



Bringing power to the nation

HALO and XLCC plan to bring 300 new jobs to Kilmarnock

The HALO Kilmarnock and XLCC have entered into an exclusivity agreement that is expected to see the Sales and Project Delivery Headquarters of subsea cabling manufacturing company, XLCC, being established at the award-winning The HALO Enterprise and Innovation Centre Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, Scotland.

The agreement enables the businesses to work together, ensuring that Scotland is at the forefront of creating new employment opportunities and growing the supply chain for the renewable energy sector. This partnership could result in more than 300 high-quality jobs being brought to the town.

XLCC will build the UK's first high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable factory in Hunterston, Ayrshire, creating 1,200 jobs (including 300 in Kilmarnock) in a key hub for the country's Net Zero industry. The company has already established its Training Academy in Irvine, working with Ayrshire College to develop the apprentices whose skills will play a critical role in building the infrastructure at the heart of the energy transition.

At The HALO Kilmarnock, the partners are also exploring the creation of a Green Economy Sustainability Centre which will include a Green Accelerator and an Education Hub for SME businesses and entrepreneurs.

The HALO regeneration project is set within the former 28 acre Johnnie Walker bottling plant and is at the forefront of creating an innovative and sustainable economy. By providing a sustainable community approach, deploying low carbon, digital and clean

energy technology, this mixed-use development is now creating jobs, economic growth and skills development powered by clean energy in the heart of Kilmarnock.

The HALO has attracted attention from not just UK-based organisations but an international audience which is keen to understand how what has been achieved in Kilmarnock can be replicated globally.

Dr Marie Macklin CBE, founder and executive chair of The HALO Kilmarnock, said:

“XLCC and HALO Kilmarnock have a successful track record of working together since 2023 when XLCC chose HALO as the base for its apprentices before moving to its Training Factory in Irvine in 2024, for which I performed the official opening.

“This initiative puts us at the forefront of driving new, just transition opportunities for the former industrial heartlands of Ayrshire. I look forward to working with XLCC and our key stakeholders, including private sector partners, Scottish Enterprise, East Ayrshire Council, the UK and Scottish Governments, to deliver for all in our communities at pace.”

XLCC CEO, **Ian Douglas**, said:

“XLCC is delighted to be teaming up with HALO to establish its Sales and Project Delivery Headquarters at The HALO Enterprise and Innovation Centre in Kilmarnock. XLCC wants to create 300 highly skilled roles at this site bringing the total number of jobs in Ayrshire to 1,200. We look forward to working closely with HALO Kilmarnock and the local community in the coming months and years as we build a business critical to delivering the energy transition.”

Ends

19th February 2025

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Notes to editors:

About HALO Kilmarnock

The HALO Kilmarnock is a £100m brownfield urban regeneration project set on a 28-acre site, formerly the home of Johnnie Walker, the world's leading Scotch whisky.

The HALO aims to be a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter where people can 'Live, Work, Learn and Play', while providing a sustainable community approach to a mixed-use development powered by electricity with a low carbon footprint.

Phase 1 – The HALO Enterprise and Innovation Hub opened in 2022.

This BREAAAM Excellent Rated – Grade A 48,000sq ft commercial centre is instrumental in creating opportunities for SMEs, entrepreneurs and plcs at the forefront of the Just Transition to Net Zero.

The HALO is powered by:

- 42,000 KW - 175 Solar Panels
- 50KW container battery storage
- Air source heat pumps (x 3)

The facility also has:

- EV solar charging stations
- Car | E Bikes | E Bus
- E Bus 16-seater on-site transport

The HALO Enterprise & Innovation Centre is six years ahead of the EU's interim 2030 Climate Target as outlined in the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement. Its building management systems are monitored by Strathclyde University who verify and confirm its annual sustainable reporting on intensity value. The HALO is sponsored by ScottishPower.

Awards Won:

2022 The Scottish Property Award Regeneration Project of The Year 2022

2022 Scotland's best Corporate Workplace at the annual British Council for Offices' (BCO) Regional Awards.

2022 British Council for Office (BCO) Awards in London, receiving 'Highly Commended' status in the 'Best UK Corporate Workplace' category at its national awards.

Ayrshire Growth Deal

The HALO Kilmarnock received funding of £3.5 million from the UK Government, £3.5 million from the Scottish Government, and £2 million from East Ayrshire Council as part of the £251 million Ayrshire Growth Deal – a 10-year investment programme jointly funded by the UK and Scottish governments and local authorities.

Diageo, who owned the land occupied by the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant, gifted 23 acres of land to the HALO and has invested £2m in the project to help create a community regeneration development for Kilmarnock.

www.halo-projects.com

About XLCC

XLCC is an independent British company founded in 2020 to address the critical infrastructure needs of the global energy transition. As the world moves towards Net Zero, electrification becomes essential, and there is a global shortage of HVDC subsea cables needed for this transformation. To meet this demand, XLCC is building a world-class HVDC manufacturing facility in Hunterston, Scotland, along with the necessary marine and project management capabilities. This will create 900 highly skilled jobs that will significantly boost the global supply of cables. The cables produced at Hunterston will be vital in supporting the UK's energy transition.

www.xlcc.co.uk