

# Planning granted for Advanced Manufacturing and Research Institute on Deeside

With work to appoint a Contractor already underway, the granting of planning permission means that construction of the building can begin shortly. The Welsh Government hopes that the Institute's first facility will open in summer 2019.

It is predicted that the AMRI programme, which will be geared to increasing Wales' productivity, commercialisation, innovation and skills development, could increase Welsh GVA by as much as £4bn over 20 years.

The Institute will have a strong focus on advanced manufacturing sectors including aerospace, automotive, nuclear and food and will deliver game-changing support to key manufacturing companies as well as multi-sector supply chain companies and the broader SMEs economy.

The AMRI is expected to drive a thriving competitive industry base which in turn will act as a catalyst for growth and jobs across the supply chain in Deeside, North Wales, the Northern Powerhouse and further afield.

The Economy Secretary said:

"I am delighted that planning permission has now been granted for the Broughton site of our new Advanced Manufacturing Research Institute. This means that work can continue at pace on a project which will maximize economic opportunities in the region and has the potential to increase Wales' GVA by as much as £4bn over 20 years.

"In order to compete globally, Wales must remain competitive. As set out in our Economic Action Plan this means adapting to modern techniques and understanding the potential opportunities offered by collaboration and changes in economy such as the fourth industrial revolution.

"The new institute will have these aims at its very heart. I am genuinely excited by the impact it could have on our economy and look forward to work progressing well and to the institute opening hopefully in summer 2019."

Airbus have been confirmed as the first member to access the Broughton site.

Airbus Senior Vice President Paul McKinlay, Head of Broughton Plant, said:

“The approval is fantastic news not only for Airbus and aerospace but other industries such as automotive.

“The Institute will give a huge boost to the competitiveness of the advanced manufacturing supply chain in Wales and I am delighted Airbus is part of this exciting journey from the very start.

“I’m looking forward to seeing new technologies and techniques being developed under the AMRI roof and the major benefits they will bring.”

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## Welsh Government funding supports 35 steel jobs in Newport

The £100,000 investment from Welsh Government funding will also be used to assist BRC, who are part of the Celsa Group of companies, to purchase new machinery and improve its factory layout so that productivity levels at the Newport plant can be increased.

BRC is a major supplier to the UK construction industry having provided materials for major projects such as Crossrail, Sky Garden London, Mersey Link and the Aberdeen bypass.

It is also the UK’s largest supplier of steel reinforcement and associated products for concrete, and typically uses 98% recycled steel produced at its associated steelmaking plant in Cardiff. Additionally BRC specialises in the manufacture of rebar carpet reinforcements and steel fabric mesh.

BRC will be investing over £1m in this project and agreeing a new long term lease with its landlord at its Corporation Road premises. The company will also be acquiring bespoke shear and bending equipment to enhance production efficiencies which will help them ensure a long term future in Newport.

Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

Supporting Wales’ steel industry through what is a difficult and challenging time remains a key Welsh Government priority.

I am pleased that our £100,000 investment is helping BRC to drive up its productivity and create and protect around 35 jobs at its Newport site. In December I launched our Economic Action Plan which focuses on spreading the fruits of economic growth to communities right across Wales and I am hopeful that our investment will help secure a successful future for BRC in Newport.

Mr John Collins, Managing Director of BRC commented:

This investment will help consolidate BRC's position as the pre-eminent reinforcing fabricator in the UK with an unrivalled capability of supplying all the major infrastructure projects. This is a demonstration of our close collaboration with Welsh Government and has been made possible through the dedicated support of our workforce and the Community Union.

We share a joint objective of promoting local responsible sourcing and the circular economy. It means that we really can make in the UK to build the UK. With many customers wanting a supply chain which supports UK manufacturing and gives low carbon, recycled reinforcing steels, we are in a unique position to guarantee our source of supply. This equipment means we can supply even more in the years to come.

Community Union representative Steve McCool commented:

This announcement represents the excellent work being carried out by the workforce and management to establish the Newport site as significant and strategic facility in the Celsa supply chain. Community members at the site have worked hard with the local management to secure this investment.

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## [New powers to tackle waste crime](#)

Most of the waste industry operates responsibly but there are a small number of operators whose activities either fail to meet the required standards of their permit /exemptions or operate illegally with no permit or exemption in place.

These sites can cause pollution to the environment and endanger human health. They pose a risk of fire, water pollution and cause other issues such as odour, litter and fly infestations which affect surrounding communities.

Following a plenary debate yesterday, the National Assembly for Wales approved The Waste Enforcement (England and Wales) Regulations 2018. These regulations are part of a range of measures aimed at tackling waste crime and poor performing waste sites in Wales.

Natural Resources Wales will now be able to act quicker at problematic waste sites, for example, by locking the gates to stop more waste entering the site in order to prevent a risk of serious pollution or to stop pollution from

continuing.

Meanwhile, to reduce the impact of abandoned waste, Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities will also have the powers widened to take action on occupiers and landowners requiring them to take action to remove waste unlawfully present on a site regardless of whether they were originally deposited lawfully under a permit or exemption. Action needs to be taken to eliminate or reduce any consequences caused by the keeping or disposal of waste on land.

Minister for Environment, Hannah Blythyn said:

“We have worked with Natural Resources Wales to identify what more can be done to prevent problematic and abandoned waste sites and I have listened to the views of industry”.

“These regulations provide two new powers. The first will enable Natural Resources Wales to restrict access to a waste site to stop more waste coming on the site while the second gives Natural Resources Wales and Local Authorities the ability to serve a notice on an occupier or land owner requiring them to take action to remove wastes unlawfully present.”

“These new powers to take action against illegal waste operators will create a level playing field and help ensure operators who comply with the rules do not lose out to those who undermine and undercut the law-abiding majority.”

Ceri Davies, NRW’s Executive Director for Evidence, Policy and Permitting said:

“These new powers will be an invaluable weapon in our continuing fight against waste crime.

“Unscrupulous operators pose a threat to the environment, the health and wellbeing of the communities in which they operate and undermine the Welsh economy.

“But now, thanks to the new regulations, we will be able to deal with them more effectively and reduce the impact of their illegal activity.”

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# Spring marketing wave for Year of the Sea

- Promoting Wales at the World's largest travel show
- Luke Evans on screen at Principality Stadium

This week, Visit Wales and partners will be at the world's leading Travel Trade show – ITB Berlin. The show is attended by 120,000 trade and media visitors and around 26,000 consumers. Visit Wales will host meetings with the German, Swiss and Austrian travel trade, press and media over the first 3 days, and promote Wales to consumers over the final 2 days of the show. The team will be joined on the stand by industry partners Alpine Travel; Destination Conwy; Cadw and Cambria DMC.

Attendance at ITB is one element of a marketing drive in Germany. January to March is a key booking period for German visitors to Wales, and the campaign aims to inspire potential visitors to come to Wales in 2018. Other campaigns with key international influential partners are promoting the Year of the Sea and The Wales Way, including a supplement and competition in National Geographic and working in partnership with Lonely Planet, Flybe, P&O, Secret Escapes and outdoor retailers in Germany, Sportscheck and Globetrotter, on online and printed campaigns.

Also this week, Visit Wales will be taking the Year of Sea message to the Sea Trade Global event in the USA, in order to raise Wales' profile as a cruise and water sports destination. SeaTrade is the cruise industry's premier global event and is the only event guaranteed to bring together every aspect of the business, including cruise lines, suppliers, travel agents and partners.

The Visit Wales [campaign film featuring Hollywood actor Luke Evans](#) (external link) is back on air and on video on demand during March in Wales and England. On 1st March the giant Waterloo motion screen showcased Wales' beautiful landscapes and seascapes in celebration of St David's Day and extensive advertising at Waterloo station will continue until 11 March.

A multi-platform campaign to promote Wales in Ireland will also run throughout March on TV and video on-demand; as well as a digital campaign. Visit Wales is also delighted to work in partnership again with Irish Ferries, Stena Line and Flybe to promote direct routes – by sea and by air – to Wales.

Visit Wales' In-Wales campaigns have included press and digital advertising on walesonline, The Western Mail and the Daily Post. Advertorials currently running include ['The ultimate 50 things to do on the Welsh coast'](#) (external link) and an online [Guide to the Welsh Coast](#) (external link). The campaign film will be shown at the Principality Stadium when Wales face Italy this weekend and again on the 17th March during the France match.

Tourism Minister, Lord Elis-Thomas, said:

“Visit Wales’ Spring marketing activity is part of an ambitious programme of activity promoting our world-class products, activities, events and experiences during Year of the Sea. The Volvo Ocean Race is fast approaching, and this is one of our key events for 2018 – when the world’s eyes will once again be on Wales. This will be an invaluable opportunity for us to promote Wales as a top 21st Century coastal destination and celebrate our coastal Capital and communities.

“Another key initiative for this year is The Wales Way – our new family of three national scenic touring routes which cross the country’s most epic landscapes as a way of showcasing Wales’ fascinating history, coastlines and attractions – and give overseas visitors the confidence and information to explore more of Wales.”

On working with Visit Wales on the campaign film, Luke Evans, said: ““Being able to see Wales’ coastline in this way was both an honour and privilege.

“We passed hundreds of beaches, harbours, inlets and islands – while spotting porpoises and bottlenose dolphins play in the distance – and saw people kayaking, paddleboarding and coasteering. There is just so much to do along Wales’ coast.

“I have such fond memories spending holidays by the coast in Wales, and I try to get back here as often as I can. It offers complete respite from the hustle of everyday life and reminds me how lucky I was to grow up surrounded by such awe-inspiring scenery.”

You can get behind the campaigns by sharing content and tagging #FindYourEpic and #GwladGwlad.

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## [Seeking positive change for offenders in Wales](#)

The ‘Framework to support positive change for those at risk of offending in Wales 2018-23’ sets out how organisations involved will work closely together to provide support to any offender who requires it. It aims to ensure positive outcomes are achieved not only for offenders but also those at risk

of offending, as well as their families and our communities.

The document, published today, builds on the success of The Reducing Reoffending Strategy 2014-16 and has been developed jointly by Welsh Government and Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service in Wales, on behalf of the All Wales Criminal Justice Board.

Alun Davies said:

"We are committed to reducing offending and reoffending, to help ensure our communities remain safe.

"The previous Strategy was a success due to organisations in Wales, devolved, non-devolved and third sector, committing to working in partnership. I am pleased the new Framework will promote further collaboration but will also focus efforts on early intervention to reduce the number of offenders entering the criminal justice system, as well as working with women and young people at risk."

Justice Minister Dr Phillip Lee said:

"This work will bring together vital agencies in Wales, including health, education and housing, to give offenders the network of support services they need to help them reintegrate into society.

"We remain committed to working in collaboration with our partners in Wales to continue to protect the public and give offenders the skills they need to lead more constructive lives on release."

Greater and continued collaboration across Wales will reduce the demand on services provided for those at risk of re-offending at the point of crisis, by moving the focus to early intervention. This will also help manage demand on health and social services for people who are not in the criminal justice system.

It also considers how we can better support the children of offenders from entering the criminal justice system themselves, and how we can provide better support to young people and care leavers to prevent a deterioration of behaviour into crime. It also covers those adult offenders already in the criminal justice system, and how we can better support them to come to terms with their own actions and in doing so, support their rehabilitation and improve their resettlement.

The Framework will be formally launched on 19th April in Cardiff, where key stakeholders will reflect on the progress made to date under the Reducing Reoffending Strategy and be invited to consider how they can support an Integrated Offender Management approach to the Framework's priority groups in future.