



The HALO Scotland announces partnership with CGI that's out of this world

CGI, a leading global IT services provider, and the HALO Scotland today (Tuesday 14 August, 2018) announces an innovative partnership that will create further employment opportunities at the Kilmarnock urban regeneration initiative.

The agreement will see the HALO and CGI work collaboratively to develop technologies that will provide young people and current workforces with the skills in cyber, digital, space technology, health and finance to needed to excel in tomorrow's world.

One of CGI's key areas of expertise is in the space industry and Steve Smart, Vice President of CGI in Scotland, will lead this element of the partnership. Steve has played a key role in CGI's UK Space, Defence and National & Cyber Security business where he worked directly with the European Space Agency (ESA). He also led the formation of CGI's cyber security business, supporting clients in both the public and private sectors.

The innovative partnership between CGI and The HALO is designed to:

- Enhance the HALO's employability initiatives for young people in Ayrshire by harnessing CGI's technical expertise to focus on cyber and digital skills, supporting the proposed spaceport at Glasgow Prestwick Airport.

- Utilise CGI's business know-how to support innovative start-up, step-up and scale-up entrepreneurial businesses, particularly those that specialise in cyber and digital technologies.
- See the HALO and CGI establish and develop research and practical learning partnerships with education facilities such as Glasgow Caledonian University and Ayrshire College with a particular focus on STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) subjects.
- Engage CGI with Ayrshire College to create a Children's Innovation Centre/Nursery of the Future and work with students to further develop the concept which will be based at the HALO.
- Develop technologies to support Digital Health and Social Care at a commercial, local and national level.

The HALO Kilmarnock is an imaginative, innovative and inspirational regeneration initiative located on the site of the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant in Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire. It is being shaped as a multi-faceted brown-field regeneration that will create a unique urban park with a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter.

Marie Macklin CBE, Founder and Executive Chair of the HALO Urban Regeneration Company, said: "CGI is a massive global IT provider and I am thrilled to see this industry leader become the latest partner of the HALO's urban regeneration initiative.

"I am thrilled that CGI, with its extensive experience in the IT and space industry is joining us as part of the HALO project. The HALO will work collaboratively with CGI to support the Glasgow Prestwick Airport spaceport project as the UK, Scotland and, of course, Ayrshire takes significant strides in the space industry.

"CGI will also support the HALO's continued vision of providing our young people with the cyber, digital and also space skills that will be needed to make an impact in tomorrow's world."

Steve Smart, Vice President of CGI Scotland, said: “Regeneration of this nature, with the opportunities it brings for development and training in our industry, is hugely exciting and adds further to our commitment to Scotland. We very much look forward to collaborating with the team over the coming years and bringing our expertise to such an innovative project.”

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Notes to Editors:

The HALO

The HALO is an imaginative, innovative and inspirational regeneration initiative to revitalise the centre of Kilmarnock and support the growth and resilience of the Ayrshire economy.

It will create a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter of the town, including a unique Enterprise and Innovation Centre.

This multi-faceted regeneration of a 23-acre site, formerly the home of Johnnie Walker, the world’s leading Scotch whisky, will generate over £120m of GDP annually for the Scottish economy. The development will stimulate over 1,800 jobs.

For more information visit: <https://halo-projects.com/>

About CGI

Founded in 1976, CGI is among the largest independent IT and business consulting services firm in the world. With 74,000 professionals across the globe, CGI delivers an end-to-end portfolio of capabilities, from IT and business consulting to systems integration, outsourcing services and intellectual property solutions. CGI works with clients through a local

relationship model complemented by a global delivery network that helps clients digitally transform their organisations and accelerate results. With annual revenue of C\$10.8 billion, CGI shares are listed on the TSX (GIB.A) and the NYSE (GIB). Learn more at [cgi.com](https://www.cgi.com).