

# PRESS RELEASE



## **Gen2**

Unit 1, Joseph Noble Road, Lillyhall Industrial Estate

Workington, Cumbria, CA14 4JX

**Phone:** 01900 701300

**Web:** [www.gen2.ac.uk](http://www.gen2.ac.uk)

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**Date: 12 August 2016**

**Embargo: Immediate Release**

## ***Work commences on new Gen2 multi-million pound training facility***

Cumbrian Ofsted Outstanding training provider, Gen2, have announced that work will commence this week on their new state-of-the-art training facility based in Lillyhall, Workington. The multi million pound investment will allow substantial expansion of the company's training and educational services for the energy, engineering and advanced manufacturing business sectors in Cumbria and beyond.

Gen2 has worked closely on the development of the new facility with local construction company Thomas Armstrong Construction, who will undertake a 12 month development contract with the aim of being fully operational in the new facility in September 2017. Jonathan Tibbitts, Deputy Managing Director of Thomas Armstrong Construction Ltd said "Thomas Armstrong Construction are rooted in West Cumbria and we are delighted to have been selected for this important development project for our area. We will be using our own direct workforce and local sub-contractors to complete the work. We are proud to be part of this exciting project and will be working closely with the Gen2 client team to make sure that the new Gen2 training facility becomes another successful element in training infrastructure to support the future economy."

The new world-class facility will be located adjacent to Gen2's current operations at the Energus building and the Energy Coast UTC, on the Lillyhall Business Park in Workington. The centre will provide huge job opportunities for more young people through apprenticeships, traineeships and ground-breaking higher education programmes. It will also allow Gen2 to provide an extended range of commercial training courses tailored to meet the skills needs of employers in Cumbria, including those in advanced manufacturing, nuclear new build as well as the service and business sectors.

The 7,000 sq metre facility will include 3,000 sq metres of cutting-edge engineering training workshops equipped with the latest specialist equipment and machinery, along with classrooms to accommodate an additional 500 learners. These facilities will create new opportunities for Gen2's

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existing clients throughout Cumbria and allow the not-for-profit organisation to fulfil ambitions to substantially expand the range of services on offer to new customers.

Speaking for Gen2, Mike Smith OBE, Chief Executive Officer said:

"We are excited that work has commenced on the facility and were pleased to be able to appoint local contractor Thomas Armstrong to complete the work. This project has been a long time in the planning, and will see the creation of the largest engineering and advanced manufacturing training facility in the North West, if not the UK. The new facility will be large enough to accommodate all of our existing provision at both Lillyhall and Salterbeck, and become the company's new Head Office. It will also give us room to further expand our capacity and capability well into the future, as the demands for skilled engineers and technicians in support of the county's large scale industrial projects, such as the new reactors to be built by NuGen at Moorside, start to take place. The development of the facility is made possible thanks to co-funding from the Cumbria Chamber of Commerce via the Cumbria Growth Fund. We are extremely pleased that the funding was approved and look forward to welcoming the new learners during 2017."

"Rob Johnston, Chief Executive of Cumbria County Council said "We're absolutely delighted to have been able to support this exciting development through our Cumbria Growth Fund (CGF). Innovative trainer providers like Gen2 are fundamental to ensuring that the county's manufacturing businesses have access to the skills they need to grow and flourish. CGF has proved a real successful scheme with £3.5m committed to Cumbrian manufacturers and manufacturing services providers in only a year, creating or safeguarding 417 jobs throughout the county. There is still a small amount of funding left and we are anticipating some follow on funding very shortly so anyone interested in applying should contact the Chamber."

Anyone wishing to find out more about business training, apprenticeships opportunities or higher education in West Cumbria or throughout the rest of the county should visit [www.gen2.ac.uk](http://www.gen2.ac.uk) or call 01900 701300 to discuss further.

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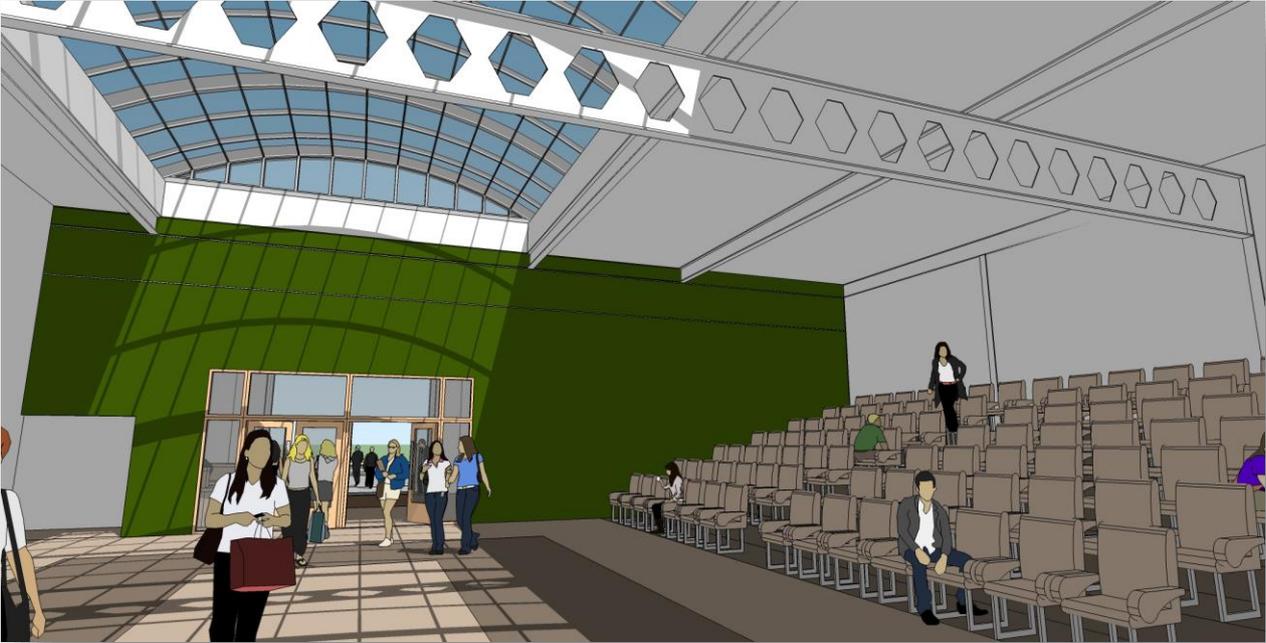
### Facility architectural designs:



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