



GOVERNMENT OF MANITOBA ANNOUNCES DEVELOPMENT PARTNER FOR THE CENTREPORT CANADA RAIL PARK

Focus Equities Inc. Projects Economic Impact of the Rail Park Project Could Exceed \$3 Billion

March 25, 2022 – WINNIPEG, MB The Government of Manitoba and CentrePort Canada Inc. are pleased to announce that an agreement has been concluded with a development partner for the **CentrePort Canada Rail Park** (the “Rail Park”). **Focus Equities Inc.**, a Canadian real estate developer, will be the developer of the rail-served industrial project, with construction to begin in the coming months. The Rail Park is to provide a critical stimulus for significant economic growth, trade, business attraction and investment, job creation and increased tax revenues for Manitoba.

“As we emerge from this pandemic our government is focused on working with our economic development partners, industry and trade to unlock Manitoba’s true economic potential,” said Premier Heather Stefanson. “This development - in the heart of the country – will support our vision to make Manitoba a true trade gateway nationally and internationally. Expected to create more than 4,800 direct and indirect jobs and have a significant impact on the province’s GDP, the Rail Park project will help us bolster our economy and attract new businesses, now and well into the future.”

The 665-acre Rail Park is located within CentrePort Canada, a 20,000-acre inland port project in the Rural Municipality of Rosser, within the capital region of Winnipeg. The Rail Park will offer globally-connected businesses with large-volume shipping needs the ability to access, transfer, and transport goods between road and rail, with close access to Winnipeg's James Armstrong Richardson International Airport.

“With global supply-chain issues affecting the industry, there has never been greater demand in North America for a centralized logistics and shipping location for rail, truck and air than now,” said Ken Mariash, owner of Focus Equities Inc., a Canadian developer with vast build-to-suit experience with industrial and Fortune 500 companies, including IKEA, Walmart and Loblaws. “We are already in negotiations with global brands who are interested in choosing our Rail Park land for their transportation infrastructure needs. Focus Equities is honoured to be awarded the CentrePort Canada Rail Park project and thanks the Province of Manitoba and CentrePort Canada Inc.”

Mariash added that there is more good news in store for Winnipeg and Manitoba with Canadian Pacific Railway’s acquisition of Kansas City Southern. If approved by the U.S. regulator, it will be North America’s first single-line railway to stretch across Canada, the U.S. and Mexico.

The Rail Park project utilizes the advantages of Manitoba’s central North American geographic location and plays a critical role in enhancing and growing Manitoba’s trade and investment profile domestically, within the continent and around the globe.

In 2018, CentrePort Canada Inc., with the support of the Province of Manitoba, issued a Request for Proposal to attract a private developer for the Rail Park project. Focus Equities Inc. was selected as the most experienced and qualified developer following that process. The company provides a full range of development, investment, financing, construction, and operation of complex real estate, energy, and infrastructure projects.

“This development, strategically situated at the hub of international trading corridors, capitalizes on Manitoba’s historical strengths as a leader in trade and transportation and positions the province as a key player now and well into the future,” said David Filmon, Chair, CentrePort Canada Inc. Board of Directors and Chair, MLT Aikins LLP. “Congratulations to the Province of Manitoba for their long-term strategic planning and foresight that has enabled this transformational project to take shape.”

Today’s announcement builds on other investments made by government to support the expansion and growth of CentrePort Canada and to connect rail service with other forms of transportation. Most recently, Manitoba has invested in safety improvements to the Perimeter Highway as a first step towards the Winnipeg One Million Perimeter Freeway Initiative. Major upgrades are underway, such as the \$135 million interchange project at PTH 100 and St. Mary’s Road and preliminary planning for a new diamond interchange at PTH 100 (south Perimeter Highway) and PTH 3.

“All inland ports have rail at the heart of their developments and the CentrePort Canada Rail Park is the linchpin in realizing the vision for a true trimodal inland port – and North America’s largest – right here in Manitoba,” said Diane Gray, President and CEO, CentrePort Canada Inc. “As an integrated rail corridor connecting Canada through the U.S. to Mexico comes to fruition, significant opportunities exist for CentrePort to continue to grow and offer solutions to companies that manage part of their supply chain by rail. We are excited to work with Ken Mariash and the team at Focus Equities Inc. as they use their wealth of expertise in industrial real estate development to bring this project to life.”

More information on the [CentrePort Canada Rail Park is available here](#).

Focus Equities Inc., a Canadian corporation, provides development, investment and project finances in real estate and infrastructure. Founded over 50 years ago by a Canadian entrepreneur Kenneth W. Mariash, Sr., a graduate architect, MBA, Bachelor of Commerce, BSc., Focus Equities Inc. and its associated companies (“Focus”) have developed, purchased or sold millions of square feet of real estate and thousands of residential/condominium units in North America. Focus Equities Inc. is currently developing projects in North America valued at more than US\$ 5 billion and has a long track record of successful innovative financial structures. www.focusequities.com

CentrePort Canada is Manitoba’s 20,000-acre inland port and Foreign Trade Zone. Established in 2008, it is the largest trimodal inland port in North America, with over 2,000 acres in active development. Located in the heart of North America, CentrePort connects to major national and international trade gateways and corridors, and is the only inland port in Canada with direct access to trimodal transportation – truck, rail and air cargo. www.centreportcanada.ca

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Maps & images of the CentrePort Canada Rail Park are [available for media use here](#).