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## **Here East announces start date for construction of a creative and digital cluster on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**

Here East, London's home for making and the company selected by the London Legacy Development Corporation to transform the former Press and Broadcast Centres on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park into a world-class creative and digital cluster, today announces that construction work to transform the buildings will commence on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Here East has selected Laing O'Rourke to undertake the works as it presses ahead with plans to create a home for world-leading creative and digital companies in the heart of east London. As part of the agreement, Laing O'Rourke has committed to providing local employment and apprenticeships during the construction phase. Here East will create over 7,500 jobs, including 5,300 directly on-site and a further 2,200 in the local community through the impact of using local supply chains and new business generation. During the construction phase, Laing O'Rourke will work closely with Here East and the London Legacy Development Corporation to ensure at least 25% of people working on the project live in the four neighbouring boroughs, with a new apprenticeship created for every 20 people employed.

The unique location provides a range of flexible spaces and will bring together global companies alongside east London's most innovative start-ups. The former Press Centre will be ready for occupation in early summer 2015, while Loughborough University will open its brand new London campus to its first cohort of students in October 2015. BT Sport is already broadcasting live premieriership football directly from Here East. The former Broadcast Centre will feature office and studio space, and will undergo a phased delivery, with the complete space ready for occupation in early 2016.

Here East has also today released new images depicting the latest plans for the buildings, including a unique structure on the east elevation, providing a platform for individual, creative studios housing start-ups and small businesses.

Here East will this week host the Invictus Games for wounded ex-servicemen and women, which take place between 10<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> September on the Park. Visitors to the Games will be treated to a spectacle of five of the UK's most talented and celebrated muralists as they produce a 70 metre long live street art painting spanning the entrance to the Invictus Games in Waterden Road.

Commenting, Gavin Poole, CEO of Here East, said:

**"We are delighted to announce the start of construction works to develop this unique digital and creative cluster at Here East. It will deliver thousands of employment and training opportunities, starting with the construction phase through Laing O'Rourke.**

**We are excited that we are now entering the final phase of delivering this economic legacy to London and the UK.”**

Jamie Ritblat, CEO of Delancey, added:

**“Here East is a unique development that will provide a dedicated home to the UK’s fast-growing and world-leading creative and digital industries. We are thrilled with the support that LLDC has provided us with and look forward to continuing to work closely alongside them to deliver this important legacy. The ambitious timetable for transformation works demonstrates both Delancey and LLDC’s joint commitment to supporting innovation, employment and enterprise across the Olympic Park. ”**

Dennis Hone, Chief Executive, London Legacy Development Corporation, said:

**“It’s great to know that these huge buildings will soon be thriving centres for leading edge businesses. Here East’s contribution to the continued success of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park will be immense – not just by creating jobs and skills but establishing the Park as a world-class destination.”**

Laing O’Rourke CEO Anna Stewart said:

**“Here East is not only creating a world class digital and creative hub but will also deliver immediate economic benefits for East London and the wider UK through the creation of skilled employment and training opportunities during the construction phase. Laing O’Rourke is incredibly proud to be returning to Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to help bring about this vision.”**

David Bickle, partner at Hawkins\Brown, the architects responsible for designing Here East, added:

**“Making will be at the heart of Here East a new neighbourhood for London’s digital community. Hawkins\Brown are proud to be collaborating with creative partners dn&co and POKE, and now alongside Laing O’Rourke, to make this project a success.”**

## **Notes to Editors**

### **About Here East**

Here East is London’s home for making, located at the heart of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in London. It is a dedicated place for individuals and companies who embrace and pioneer technology, share expertise and are creating the products of tomorrow.

It is a unique campus where creative businesses growing in scale join businesses of scale growing in creativity. It is designed as a place for startup, entrepreneurial businesses to co-exist and collaborate with global, established businesses and support genuine product innovation.

Here East provides over one million square feet of dedicated and versatile spaces for creative and digital companies. It combines unparalleled infrastructure with a unique environment to facilitate collaboration and the exchange of ideas. Here East includes shared workspaces and public areas to foster a tight community, alongside a shared yard with space for discussion and events, a landscaped canal side and artisanal cafes, shops and restaurants.

Here East is being developed by iCITY, a joint venture between Delancey, a specialist real estate investment and advisory company, and Infinity SDC, the UK's leading data centre operator. For more information please see [www.hereeast.com](http://www.hereeast.com)

### **About Delancey**

Delancey is a specialist real estate investment, development and advisory company with over 15 years' experience and a portfolio that covers retail, residential and commercial developments across London and the UK. Working with a wide range of assets, partners and clients, Delancey takes a diverse approach to creating value from property. As well as sourcing and negotiating direct property and corporate transactions, Delancey advises on appropriate capital structures, procures third party financing and provides pro-active asset management and development services. One of Delancey's most high profile assets is the East Village (formerly known as the Athletes' Village), which it co-owns with Qatari Diar. Adjacent to Here East and Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, East Village offers a once in a lifetime opportunity to be able to develop and deliver a vibrant new neighbourhood and community for London.

For further information visit [www.delancey.com](http://www.delancey.com)

### **About Infinity SDC**

Infinity SDC is the fastest growing provider of data centre services in the UK. Since their launch in 2006, Infinity has gained a significant share of the UK wholesale data centre market. Infinity data centres support the critical operations of some of the world's leading investment banks, insurers and telecommunications operators.

Infinity has a proven track record of providing reliable, efficient data centres that match their customers' needs. They design, build and manage bespoke, shared and modular colocation data centre solutions, with a portfolio of sites that stretches around London's M25. Infinity pride themselves on providing an uninterrupted, transparent and responsive service for some of the world's leading companies.

For more information please visit [www.infinitysdc.net](http://www.infinitysdc.net)

### **About Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park**

London's newest visitor destination, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, is a place unlike any other. Visitors to the Park are able to enjoy beautiful parklands and waterways, world-famous sporting venues, arts and events and spectacular views from the ArcelorMittal Orbit. As a new heart for east London, the Park will also provide new homes, jobs and a cultural and education quarter.

The London Legacy Development Corporation promotes and delivers physical, social, economic and environmental regeneration in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park and the surrounding area, in particular by maximising the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

For more information visit [QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk](http://QueenElizabethOlympicPark.co.uk), follow us on Twitter [@noordinarypark](https://twitter.com/noordinarypark) and like us on Facebook [facebook.com/QueenElizabethOlympicPark](https://facebook.com/QueenElizabethOlympicPark)

### **About Laing O'Rourke**

Laing O'Rourke is a privately owned, internationally focussed engineering enterprise with world-class capabilities spanning the entire client value chain.

We operate an integrated business model comprising the full range of engineering, construction and asset management services delivering single-source solutions for some of the world's most prestigious public and private organisations. With origins stretching from 1848, the company has grown into an international organisation with operations in Canada, Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Australia, delivering some of the most iconic construction projects in the world.

[www.laingorourke.com](http://www.laingorourke.com) @Laing\_ORourke

### **About Hawkins\Brown**

Hawkins\Brown is an established architecture practice based in Clerkenwell, London.

Founded more than 25 years ago by Partners Russell Brown and Roger Hawkins, the firm works across a range of types and scale, bringing a collaborative approach to its projects.

Hawkins\Brown is currently working on a major project to transform London's 2012 Olympic broadcast and media centre into a new digital quarter in east London, as well as three new central London Crossrail stations.

Hawkins\Brown recently opened its first international office in Chengdu, China to target overseas work, particularly in Asia. It is already working on three projects in Xindu, the biggest of which is the 300,000sq m masterplan for Nordic City.

Last year Hawkins\Brown was shortlisted for the RIBA Stirling Prize for its work on the regeneration of Park Hill in Sheffield.

**ENDS**