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BIRMINGHAM HOTEL IN LINE FOR TOP AWARD

Birmingham's Radisson SAS is the only UK hotel to make the shortlist of a prestigious international design award.

The First Class hotel, which takes up the first 18 stories of the futuristic Beetham Tower in Holloway Circus, is one of four nominated in the 2006 European Hotel Design Awards' "new build" category.

The others on the list are the Hesperia Tower Hotel in Barcelona, the Losium Hotel Wine & Spa Resort in Zell am See, Austria, and the Birmingham Radisson SAS's sister hotel in Frankfurt.

The winners will be announced at an awards ceremony at Old Billingsgate Market in London on November 8.

The annual competition is organised by *Sleeper Magazine*, the leading magazine for international hotel design, and is being run in conjunction with Sleep 06, the European hotel design exhibition.

Birmingham's Beetham Tower, 400ft and 39 stories high, is the city's newest landmark building. The curved structure, sheathed in clear and turquoise glass, was designed by Ian Simpson Architects.

The Radisson SAS, which opened in January, occupies the lower half of the building, with the rest housing luxury apartments.

Kathrine Ohm Thomas, the hotel's general manager, said: "We are delighted to have been shortlisted in the new build category of these awards, which are seen as the *crème de la crème* within the industry.

"Beetham Tower is a fabulous structure that has greatly enhanced Birmingham's skyline. So I'm not surprised the judges singled it out for the shortlist.

"The fact that two Radisson SAS hotels have made the list shows that our company really does lead the way when it comes to opening truly innovative and funky hotels."

*** Note to editors: For more information or photographic images, please contact Ros Dodd or Lisa Piddington at Scarlet Media on 0121 442 6429 or 0121 433 3481.**