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## Hyder Construction Inc.

### Denver

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Two 125 foot tower cranes and a flurry of construction activity indicate something exceptional is being built in the heart of Vail Village at the base of the Vista Bahn chairlift. Hyder Construction continues to speed along on the construction of the \$115 million Vail's Front Door for Vail Resorts Development Company.

"This is a very complicated project," said Project Executive Doug Thompson. "The complexity of this project revolves around tying into the existing adjacent buildings and plazas all of which integrate into the new construction at differing elevations. There are very few square corners in this project."

Bavarian-themed buildings, designed by 4240 Architecture, will include a state-of-the-art spa for the Lodge at Vail; a full-featured skier-services facility; and a private ski club and pool. The project also includes the construction of 13 four-story luxury chalets in five buildings. The chalets, priced at up to \$3,000 per square foot, have completely sold-out. Each chalet is being customized to suit the individual buyer's taste.

"Vail's Front Door provides something that has long been lacking," added Thompson, "a defined entrance to the ski mountain." The approximately 300,000 square foot project will include 21 elevators and boasts a 1/8 mile long tunnel to provide the U.S. Forest Service access to Vail Mountain. Approximately 60 percent of the project is underground, invisible to the general public. This includes two expansive parking structures and a 14-bay semi-truck loading dock facility which are core parts of the project.

Hyder was able to accurately determine the depth of bedrock and rock density over the five-acre, 65-foot-deep excavation site with the use of seismic surveys. "The surveys provided an accurate picture of the distribution of weathered rock that could be dug out and consolidated rock that would require blasting," Thompson said. "This allowed us to more accurately assess costs and greatly reduce the owner's risk."

"We've had a long relationship with Vail Resorts. We understand their operation and we tailor our work to fit their needs," said Thompson. "Traffic control, equipment access, and limited site staging were all key obstacles for this project because our only access point was through the heart of the town," he added. Hyder's extensive planning and sequencing of operations has allowed them to efficiently manage the construction of the project, minimizing disruptions to the town's daily operations. The majority of the project, which broke ground in April of 2006, will be ready for the 2007-2008 ski season. The work on the chalets is scheduled for completion in the fall of 2008.

