

PRESS RELEASE

21 April 2009
For Immediate Release

HELIX TALK GAINS TOP RECOGNITION

Consultant engineer Crawford MacCalman clearly talks a good game when it comes to Falkirk's Helix project.

His recent presentation to the annual joint meeting of two of Scotland's most prestigious professional bodies was judged the best of their 2008/2009 lecture programme.

Crawford has spent the past four years advising British Waterways Scotland on the Helix canal link project.

In his presentation he described how the planned extension to the Forth and Clyde Canal will improve access to the Lowlands Canal network. He also talked about the civil engineering and environmental challenges involved in improving navigation as well as the installation of the unique Kelpie displacement lock which will incorporate two 30-metre-high equine sculptures.

His audience comprised over 120 members from the Scottish Branch of The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology and the Institution of Engineers and Ship Builders in Scotland (IESIS). The joint meeting took place in the Glasgow College of Nautical Studies.

The IESIS is the oldest multi-discipline engineering learned society in the world. Its founder members were contemporaries of James Watt.

Notes to Editors

The Helix project will transform unused land between Falkirk and Grangemouth into a new sustainable landscape and urban green space covering some 300 hectares. Work on the site is expected to get under way at the end of 2009.

The Helix is being driven by a partnership of Falkirk Council, British Waterways Scotland and Central Scotland Forest Trust. The project secured a £25 million grant from The Big Lottery Fund as part of its Living Landmarks Programme.

The Helix is a key part of **My Future's in Falkirk**, a 10-year economic regeneration scheme designed to transform the Falkirk area into a diverse, modern and sustainable economy.

The area already makes a major contribution to the Scottish economy through its position as the hub of the chemicals industry, its extensive transportation links and growing reputation as a tourism and leisure destination.

My Future's in Falkirk is a partnership between Falkirk Council, BP, Scottish Enterprise and INEOS.

Ends

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For more details about the Helix, visit www.falkirkonline.net/helix