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## **SmithGroupJJR acquires Boston based healthcare design firm TRO**

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Boston, MA SmithGroupJJR expanded its national presence with the acquisition of TRO. The move increases the company's resources to 1,300 employees and 12 offices across the U.S. and China.

TRO's recent projects include the Alfond Center for Health at MaineGeneral Medical Center which utilized a collaborative Integrated Project Delivery (IPD) method to complete the project ten months ahead of schedule; the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Brigham and Women's Hospital, a complex expansion over the Hospital's Labor and Delivery floor, as well as the full renovation of the existing NICU; and the Menino addition and renovation at Boston Medical Center, which faces the compounded complexity of relocating existing, active departments into currently occupied space without interruption to patient care.

TRO will become the Boston office of SmithGroupJJR. Mark Jussaume, PE, LEED AP, who has been with TRO since 1990 and most recently served as the firm's CEO, steps into the role of office director for this location. Jussaume shared that finding a partner with the right cultural fit was the most critical concern that his leadership team expressed when entering into the acquisition process. "A former SmithGroupJJR employee joined TRO and recognized the similarities between our two firms' cultures and values," said Jussaume.

SmithGroupJJR's growth plans include establishing additional offices and expanding services and markets into existing offices where there is strategic alignment with client needs. The acquisition of TRO follows other recent moves, including the opening of an office in San Diego, the addition of engineering services in all California offices, and expanded service offerings at the Madison, Wisconsin office to include architectural design for the first time in the firm's history. The firm has also recently created Workplace studios in its Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago offices and Science & Technology studios in Chicago and Dallas.

SmithGroupJJR managing partner Russ Sykes, PE, LEED AP acknowledged that establishing a presence in the Northeast, and Boston in particular, has been part of SmithGroupJJR's strategic long-range plan. "As opportunities to grow the firm have been identified, the Northeast was an obvious gap in the geography of our offices. New England is a prime location for the markets we serve and a great region for recruiting talent," Sykes said. "We were already teamed with TRO to deliver projects in the region, including working together at Exeter Hospital and on Boston University's Henry M. Goldman School of Dental Medicine. This move allows us to be closer to those clients while continuing to expand our portfolio in other markets."

The Boston office will continue doing business as TRO into the second quarter of 2018, at which time it will be fully integrated into the SmithGroupJJR brand.

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