



## GWCCA Board get birds-eye view of new Atlanta Falcons nest

(Atlanta - July 28, 2015) Donning hardhats, dayglow yellow construction vests, safety goggles and business suits, members of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority's (GWCCA) Board of Governors, executives and select guests received their first up-close-and-personal view of the \$1.4 billion state-of-the-art New Atlanta Stadium project today and were duly impressed.

"My first reaction is that it's going to be more, bigger, better and more cutting edge than even the model suggests or that computer graphics can portray," said Lee Hunter, Chairman of the Authority's Board of Governors. "When you see it in person and feel the magnitude and size of it, it really paints the picture of how state-of-the-art, cutting edge and incredible this facility is."

A representative for construction joint venture, Holder, Hunt, Russell, Moody, led a fact-filled tour of the interior of the construction site - the new home of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta's first Major League Soccer (MLS) franchise - and entertained questions from Authority board members, who climbed up scaffolding stairs to several tiers of the venue to gain different perspectives of the project.

The retractable roof stadium on the western side of downtown Atlanta is slated for completion in 2017, and the concrete portion of the work is between 80-90 percent done, followed by steel work, which is underway. Total structural steel will weigh in at 23,000 tons, compared to 8,300 tons contained in the Georgia Dome, a facility the new stadium is replacing.

The official groundbreaking was May 19, 2014, and many of the Authority Board members expressed awe today at the rapid pace of construction as the stadium takes shape and claims its own space along the downtown Atlanta skyline.

"I'm very confident they'll come in on time," said Hunter. "These guys are absolute professionals."

Upon completion, the new stadium will be the equivalent height of a 30-story building (305 feet).