



## CECamm – Golden Bolt Ceremony June 2016



Sarah McCarthy-Fry (Financial Director at GKN Aerospace Ltd and Chair of Employment at the Solent LEP), performed the placing of the golden bolt to signify completion of the massive steel structure for The Isle of Wight College's new Centre of Excellence for Composites, Advanced Manufacturing and Marine industries (CECamm). The ceremony was watched by Debbie Lavin (College Principal), governors, invited guests and college engineering students.

The £12mn investment in this new facility has been secured through the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (SLEP) 'Solent Local Growth Deal' in conjunction with local employers and will provide a critical platform for developing further the expertise and skills on the Island in these vital industries.



## Bid consultation

As part of the bid submission process an extensive consultation was undertaken with a cross section of local employers and stakeholders to ensure that this development not only meets the needs of the strategic priorities but also creates a clear pathway for developing local skills at CECAMM and employment on the Island. The development is a major investment in the Island supporting the six strategic priorities of the SLEP and the Isle of Wight College's delivery priorities set out in their 2014/17 Strategic Plan.

## Not enough young people with the relevant skills

After securing the golden bolt Sarah McCarthy-Fry said "A couple of years ago GKN was approached to get involved with The Isle of Wight College and jumped at the chance. GKN, the largest private employer on the Isle of Wight, and also small and medium enterprise, cannot get enough skilled employees to fill vacancies. The work is there, the jobs are there with



*Sarah McCarthy-Fry (GKN) and Aaron Bonage (Balfour Beatty) with Isle of Wight College engineering students Matt Tipping, Russell Dyer, Mitchell Kalcher, and Jack Hawkes*



attractive salaries, but not young people with the relevant skills.

This new centre will take us to a new level for advanced manufacturing and for attracting major businesses over to the Isle of Wight. It is an opportunity for our outstanding college to take island businesses forward, island employment forward and to train more people to do the jobs which the island does best.

I am very grateful for the funding which we are receiving from the Solent LEP. The site is next door to GKN and we will be able to influence and lead what skills young people will learn and what qualifications they will get so that they can become work-ready. We also looked at the papers University of Exeter produced about the skills gap across the whole of the Solent region in order to make this work for all Solent region engineering companies who work with composites.

Some people think engineering is dirty and grubby, but not these days. It is really important to do a job which can show that the engineering happens at a centre of excellence. This new centre will train young people to be part of it and I am absolutely delighted, and I cannot wait to see it completed.”

**2,950m<sup>2</sup> designed to directly simulate an engineering industry working environment.**

## College principal “very proud”

Debbie Lavin, Principal of the college, said “I am very proud to have helped secure this significant investment for the Island and believe the investment will provide huge value to employers and students, helping to secure the Island reputation as an engineering and advanced manufacturing focus of excellence, securing employment and economic growth”.

*Designed by employers,  
for employers*



## Due for completion spring 2017



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## Using local contractors

Dean Ludlow, Balfour Beatty Contract Manager, said: “Balfour will work to generate significant community involvement throughout the construction of this project with local employment and utilisation of a local supply chain. Balfour Beatty has a long standing presence on the Isle of Wight and we wish to emulate this with the successful delivery of the new Centre in 2017.”



*Left to right: Fidelma Washington (Assistant Principal Curriculum and Quality), Peter Ellwood (Head of Department) Mitchell Kalcher, Russell Dyer, Matt Tipping and Jack Hawkes (students) Debbie Lavin (Principal) about to start a tour of the site.*

## Adding to economic wellbeing

Rod Burton, Partner and Project Manager of architect and management consultants Pick Everard, said “We are delighted to have supported the college from the initial funding application stage throughout the development of the project and look forward to working with them, other stakeholders and Balfour Beatty to complete a project that we firmly believe will significantly add to the economic wellbeing of the Island.

This is the fourth project on which we have worked with the college and continues our close collaborative relationship with them, which we hope will extend for many years to come”.



More information can be found at <https://www.iwcollege.ac.uk/information/campus-facilities/cecamm/>

