Balfour Beatty Awarded £80 Million University of Warwick Scheme

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Balfour Beatty, the international infrastructure group, today announces it has been awarded an £80 million contract to construct the National Automotive Innovation Centre (NAIC) in Coventry for the University of Warwick.

The 33,000 square metre development on the existing main campus of the University of Warwick site involves the construction of a four-storey 'L' shaped building that will house state-of-the-art teaching, research and development, design and engineering facilities, centred around collaborative workspaces.

Balfour Beatty will also carry out the significant mechanical and electrical installation works.

The NAIC will provide a national focus for expertise in automotive research and development. It will accommodate over 1,000 technologists, academics, designers, students and engineers, fostering collaboration to develop and utilise new breakthrough vehicle technology. The facility will also help to address the current shortage of skilled research and development staff in the automotive supply chain.

At the height of construction the project will employ over 750 people and will also provide opportunities for apprenticeships and graduate and work experience placements.

Nicholas Pollard, Balfour Beatty Chief Executive Officer for Construction UK, said: "This award adds to Balfour Beatty's significant portfolio of university projects across the UK. We look forward to delivering a facility that will support the University of Warwick's ambition to position the UK at the forefront of automotive research and development. Our commitment to apprenticeship, graduate and work placements, throughout project delivery will ensure Balfour Beatty's contribution goes beyond the construction phase."

Professor Lord Bhattacharyya, Chairman of Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG), an academic department of the University of Warwick said: "The National Automotive Innovation Centre will link people, research and world-leading infrastructure to create and develop novel technologies. NAIC will be an 'engine' for economic growth, with wide economic benefit, and sustained growth from the creation of world-leading technologies. Building will commence soon and through Balfour Beatty the construction of such a significant facility will bring equally significant economic and employment benefits to the local construction sector."

Work will commence this spring with completion in spring 2017.

The NAIC is being funded through a collaboration between Jaguar Land Rover, Tata Motors European Technical Centre, WMG and the Government's UK Research Partnership Investment Fund (UKRPIF), which is administered by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The total investment in NAIC and the initial technologies it will house by will be £150 million.

-Ends-

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

- An exterior view showing how the National Automotive Innovation Centre (NAIC) being constructed by Balfour Beatty will look when complete.
- More photos can be found of Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK activities on Flickr

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- Balfour Beatty is as well-established provider of construction services to the higher education and university market and is delivering approximately £350m of work in the sector in the UK, including the £50m new engineering faculty 'Diamond' building at the University of Sheffield; a £42m redevelopment of the De Montfort University's Faculty of Art, Design and Humanities; a £22.5m contract for Sheffield Hallam University to construct teaching and lecture space; a £13.5m refurbishment of the Stenhouse and Strathclyde Business School buildings for the University of Strathclyde and the provision of £14m of M&E services for the new National Graphene Institute at the University of Manchester.
- Balfour Beatty's UK and Ireland construction business (www.balfourbeattycsuk.com) is a leading integrator of complex, sophisticated and innovative projects that improve the UK's and Ireland's national infrastructure and an experienced provider of local and regional projects that help build lasting communities.

We offer a broad range of capabilities in construction, civil engineering and mechanical & electrical engineering services.

With offices throughout the UK and Ireland, we deliver a locally-focused service with the support of our national network of expertise and resources.

Balfour Beatty's UK and Ireland construction business employs over 9,000 people.

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