

## Press release

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### National agreement between Constructing Excellence and ConstructionSkills

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**Constructing Excellence and ConstructionSkills have embarked on a new collaboration that aims to support the improvement of the construction industry by developing the skills of companies and individuals.**

The strategic agreement was signed today by Dennis Lenard, Constructing Excellence Chief Executive, Peter Lobban, Chief Executive CITB-ConstructionSkills and Graham Watts, Chief Executive Construction Industry Council (CIC). It sets out the framework in which Constructing Excellence and the partners that constitute ConstructionSkills, CIC, CITB-ConstructionSkills and CITB Northern Ireland, will work to deliver on the skills agenda.

Whilst the national agreement is strategic and enabling, agreements at regional and devolved nation level will build upon the individual organisations' existing regional networks to work to deliver a large proportion of the activities and results.

The benefits of the partnership will be to:

- strengthen influence on policy relating to skills and business performance
- provide improved access to funding
- reduce confusion amongst our customers
- result in more efficient use of resources
- provide the basis for business development for the organisations
- contribute to the Strategic Forum targets relating to recruitment, retention, qualification and application to higher and further education.

Dennis Lenard, Constructing Excellence Chief Executive said: "The signing and announcements today are only the beginning and I am looking forward to useful and valuable collaborative projects with all the partners in ConstructionSkills. Constructing Excellence and ConstructionSkills are already working together on a number of initiatives, and now the agreement has been signed we will be moving forward to develop more projects."

Peter Lobban Chief Executive CITB-ConstructionSkills added: "There has never been a more exciting time for construction. This agreement is a sign that the industry is taking full advantage of the opportunities on offer to develop the leading edge skills and training we need to deliver client requirements in terms of quality time and cost. This collaboration is particularly valuable in that it operates on both a national and regional level, ensuring that strategic thinking is translated into action on the ground."

Graham Watts, CIC Chief Executive commented: "I am delighted that this marks yet another step forward in collaboration between the major bodies in the industry. We have been working together for a long time to improve the industry and maximise the opportunities for the people working within all sectors of construction and this agreement is a tangible demonstration of our future mutual commitment to eradicating fragmentation in such crucial work."

Constructing Excellence and CITB-ConstructionSkills already have a working list of key areas for collaboration:

- to use the Constructing Excellence Demonstration projects for promoting skills and to showcase construction
- to develop a common measurement framework and share data across the industry
- to co-ordinate provision of services in Business Performance Improvement
- to support the development and improvement of the Respect for People agenda.

Regional staff in both Constructing Excellence and in ConstructionSkills are working together to have action plans for co-ordinated activity in place early in the new year.

-ENDS-

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**Notes to the editor:**

ConstructionSkills is a partnership between CIC, CITB-ConstructionSkills and CITB(NI) as the Sector Skills Council for construction.