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**COOPER COMPANIES NAMED HILTON HOTELS CORPORATION  
DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR**

**MEMPHIS Tenn. – May 15, 2006** – Memphis-based Cooper Companies received the Hilton Hotels Corporation Developer of the Year Award at the Full-Service Brands Owners Summit, held May 3-8 in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Pace Cooper, president and CEO, accepted the award, which was presented by top Hilton executives.

The award was earned as a result of Cooper being the first Hilton franchisee to operate all six of the major Hilton Family of Hotels mid-scale, upscale and upper upscale hotel brands.

"We are delighted to present this award to Cooper Companies for going beyond the brand standards and have hotels that exceed our guests' expectations for gracious hospitality and excellent value," said Bill Fortier, senior vice president – franchise development, Hilton Hotels Corporation. "We thank Pace Cooper for his commitment to maintaining and building top-quality hotels for our Hilton Family of Hotels and salute Cooper Companies on this achievement of having completed the cycle of the six major brands."

In January, Cooper purchased the 151-suite Hilton Suites Detroit Metro Airport, which will become an Embassy Suites hotel after extensive renovations are completed in the first quarter of 2007. It will be the first Embassy Suites hotel in the Cooper portfolio of 21 hotels, and it will complete Cooper's cycle of Hilton brand franchises including Hilton, Doubletree Hotels, Hilton Garden Inn, Homewood Suites by Hilton and Hampton Inn & Suites.

Mr. Cooper said the Hilton Suites hotel will be completely renovated including a total overhaul of the commercial areas to replicate the mood and offerings of the new Embassy Suites prototype being implemented by Hilton Hotels Corporation for the Embassy Suites brand.

Currently there are three Embassy Suites hotels in the Detroit area. "Embassy Suites is pleased to have the opportunity to expand our presence in Detroit with such an experienced owner and operator," said David Greydanus, senior vice president of brand management. "The airport location has tremendous potential for our brand." Cooper also operates a Hilton Garden Inn at the Detroit Metro Airport.

Three other new Hilton properties are being developed by Cooper Companies in Bensalem, Penn., where a 131-room Hilton Garden Inn is under construction, and in Fort Myers, Fla., where a Hilton Garden Inn and a Homewood Suites by Hilton are in development.

Cooper is recognized as one of the Hilton Family's highest-quality franchisees in the southeastern U.S., with Hilton Family of Hotels brand properties located in Detroit, Mich.; Jackson, Johnson City, Knoxville, Memphis, Murfreesboro and Oak Ridge, Tenn.; Naples and Fort Myers, Fla.; Charlotte, N.C.; and Atlanta, Ga.

For more information on Cooper Companies please visit [www.cooperhotels.com](http://www.cooperhotels.com).

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