



For More Information:

Edye Maier – (609) 292-6246

April 9, 2012

SDA Awards Contract for the New Academic High School in Elizabeth

Project Advancement Marks a New Approach to School Construction in New Jersey

TRENTON, NJ – Following through on Governor Christie’s demand for sound construction principles and accountability for state dollars, the New Jersey Schools Development Authority (SDA) has awarded a \$1,587,500 contract to Luzon, Inc. from Sewell, New Jersey for early site preparation work for a new Academic High School. The new Academic High School project in Elizabeth will advance in two phases, with this contract representing the advancement of the first phase.

“This award demonstrates a new way of approaching school construction projects in New Jersey,” said CEO Marc Larkins. “The site preparation of Academic High School will help avoid the type of cost overruns and project delays from unforeseen conditions that plagued the school construction program in the past. The strategic advancement of Academic High School exhibits the Authority’s commitment to meeting self-imposed deadlines while advancing an efficient and cost-conscious school construction program. We look forward to celebrating future project milestones with the Elizabeth community.”

The first phase of work will consist of preparing the project site for the construction of the new high school building. Work will include clearing the site, removal of sub-surface footings and foundations, removal of unsuitable soils, remediating areas of concern and importation of certified clean fill to be compacted and graded in accordance with all applicable state and federal regulations.

The 183,822 square-foot, four-story facility designed to educate nearly 1,100 students will be constructed on a 1.54 acre site adjacent to the existing Jefferson High School. This project was selected for advancement as part of the 2011 Capital Project Portfolio. With SDA’s commitment toward standardization of school design, the Academic High School approach is highly efficient and can serve as a model for future school projects with tight urban spaces utilizing small learning communities.

Luzon, Inc. of Sewell, New Jersey, was selected from among eight firms that submitted bids. Langan Engineering is the engineering design consultant and SDA is the construction manager for phase one of the project.

The SDA’s current portfolio of active projects is valued at over \$2.2 billion – including the 2011 and 2012 Capital Project portfolios (more than \$1B), additional projects in construction (\$194M), emergent projects (\$50M) and Regular Operating District grants (\$792M state share).

###