InterContinental Hotels Group, the world's largest hotel group by number of rooms, announced that it has signed an agreement with Colombia-based Espacios Urbanos S.A. to manage a new-build InterContinental property in Cartagena . Scheduled to open in early 2013, the 280-room InterContinental Cartagena will be located in the city's Bocagrande district – beachfront on San Martin Avenue – approximately two miles from the historic walled Old City and five miles to Rafael Nunez International Airport.

Intercontinental Hotel Group

The hotel will be one of the anchors of a 215,000-square-foot mixed-use development that includes a casino, upscale retail shops, movie theaters and restaurants. The property itself will include more than 16,000 square feet of meeting space, a spa, fitness center and various restaurants and bars. The developer, Espacios Urbanos S.A., has more than 20 years of experience in the development of large-scale projects in Colombia, as well as throughout the whole of Latin America, including managing the development of the Trump Ocean Club in Panama City, Panama.

Located on the northern coast of Colombia - making it easily accessible for travelers from the United States and the Caribbean, Cartagena is one of the oldest cities in the Americas, founded by the Spanish conquistador Pedro de Heredia in 1533. Its famed colonial Old City and San Felipe fortress are a UNESCO World Heritage Site due to their historical value. With a population of more than 1.2 million, Cartagena is Colombia's fifth-largest urban area and a key financial center in the Caribbean, as well as one of the region's most popular tourist destinations. Its unique old world charm, coupled with major new urban centers, has made Cartagena one of the country's most successful cities.

"Our InterContinental Hotels & Resorts brand has been a part of Colombia for more than 50 years," says Jim Anhut, Chief Development Officer, IHG, Americas. "We value the opportunity to expand our portfolio, and I've no doubt that the InterContinental Cartagena will be a triumph." IHG currently has five hotels in Colombia: two InterContinental, one Crowne Plaza, and two Holiday Inn Express properties.