

SECTION

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The Record BUSINESS

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Mast Construction to oversee new hockey arena in Newark

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STAFF WRITER

Mast Construction Services, a Little Falls-based construction management and consulting firm, has been selected to oversee a 24-acre Newark redevelopment project that will include a \$310 million hockey arena for the New Jersey Devils.

Mast President Ted Domuracki said Thursday that his company would coordinate the public-private partnership for a project that also will include a hotel, housing and parking in its first phase.

Additional office, housing and retail components are planned for a second phase.

"We'll set up a system to monitor the source and use of project funds, and put in place the various

construction schedules," Domuracki said.

Mast was awarded the contract by the Newark Downtown Core Redevelopment Corp., the agency that in February took over control of the project from the scandal-plagued Newark Housing Authority.

The arena and its accompanying development have been a centerpiece of departing Mayor

Sharpe James' vow to revitalize the city's downtown area.

"The choice [of Mast] was a function of a price that was significantly lower than other competitors, as well as the local expertise they have, compared to other bids from other parts of the country," said city Business Administrator Richard Monteilh, who also is the redevelopment corporation's executive director.

Monteilh said that a 250-unit high-rise residential complex and a Board of Education building also are expected to be part of the first phase. An agreement with a hotel developer could be finalized within weeks, Monteilh said.

Ground was broken on the arena last fall, and its steel exterior has been going up since March. The arena is scheduled to open in

See **MAST** Page **B-4**

Mast: Arena

From Page **B-1**

September 2007.

Mast, which has 15 employees, was founded by Domuracki five years ago. The company also was named recently to oversee a Harrison Redevelopment Agency project that is highlighted by a \$100 million soccer stadium for the Red Bull New York team of Major League Soccer.

Domuracki said Mast managed the recently completed \$40 million upgrade of the Hudson County Correctional Facility in Kearny and construction of the \$25 million Culinary Arts Institute in Jersey City. The company also is working on a \$150 million master plan for Hudson County Community College.