

Edinburgh Marina Waterfront Technology Hub set to create 450 new jobs



[London: 29 October 2019]: Edinburgh Marina Holdings, the developer of the landmark Edinburgh Marina Development, has today announced plans for a purpose-built waterfront technology hub, forming part of the £500m world class development.

Specialising in key data science and technology, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), Blockchain, FinTech, Quantum Computing and Data Analytics - the new purpose-built technology hub will comprise multiple offices and co-working spaces, a plethora of formal and informal break out areas for networking, support and events, in addition to a coffee bar, shops and restaurants, which will contribute towards an active and vibrant new high street.

Edinburgh Marina is responding to public demand for additional office space in Edinburgh; earlier this year Scottish Enterprise reported a 77% increase in the number of tech start-ups in Scotland ahead of the overall UK average of 59% and London at 76% in recent years. Aside from offering state-of-the-art facilities, Edinburgh Marina's waterfront technology hub will support local businesses, residents, and visitors of Edinburgh Marina, whilst creating over 450 employment opportunities for the local community.

In addition to Edinburgh Marina's waterfront technology hub, this world class development will also include new homes for sale and rent, Royal Wharf – luxury living for retirement, 427 full-serviced berths which will be capable of accommodating boats of up to 40m plus in length with 24/7 access at all states of tides, the new Hyatt Regency Spa and Conference hotel with serviced apartments, the Chestnut medical hub and neighbourhood shopping. In its entirety, the development will create over 1,300 permanent new employment opportunities for the local community, together with a high percentage of affordable homes.

Charles Price, a spokesman for Edinburgh Marina Holdings commented: *“This exciting development will help us deliver on our objective for the economic regeneration of Granton. It will provide much needed office space and substantial employment opportunities with the provision of flexible low-cost space for start-ups in a growing digital economy”*

Steve McGavin, Planning and Development Director, GL Hearn commented: *“The development of the Edinburgh Marina waterfront technology incubator hub will be a gamechanger for the north of the city and for Scotland. The creation of an additional 450 direct jobs will bring the total number of employment opportunities to 1,300; it will also be the catalyst for kickstarting the City of Edinburgh Council's plans to create a new high street along West Harbour Road.*

There is a strong and emerging market from tech and digital start-ups in Edinburgh. We believe the presence of such a facility will provide a further boost to the ongoing regeneration of Edinburgh's

waterfront. The area has already undergone a significant transformation in recent years, largely through the work focussed around the Edinburgh Marina, and is set to become one of the most exciting and sought-after parts of the city in the coming years."

William Gunn, Director at Wilson+Gunn said: *"Edinburgh Marina is an amazing opportunity for the City of Edinburgh and Scotland. This development will deliver significant opportunities for employment, tourism and international sporting events; the proposed new waterfront tech hub at 51 West Harbour Road is an essential ingredient in the overall strategy of the various business incubator and accelerated growth programmes for businesses throughout Scotland. This new development will put Edinburgh on the centre of the European stage for technology."*

– Ends –

Notes to Editors:

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About the Edinburgh Marina Development

Located 2.5 miles (4km) NW of central Edinburgh, the Edinburgh Marina development will be a unique new leisure and residential destination for Scotland's capital city, bringing new life and vibrancy to a key area of Edinburgh's coastline. Edinburgh Marina is located 12 miles (16km) from the bridges over the Firth of Forth and 8 miles (12km) from Edinburgh International Airport. The Edinburgh Marina Development benefits from excellent transport links via road, sea and rail, which will be further improved when the new tram extension to Granton and Leith is completed.

Edinburgh Marina will provide 427 fully-serviced berths, which are now available for reservation, and forms the centrepiece of Edinburgh Marina Holdings masterplan for the whole site. The wider vision for the Edinburgh Marina Development represents a truly unique opportunity for both Edinburgh and Scotland, to create a cross-generational lifestyle hub on this 50 acre site, which combines state of the art facilities and a wide variety of housing tenures located in a unique and vibrant new waterside district a stone's throw from Edinburgh city centre.

Wilson+Gunn Architects

Formed in 2009, Wilson+Gunn Architects is an award-winning Glasgow and Dubai based RIAS & RIBA Chartered practice providing quality works of architecture and interiors in the form of commercial, industrial, residential, leisure and educational buildings. Established by William Gunn, William serves on the GIA and RIAS Councils in Scotland, is an ARB Lead Examiner, an APEAS Part 3 Practice Examiner and Director of 4th Year Architectural Studies at Strathclyde University.