

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## FORMER CEO OF OTAK, INC. LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CONSULTING AND REAL ESTATE FIRM

SPECIAL FOCUS WILL BE ON “VALUES-BASED LEADERSHIP”

PORTLAND, OR, FEBRUARY 20, 2013 – Nawzad Othman, the co-founder and long-time CEO of Otak, Inc. announced today that he has launched The Othman Group, an international business consulting and real estate firm that will assist clients in the Pacific Northwest and the Middle East with strategic positioning, business development, investments and community development. The firm will work with associates in Portland, Oregon, Erbil, Iraq, and Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates (UAE) from its headquarters office at 215 S.W. Washington Street, Portland, Oregon 97204.

Mr. Othman has built a reputation for understanding the cultural, economic and political influences that shape these markets. He and his associates have significant expertise in a variety of fields including energy, water, real estate, agriculture, technology, infrastructure and sustainability. Mr. Othman also has long experience with public/private partnerships, education and philanthropy, passions he will continue to pursue in his new role.

“There is a strong connection between the values we embrace and how we communicate, motivate and lead organizations,” said Nawzad Othman, Principal of The Othman Group. “Great leaders in private business, government and non-profits display a dual commitment to diversity and unity of effort, to personal achievement and community service. We hope to show our business and non-profit clients that they can grow and thrive by embracing this values-based leadership.”

To mark the firm’s special focus, Mr. Othman announced today he is making a five-year gift to the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at Portland State University, for its student Diversity Fund. The Fund helps increase diversity in the planning profession by supplementing Graduate Student Assistant awards, which aid in the recruitment and retention of students in the Masters of Urban and Regional Planning program.

The business focus of The Othman Group is to help U.S. companies enter new markets in the Middle East, and to provide the same guidance to Middle East firms hoping to expand in the United States. The firm will also assist public agencies with strategic planning and advise businesses on potential investments in operating companies and other opportunities, including real estate. With access to global investors, The Othman Group has formed a separate affiliate, EB5 MENA LLC, to help real estate clients raise capital through the EB-5 Investor Green Card Program.

The Othman Group is also affiliated with Columbia Pacific Development, which provides development management services to clients in Oregon and Washington. Columbia Pacific served as the project and investment manager for Vancouvercenter, the largest urban development in the history of downtown Vancouver, Washington. ([www.vancouvercenter-usa.com](http://www.vancouvercenter-usa.com))

As part of his work for clients, Mr. Othman will continue to speak extensively to business and non-profit groups about talent recruitment, team building and sustainable business practices.

### ABOUT THE OTHMAN GROUP

Founded by Nawzad Othman in 2012, The Othman Group is an international business consulting and real estate firm that guides businesses, investors, public agencies and coalitions as they seek new opportunities to grow and thrive. With its network of global relationships, the firm connects clients in the Pacific Northwest and the Middle East to the resources they need to achieve their goals. The firm’s affiliate EB5 MENA LLC supports real estate developers by raising capital through the EB-5 Investor Green Card Program. Columbia Pacific Development provides a full range of management services for real estate projects. Visit [www.theothmangroup.com](http://www.theothmangroup.com).

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