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Talks on the Egyptian Halls' future are advanced

# Deal close for A-listed landmark

Egyptian Halls to get developer

By GRAEME MURRAY

THE owner of Alexander "Greek" Thomson's Egyptian Halls is in talks with four interested parties who could secure the future of the A-listed landmark in weeks.

The identities of those involved are being kept secret until a preferred developer is confirmed, but the firms involved are believed to be "serious and well-financed".

The property's owner Union Street Properties says a winning firm could be appointed in four to six weeks allowing the project to end 30 years of stalemate.

Once a developer is chosen, the historic halls will be transformed into a 136-150-room hotel with restaurant, bar and retail provision.

The firm also wants to create a Mackintosh-Thomson Mews linking Charles Rennie Mackintosh's Lighthouse building with Thomson's Egyptian Halls.

Derek Souter, director



Derek Souter is optimistic the halls' future will be secure

of Union Street Properties, said: "Everybody wants to see the Egyptian Halls saved and it's now getting close to that."

Dundee-based USP has been involved with the halls for 11 years and has invested £5.5million in the building.

But because of legal issues over ownership, the company only took full possession of the 136-year-old property last year and began marketing the halls to potential developers.

Mr Souter added: "All parties know the deadlines and we are benefiting from support from Glasgow City Council, Historic Scotland and our funders Dunfermline Building Society."

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