

## Huizenga's company to own hotel near airport

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Chalk up another hotel near **St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport**.

The 128-room **Hampton Inn** & Suites is set to open May 7. It will be the fifth Hampton in the Clearwater area and one of 13 hotels within one and a half miles of the airport.

Hampton is part of **Hilton Hotels Corp.**, a global hospitality company with more than 2,900 hotels and 500,000 rooms in more than 80 countries.

**OTO Development**, headquartered in Spartanburg, S.C., owns the Hampton Inn & Suites Clearwater-Ulmerton, and Palmetto Hospitality will manage it.

H. Wayne Huizenga -- the south Florida entrepreneur famous for **Waste Management**, **Blockbuster Video** and **AutoNation** -- and George D. Johnson Jr. launched OTO in 2004. It develops brands offered by Hilton Hotels Corp. (NYSE: HLT), **Marriott International** (NYSE: MAR), **Starwood Hotels** (NYSE: HOT) and **Hyatt Hotels Corp.**

The Hampton Inn & Suites Clearwater-Ulmerton will be OTO's fifth hotel to open. The company has 28 other projects in various stages of development, including eight in Florida.

The development of OTO's new hotel projects are funded through Palmetto Hospitality Fund I. The fund has common ownership with OTO Development and currently has capital commitments from a group of equity investors, including Johnson, Huizenga and Dean L. Buntrock. **Bank of America** (NYSE: BAC), as well as other regional banks throughout the country, has approved bank financing.