



*For Immediate Release*

## **XL CENTER AND PRATT & WHITNEY STADIUM SELECTED TO HOST NCAA DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIPS**

*NCAA Selection Committee chooses Hartford Region for Men's Basketball (XL Center) and Men's Lacrosse (Pratt & Whitney Stadium)*

**Hartford, CT (April 18, 2017)** – The Hartford region continues to solidify itself as a destination for major sporting events. Today the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball and Lacrosse Committees selected Capital Region Development Authority Facilities XL Center and Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field as host sites for upcoming NCAA Championships. Spectra by Comcast Spectacor, the providers of Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, and Ticketing & Fan Engagement to both venues, worked alongside The University of Connecticut and Fairfield University to secure the NCAA events.

The XL Center will host the First and Second Rounds of Division I Men's Basketball the weekend of March 21-23, 2019. The University of Connecticut will serve as the host institution for the event. The announcement comes on the heels of the successful 2017 American Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Tournament at the XL Center. The NCAA games will mark the return of NCAA Men's Basketball competition to Hartford for the first time in 21 years. UConn previously hosted the NCAA men's games at the XL Center in 1983, 1985, 1988, 1990 and 1998.

"I'm thrilled that March Madness is coming back to Hartford after so many years," said Hartford Mayor Luke Bronin. "This is huge news for Connecticut and for Hartford, and we'll be ready to welcome fans from across the country, watch some great basketball, and show off our Capital City. I want to thank the NCAA for choosing Hartford, and we look forward to working closely with them as we get ready to host a great tournament."

Alongside host institution Fairfield University, Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field will host the Division I Men's Lacrosse Quarterfinals on May 18-19, 2019 and the Final Four in 2021 and 2022. Fairfield Men's Lacrosse currently holds eight Colonial Athletic Conference Championship titles.

"East Hartford is proud to host the 2019 NCAA Division I Men's Lacrosse Quarterfinal and the 2021 and 2022 NCAA Lacrosse Championships," said East Hartford Mayor Marcia A. Leclerc. "Pratt & Whitney Stadium is a truly world class venue for these competitions and East Hartford has much to offer to both players and fans. We look forward to hosting these exciting sporting events and welcoming players, their families, friends and fans to our community."

"We are honored to be hosting and thrilled to work alongside Fairfield, UConn, the NCAA and everyone else involved on such prestigious events," said Spectra's Chris Lawrence, General Manager. "This is another tremendous opportunity to showcase both venues and the entire Hartford Region to basketball and lacrosse fans around the country."

Two other Spectra properties were named host sites to NCAA events. PPL Center in Allentown, PA will host Division I Men's Ice Hockey in 2018 and 2019 and The Wells Fargo Arena in Des Moines, IA will host Division I Men's Basketball in 2019.

For exclusive behind-the-scenes photos and announcements, follow us at @XLCenter and @PWStadium. To receive advance notice, exclusive pre-sales, and special offers to future events, join the free XL Center Cyber Club by clicking here.

**XL Center ([XLCenter.com](http://XLCenter.com))**

XL Center is a 16,000 seat multipurpose arena located in downtown Hartford, CT, and operated by Spectra Venue Management. The arena, home to the Hartford Wolf Pack (AHL), University of Connecticut Men's Ice Hockey, and Men's & Women's Basketball, was built in 1975 and underwent major renovations in 2014. The XL Center entertains millions of visitors annually with a variety of concerts, family shows, sports, consumer events and trade shows throughout the season.

**Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field ([RentschlerField.com](http://RentschlerField.com))**

Pratt & Whitney Stadium at Rentschler Field is a 38,000 seat multipurpose stadium located in East Hartford, CT, and operated by Spectra Venue Management. The stadium serves as the home field of UConn football and has hosted a wide variety of other athletic, cultural and civic events.

**About Spectra**

Spectra by Comcast Spectacor is an industry leader in hosting and entertainment, partnering with clients to create memorable experiences for millions of visitors every year. Spectra's unmatched blend of integrated services delivers incremental value for clients through several primary areas of expertise: Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, Ticketing & Fan Engagement and Corporate Partnerships. Learn more at [SpectraExperiences.com](http://SpectraExperiences.com).

**About Comcast Spectacor**

Comcast Spectacor is part of Comcast Corporation, a global media and technology company that operates Comcast Cable and NBCUniversal. Comcast Spectacor's three core businesses are the National Hockey League's Philadelphia Flyers, the Wells Fargo Center Complex, and Spectra, a hosting and entertainment firm specializing in Venue Management, Food Services & Hospitality, Ticketing & Fan Engagement and Corporate Sponsorships. Learn more at [ComcastSpectacor.com](http://ComcastSpectacor.com).