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PRESS RELEASE
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NSCC Continues Drive For Fair Payment

In response to the last NSCC State of Trade Survey, which revealed that in the fourth quarter of 2008 only 2% of Specialist Contractors were being paid within 30 days, NSCC is continuing its push for fair payment by launching a survey to find out just how badly the current economic situation is affecting payment practices in the industry. The NSCC Payment Survey is seeking information on payment terms, retentions and the use of the Government's Fair Payment Charter, and all Specialist Contractors are invited to share their views on the state of payment by completing the online survey at www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.

To help Specialist Contractors improve their chances of getting paid on time, NSCC is organising a number of events including meetings of the NSCC Credit Forum in London and Scotland and an exclusive seminar on adjudication on Tuesday 9 June in Edinburgh. Delegates attending the half-day NSCC Adjudication Seminar will experience a mock adjudication, offering easy to understand advice for using the adjudication process effectively as well as invaluable tips on avoiding the most common pitfalls. Supported by AICA and Anderson Strathern, the event will help Specialist Contractors to stand up for themselves by using adjudication when they haven't been paid.

NSCC is also supporting the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill as it makes its way through Parliament. Containing amendments to both the payment and adjudication provisions in the Construction Act, the Bill aims to strengthen the existing legislation and NSCC is lobbying to make sure that the changes that have been proposed result in fair payment throughout the industry.

Explaining the work that NSCC is doing as part of its Fair Payment Campaign, the NSCC Chief Executive Suzannah Nichol MBE said:

"In the current economic situation, fair payment throughout the supply chain is more important than ever. Everything comes down to payment: if businesses aren't paid fairly and promptly for the work that they do, they will cease to have a business at all. This is why we are running the Fair Payment Campaign to provide as much advice and practical support to Specialist Contractors as possible."

~ Ends ~

For further information, contact NSCC:

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Notes to editors:

1. The National Specialist Contractors Council (NSCC) brings together the common aims of 30 specialist trade organisations within the construction industry and is the authoritative voice of 7,000 Specialist Contractors in the UK.
2. The Association of Independent Construction Adjudicators (AICA) is one of the construction industry's leading Adjudicator Nominating Bodies and provides free adjudicator nominations to NSCC Specialist Contractors – www.aica-adjudication.co.uk.
3. The law firm Anderson Strathern LLP is one of Scotland's leading full service law firms. With teams specialising in different areas of law, they can advise on the full spectrum of legal requirements – www.andersonstrathern.co.uk.
4. The NSCC Payment Survey can be completed online via www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.
5. Places at the NSCC Adjudication Seminar cost £50 + VAT for NSCC members (£75 + VAT for non members subject to availability) – for a booking form, visit www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.
6. Further information regarding the Fair Payment Campaign can be found at www.fairpaymentcampaign.co.uk.