

Media Release

First Minister Gets Glimpse inside Scotland's New Innovation Hub

Scotland, 17 December 2014: Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, led the celebrations to mark the establishment of the University of Strathclyde's new Technology and Innovation Centre in Glasgow yesterday – an £89 million world-leading technology hub being built by Lend Lease.

Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal of the University, joined senior members of Lend Lease to greet the First Minister, who was elected to the role just last month and is the first woman to hold the position. The Minister was given a tour of the landmark centre, which will transform the way academics collaborate with business, industry and the public sector to bring global competitive advantage to Scotland.

Adjacent to the university, the 26,000 square-metre building consists of nine storeys and includes open plan offices, three lecture theatres and specialist laboratory space. The building, which has been built to BREEAM sustainability standards, has transformed the landscape east of Glasgow's George Square and is a major milestone in the continuing regeneration of the city.

The building is the University's largest investment in research to date, and is part of a wider £350 million investment in the development of a dynamic, digital campus over 10 years. It houses specialist, shared and flexible laboratory facilities and will support leading academics in bridging the gap between research, technology and commercialisation.

The event coincided with Strathclyde's Golden Jubilee Year – its 50th anniversary of being granted university status. The leading-edge centre will become home to academics and their industrial partners responding to global challenges in areas such as health, energy, manufacturing and the development of future cities.

Roy Allport, Lend Lease's Executive General Manager for Scotland, said: "This is a fantastic project. We're constructing a ground-breaking building which will bring science, engineering, business and the public sector together to work side-by-side. It is a remarkable research hub – and will serve as an industry-leading exemplar across Europe."

Professor Sir Jim McDonald, Principal of the University, said: "The construction of the Technology and Innovation Centre marks an important milestone in our history as a partner of choice for business, industry and the public sector. Through deep collaboration, we are driving business innovation and growth, creating jobs, and attracting millions of pounds of inward investment to Scotland.

“There has been an overwhelmingly positive response from our partners, students and the global community we serve and their recognition of the huge opportunities that the new Technology and Innovation Centre will create.”

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said: “Scotland is a land of inventors, innovators, new ideas and creativity. We need a thriving and dynamic ecosystem in order to improve productivity, competitiveness and growth.

“The Technology and Innovation Centre at the University of Strathclyde will create the right environment for academics, business, industry and the public sector to come together to find innovative solutions to the challenges we face.

“This model of collaboration clearly demonstrated by the University of Strathclyde is crucial in shaping Scotland’s future and helping to create sustainable economic growth. The Scottish Government is committed to investing in the development and application of research, innovation and technology and supporting entrepreneurial activity.”

The construction project is due for completion in early 2015

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About Lend Lease

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2. Lend Lease is behind some of London’s largest and most exciting mixed-use regeneration projects such as Elephant & Castle and The International Quarter.
3. Lend Lease is listed on the Australian Securities Exchange and operates in four key regions – Australia, Asia, Americas and Europe. The group has more than 13,200 employees worldwide.
4. Lend Lease is listed on the Dow Jones World Sustainability Index (DJSI) and in 2012 ranked in the top eight per cent of property companies, achieving scores of 90 per cent or higher in a range of categories.