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Pedestrian simulation software leader Legion expands its footprint in China through Colin Buchanan

Transport, planning and economics consultancy to deploy Legion's advanced pedestrian simulation software on major Beijing Metro projects

London, 17 January 2008 – Keeping Beijing Olympics visitors moving. It's the challenge Colin Buchanan China faces and the reason it has chosen to deploy Legion's advanced pedestrian engineering software in major transport engineering projects underway in the Olympic city.

In signing up for Legion Studio, Colin Buchanan China joins a growing roster of top tier international transport planning engineering and design companies utilising the technology. Legion Studio offers a highly efficient process for designing both the physical space and the operation of buildings and other large public spaces. Legion Studio and Legion 3D are the world's most widely adopted and advanced software for planning, designing and visualising spaces for use by pedestrians.

Beijing Metro and Thales, the manufacturer and installer of new automatic fare collection gates, are the first of Colin Buchanan China's clients to benefit from the insight Legion Studio brings to major infrastructure projects around the world. The software is being used to devise operational plans for four key metro stations – Bajiao, Wukesong, Dongsishi and Yonghegong – serving venues for the 2008 games.

Taking pedestrians to a new level

Simon Babes, General Manager, Colin Buchanan China says: "Legion's technology changes the game. Clients want our advice to be backed up with clear evidence. But until now, pedestrian modelling tools haven't been able to deliver this. With their macro level view, the result has tended to be unclear outputs which even highly experienced clients can find confusing. However, with Legion Studio and the advanced microscopic simulation that is now possible we're creating models that generate much clearer answers to the questions we ask. This is the insight and evidence we need to give informed advice to our clients."

Simon Babes brings considerable personal experience of using Legion Studio to Colin Buchanan China. Until 2004 he was part of the assessment team at London Underground that resulted in Transport for London's decision to purchase Legion Studio.

Kevin Mannion, CEO, Legion, comments: "Now with Legion Studio and Simon's own experience as a licensed user of our software Colin Buchanan will be able to deliver even better value for its clients."

Colin Buchanan China's work is focused on both the strategic planning for the country's rapidly expanding transport infrastructure and the more detailed planning of individual transport services. It is also anticipated that from its Shanghai headquarters Colin Buchanan China will develop a specialist pedestrian simulation team to service Colin Buchanan's worldwide operation.

Mannion continues: "Colin Buchanan's adoption of Legion further underlines just how important accurate pedestrian simulation is becoming in the design and operation of the built environment around the world. People simply can't be an afterthought. Whether it is designing a railway station, refurbishing a metro network, or planning a new sports stadium, designers are increasingly turning to pedestrian simulation to help them ensure the facility is fully optimised from the start for the people who ultimately will use it."

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About Legion

Legion is the company behind the world's most advanced and widely adopted pedestrian simulation software: Legion Studio and its accompanying animation software, Legion 3D. With its accurate, validated simulations, Legion is transforming how the world's built environment is designed, upgraded and operated. Legion Studio enables designers and engineers to analyse and quantitatively assess the efficiency of different designs and strategies. As a result, Legion simulations inform critical decisions about improving the safety, operational effectiveness and profitability of places where people gather – places like metro and surface rail stations, airports and sports venues.

Legion has offices in London, New York and Shanghai and a network of associates and partners serving a worldwide customer base. Users include some of the world's major transport authorities: Transport for London, MTR Hong Kong, Madrid's Consorcio Regional de Transportes, Spain's IENA, the Metropolitan Transport Authority in New York City, Rail Corp in Sydney, and Santiago Metro. Leading design and engineering firms, such as AECOM, Arup, Halcrow, Parsons Brinkerhoff and WS Atkins have used Legion Studio to offer new pedestrian engineering services. Legion Studio has also been used in planning the Sydney, Athens, Beijing and London Olympics.

About Colin Buchanan China

Colin Buchanan's Shanghai office was set up in 2006 following five successful years of delivering strategic advice to city governments, including Shanghai and Beijing, in the preparation of their respective Transport White Papers, a pioneering approach to integrating plans for all the various urban transport modes in rapidly expanding cities. Simon Babes is Colin Buchanan China's General Manager, who prior to 2004 was the Modelling and Standards Manager at London Underground Ltd. Colin Buchanan China is currently working on a wide variety of pedestrian simulation projects, using Legion Studio, for clients in China and the UK.