleasing to see Hilton Lake Taupo take the award for New Zealand Regional Property and highly commended recognitions going to Hilton Queenstown (New Zealand Hotel), Hilton Melbourne South Wharf (Marketing Campaign) and Hilton Cairns (Service to the Community). It was undoubtedly an outstanding night for Hilton and one which we should all be proud of.”

Hilton Sydney also received three highly commended awards for Tech Hotel (recognised for the third year running), Business Hotel (recognised for the second year running), and Environmental Program at the ceremony, which was held at the Sydney Town Hall. The awards were co-hosted by James Wilkinson, managing editor of HM - Hotel & Accommodation Management magazine and the charismatic Larry Edmur, Channel Seven’s Morning Show host who entertained more than 600 guests at the ‘Night at the Opera’-themed gala.

The HM Awards judging panel is made up of over 50 industry professionals and travel media who decide on all of the finalists and the winners. Written submissions for each category are considered and all judging decisions remain anonymous. All results are audited by Ernst & Young.

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About Hilton Hotels & Resorts

One of the most recognized names in the industry, Hilton Hotels & Resorts stands as the stylish, forward thinking global leader in hospitality. From inaugural balls and Hollywood award galas to business events and days to remember, Hilton is where the world makes history, closes the deal, toasts special occasions and gets away from it all. The flagship brand of Hilton Worldwide continues to build upon its legacy of innovation by developing products and services to meet the needs of tomorrow’s savvy global travelers while more than 144,000 Team Members shape experiences in which every guest feels cared for, valued and respected. Today, the Hilton Hotels & Resorts portfolio includes more than 540 hotels in 78 countries and the brand remains synonymous with “hotel.”

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Hilton Hotels & Resorts is one of Hilton Worldwide's ten market-leading brands.

About Hilton Sydney

Aspire to Hilton Sydney...centrally located in Sydney CBD close to shopping and entertainment, Hilton Sydney offers 577 luxury accommodation rooms and suites plus four dedicated levels of conference and events space catering up to 3000 delegates. The hotel also features Luke Mangan's renowned restaurant glass brasserie, the stylish and award-winning Zeta Bar, iconic Marble Bar and LivingWell Premier Health Club and Day Spa.