



December 2023 Newsletter

A Word from the AMTCE

2023 has been a tremendous year for the AMTCE.

The final stages of the development and construction building works for Phase II to the AMTCE Dundalk training centre are nearing completion ready for the reopening in Spring 2024. The first phase of building works won the award for the Best Fit Out or Refurbishment Up to €5m at the Irish Construction Excellence Awards earlier this year exemplifying the standard of this building. The redevelopment of the building allows for the expansion in capacity and range for Advanced Manufacturing training opportunities within the centre and is a really important development, positioning the AMTCE with full capability to serve the growing needs of the manufacturing sector both regionally and nationally. It is with anticipation and excitement that we look forward to reopening early next year.

The building works have not hindered the AMTCE in provision of training this year, with upwards of 1700 learners accessing and completing training across the year. The response from industry has been phenomenal, with this year seeing the greatest number of learners through the AMTCE to date. Having successfully launched and delivered QQI L6 micro qualifications earlier this year in Operational Excellence and Supply Chain Management, we are excited to launch in 2024 the newly developed QQI L6 Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing Micro-Qualification Training Programme.

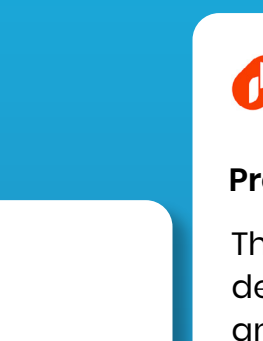


Programmes commenced through 2023 supporting business and industry across the Food and beverage, Bio, MedTech, Pharma, Engineering, and Construction sectors. Highlights included the Essential Skills for the Food and Beverage sector trainings, a range of CNC training across both the wood turning and precision engineering sectors to include our first female led iteration, the Cyber security training suite, welding, and with many more new trainings in active planning for 2024.

2024 will also see the first intake of our L6 Robotics and Automation Apprenticeship. The programme, developed by an industry led consortium, will address the skills and talent needs for advanced manufacturing in Ireland as the sector adopts industry 4.0 technologies and processes.

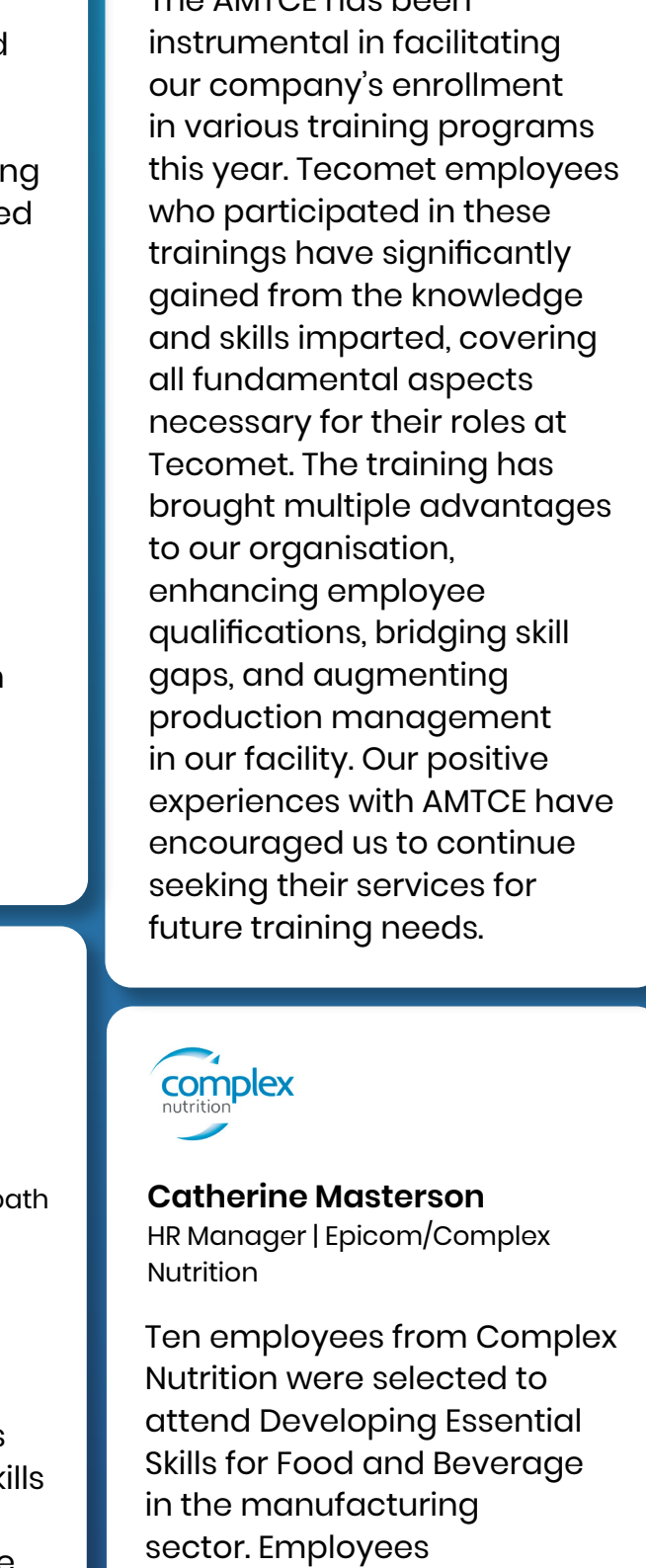
I thank the AMTCE and LMETB teams, our funders and our stakeholders, and to all the employers and employees who worked with us, in supporting and enabling us across this hugely successful year, and I wish you all a safe and happy Christmas Holiday.

Martin O'Brien
 CEO | LMETB



An Update on the progress of our Building works

Works to the building have concluded with handover scheduled prior to the Christmas break. Staff will return to the centre following the Christmas break and the centre will be fully operational from that point forward. A section of the centre is being dedicated to address the backlog in Electrical Phase 2 training and these works will conclude in May with an intake of 70 electrical apprentices planned for June. A further extension to the centre is currently in planning and LMETB anticipate approval to go to tender for construction in 2024 subject to the approval of SOLAS and DFHERIS.



AMTCE Training Success Stories

The AMTCE will have successfully delivered over 1700 training opportunities to learners this year across Skills to Advance initiatives, Apprenticeships, Traineeships and other Government funded streams. See what some of the employers and employees we have worked with to date have to say about their training experience with the AMTCE.

Prodieco
 The AMTCE training team demonstrated expertise and support throughout the application and onboarding process for Prodieco's training courses this year. The AMTCE's Cnc/Cam and GD&T training sessions, conducted by skilled and informed Irish Manufacturing Research trainers, facilitated an effective learning experience focused on industry-specific training for our teams. Accessing these trainings has been instrumental in unlocking potential and enhancing our capabilities in design, production, and quality operations. We plan to maintain our collaboration with AMTCE into 2024 to explore more training opportunities across our various operations.

Tecomet
 The AMTCE has been instrumental in facilitating our company's enrollment in various training programs this year. Tecomet employees who participated in these trainings have significantly gained from the knowledge and skills imparted, covering all fundamental aspects necessary for their roles at Tecomet. The training has brought multiple advantages to our organisation, enhancing employee qualifications, bridging skill gaps, and augmenting production management in our facility. Our positive experiences with AMTCE have encouraged us to continue seeking their services for future training needs.

Walter Dawed
 2nd year AMTCE Cyber apprentice with Deloitte

The cybersecurity apprenticeship has been a huge turning point in my life. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the course and on the job. It has been intensive but rewarding, and the opportunity to land in the calibre of company I have got in such a brief time is invaluable. I would recommend choosing an apprenticeship over college for anyone in a position such as myself who did not have the resources at the time to go to college. The network I have developed and hands-on work I have completed will help me for the rest of my time in this field. I recently joined the PenTest team in work.

Oceanpath
 Product Development & Sustainability Manager | Oceanpath

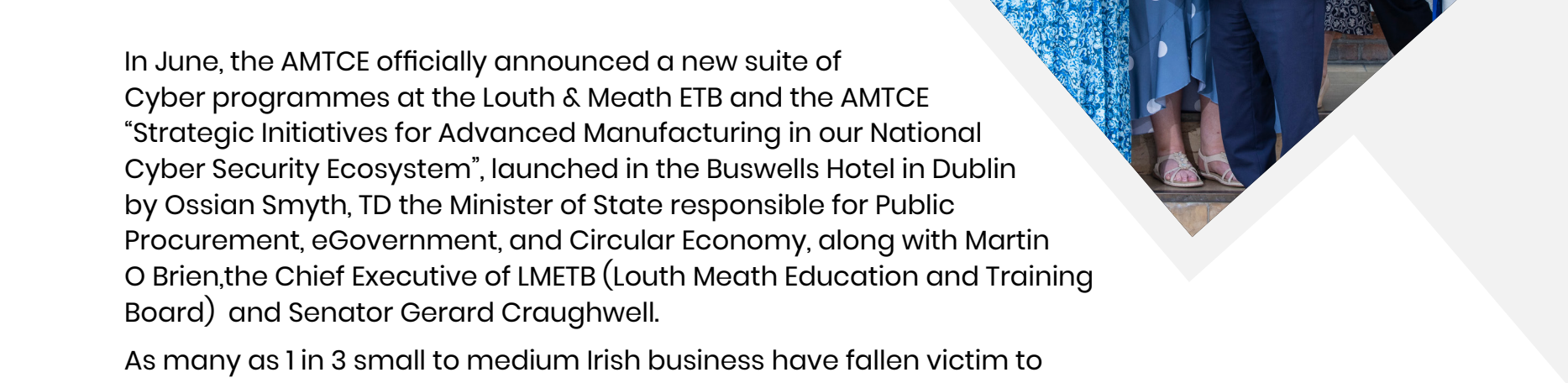
Oceanpath have recently taken part in food related training programmes with the AMTCE. These programmes and trainings have given our team the skills and development needed to increase their knowledge in the food manufacturing industry. It is a great organisation for personal and professional development, as well as learning and adapting new skills to the business.

Catherine Masterson
 HR Manager | Epicorm/Complex Nutrition

Ten employees from Complex Nutrition were selected to attend Developing Essential Skills for Food and Beverage in the manufacturing sector. Employees attended the introductory, intermediate, and advanced levels. The courses targeted systems, procedures, and documentation, this was a good refresher course for our employees and gave employees a reminder as to the importance and reason we use systems, procedures and documentation. Also, employees benefited from receiving a certificate after they completed their training.

Jack Rodgers
 Newgrange Gold

We have found that the courses offered in the Developing Competencies for the Food and Beverage sector have been a wonderful way to enable training for our small team within the time constraints we currently have. It has enabled our team to develop a greater understanding of what is needed maintain our 3rd party accreditations.



CNC | Women Led Initiative

The AMTCE proudly delivered with **Irish Manufacturing Research**, and the support of **Tecomet, Inc.**, a women-led CNC training, removing barriers to entry, and creating a supportive environment for women looking to upskill. This was a talented team of women that partook, inspiring next generations of our future women in manufacturing.

If you are interested to know more about CNC trainings in the AMTCE for your business, register your interest here today.



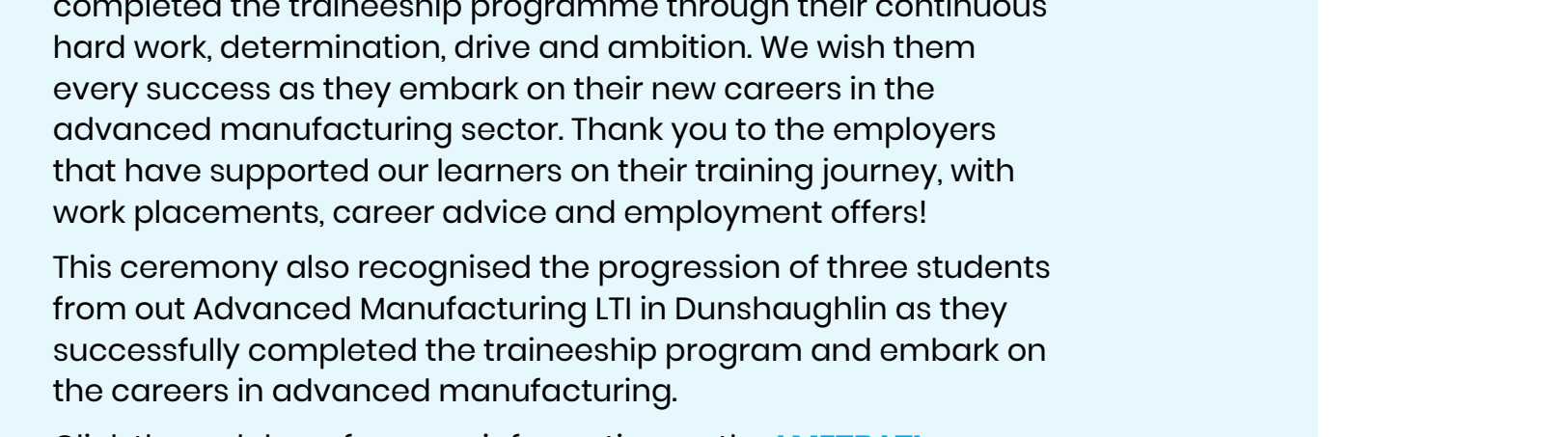
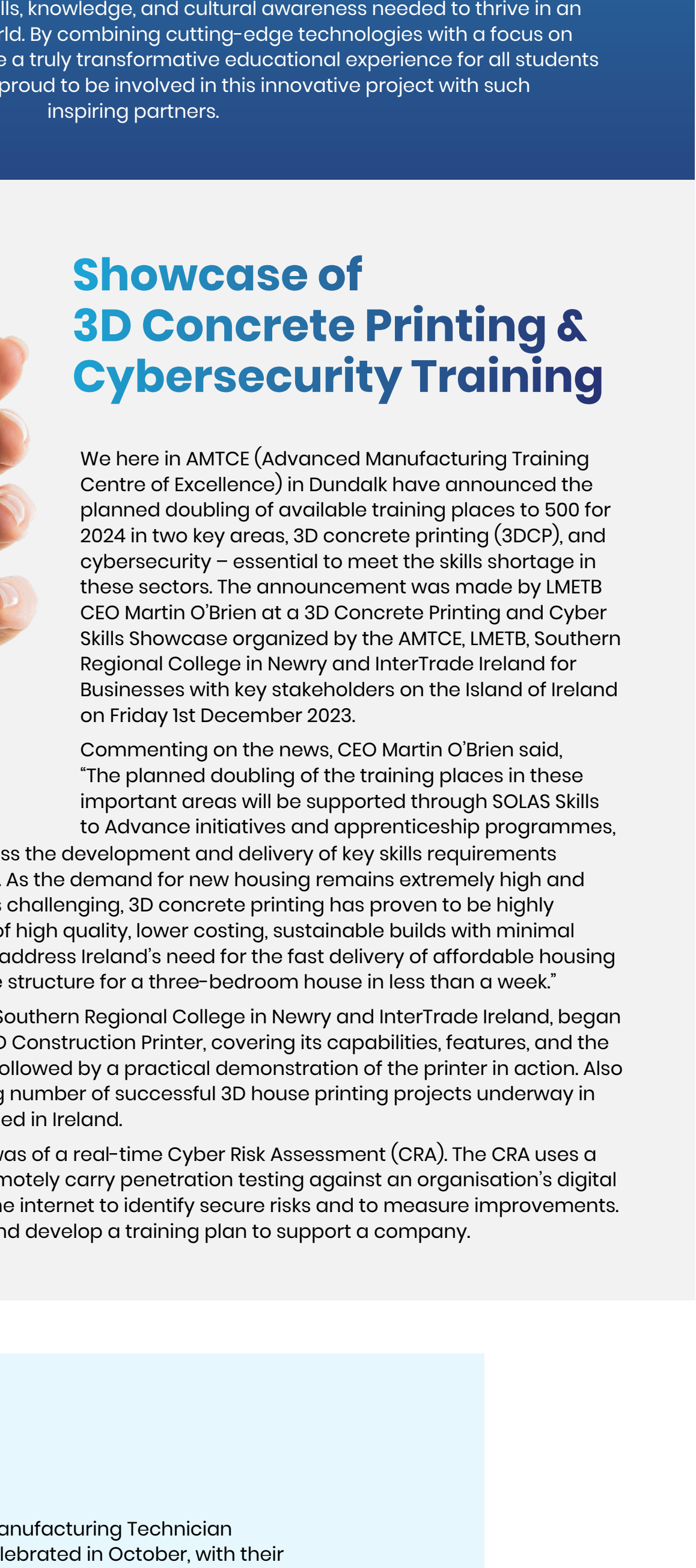
Cyber security Programme Launch

In June, the AMTCE officially announced a new suite of Cyber programmes at the Louth & Meath ETB and the AMTCE "Strategic Initiatives for Advanced Manufacturing in our National Cyber Security Ecosystem", launched in the Buswells Hotel in Dublin by Ossian Smith, TD the Minister of State responsible for Public Procurement, eGovernment, and Circular Economy, along with Martin O'Brien, the Chief Executive of LMETB (Louth Meath Education and Training Board) and Senator Gerard Croughwell.

As many as 1 in 3 small to medium Irish businesses have fallen victims to cybercrime between 2021 and 2022. The importance for Irish businesses to have cyber security, risk and control resources in place to mitigate the growing risks associated with cyber-attacks is imperative for their sustainability and growth in business.

The AMTCE launched in direct response to this pressing need, a suite of Cyber Security training and supports delivered through 2023 and will continue to deliver SME Cyber Risk Assessment supports and trainings for all size companies through 2024.

Contact us today to learn more on Cyber Risk Assessment supports, Skills to Advance subsidised training and Cyber Apprenticeship programmes that can support you and your business.



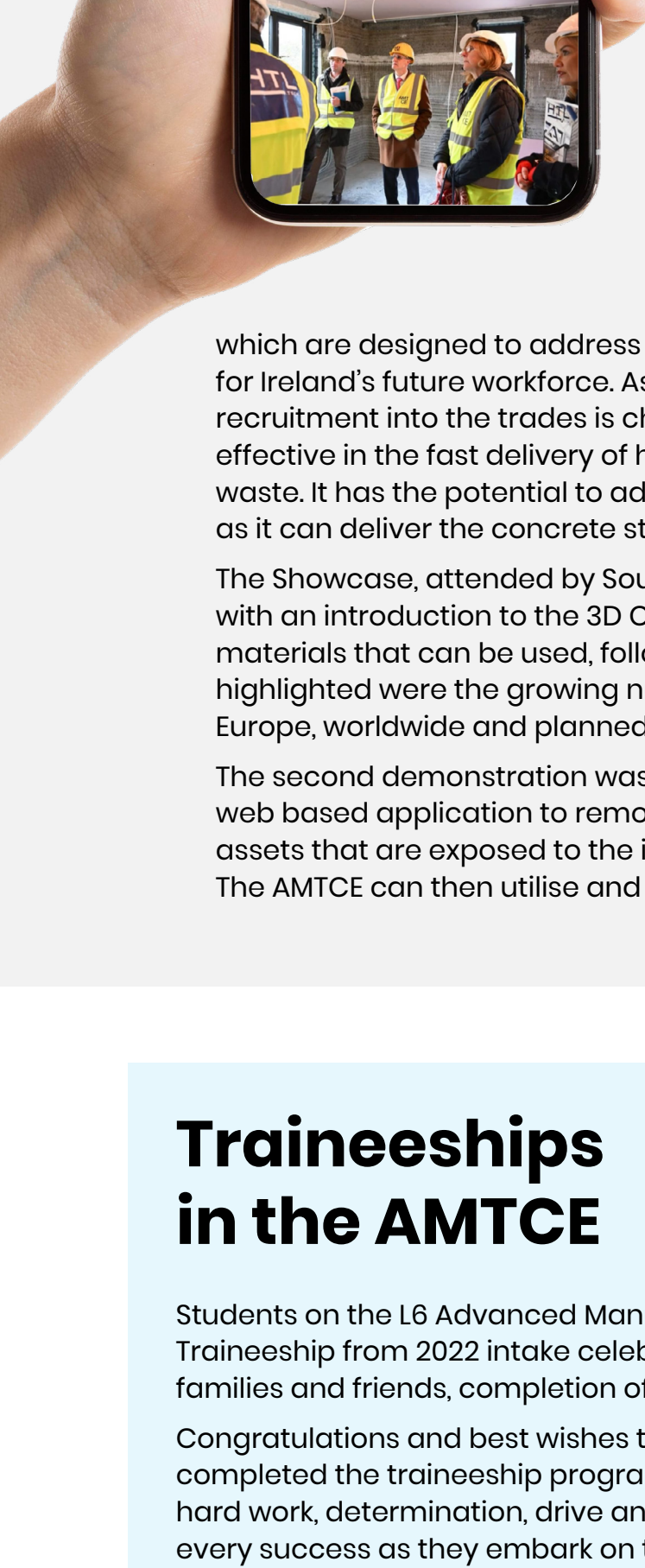
Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Schools Project | A Cross Border Initiative

The Advanced Manufacturing Pathways Schools Project – A Cross Border Initiative, held a pioneering event recently in Portlouis, Belfast.

Participation on this innovative project gives teachers the opportunity for upskilling in the key areas of advanced manufacturing technologies, with a network of support and collaboration across schools, and their students gain access to learning about new technological advancements.

There is a rooted commitment to promoting cross community and cross-border peace building within this project. Collaboration between schools in Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland fosters a sense of cooperation among students from all backgrounds. Through joint projects, workshops, and cultural exchanges, opportunities are created for students to learn about each other's traditions, values, and perspectives.

The Advanced Manufacturing Pathways School's Project is an exciting endeavour that seeks to empower students with the skills, knowledge, and cultural awareness needed to thrive in an increasingly interconnected world. By combining cutting-edge technologies with a focus on community building, we can create a truly transformative educational experience for all students involved. We are extremely proud to be involved in this innovative project with such inspiring partners.



Showcase of 3D Concrete Printing & Cybersecurity Training

We here in AMTCE (Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence) in Dundalk have announced the planned doubling of available training places to 500 for 2024 in two key areas, 3D concrete printing (3DCP), and cybersecurity – essential to meet the skills shortage in these sectors. The announcement was made by LMETB CEO Martin O'Brien at a 3D Concrete Printing and Cyber Skills Showcase organized by the AMTCE, LMETB, Southern Regional College in Newry and InterTrade Ireland for Businesses with key stakeholders on the Island of Ireland on Friday 1st December 2023.

Commenting on the news, CEO Martin O'Brien said, "The planned doubling of the training places in these important areas will be supported through SOLAS Skills to Advance initiatives and apprenticeship programmes,

which are designed to address the development and delivery of key skills requirements for Ireland's future workforce. As the demand for new housing remains extremely high and recruitment into the trades is challenging, 3D concrete printing has proven to be highly effective in the fast delivery of high quality, lower costing, sustainable builds with minimal waste. It has the potential to address Ireland's need for the fast delivery of affordable housing as it can deliver the concrete structure for a three-bedroom house in less than a week."

The Showcase, attended by Southern Regional College in Newry and InterTrade Ireland, began with an introduction to the 3D Construction Printer, covering its capabilities, features, and the materials that can be used, followed by a practical demonstration of the printer in action. Also highlighted were the growing number of successful 3D house printing projects underway in Europe, worldwide and planned in Ireland.

The second demonstration was of a real-time Cyber Risk Assessment (CRA). The CRA uses a web based application to remotely carry penetration testing against an organisation's digital assets that are exposed to the internet to identify secure risks and to measure improvements. The AMTCE can then utilise and develop a training plan to support a company.

Traineeships in the AMTCE

Students on the L6 Advanced Manufacturing Technician Traineeship from 2022 intake celebrated in October, with their families and friends, completion of their training programme.

Congratulations and best wishes to every student who completed the traineeship programme through their continuous hard work, determination, drive and ambition. We wish them every success as they embark on their new careers in the advanced manufacturing sector. Thank you to the employers that have supported our learners on their training journey, with work placements, career advice and employment offers!

This ceremony also recognised the progression of three students from out Advanced Manufacturing LTI in Dunshaughlin as they successfully completed the traineeship program and embark on the careers in advanced manufacturing.

Click through here for more information on the **LMETB LTI programmes**.

Whilst congratulating our 2022 student group on completing their training, we also welcomed in October our new 2023 intake for the L6 Advanced Manufacturing Technician Traineeship. If you are interested in understanding how a traineeship could work for you or for your company click the button below for more information.

Apprenticeships in the AMTCE



The **Robotics and Automation Apprenticeship (RAA)** is a new L6 national apprenticeship programme currently in development. This programme, being led out by the AMTCE, is developed by an industry led consortium comprising of robotic vendors, manufacturers, automation vendors, systems integrators, and education providers to address the skills and talent needs of advanced manufacturing in Ireland as the sector adopts industry 4.0 technologies and processes.

Robotics and automation are playing an increasing important role in advanced manufacturing leading to a rapidly growing demand for these skills. Apprentices from the programme will have the opportunity to work in variety of roles such as Automation Technicians, Instrumentation and Controls Technicians, Robotics Technicians and Equipment Technicians. These roles will be available with leading manufacturing companies, equipment manufacturers and systems integrators.

The **Level 6 Cyber security Apprenticeship Programme**, a 2-year Apprenticeship programme, is designed to empower the apprentice with underpinning knowledge, skills and competencies required to become a cyber security worker. It is strongly grounded in the practical experience of providing the apprentice with real "On-the-Job" work experience whilst being supported by "Off-the-Job" learning in face-to-face workshops and an online learning environment. Click through [here](#) for more information.

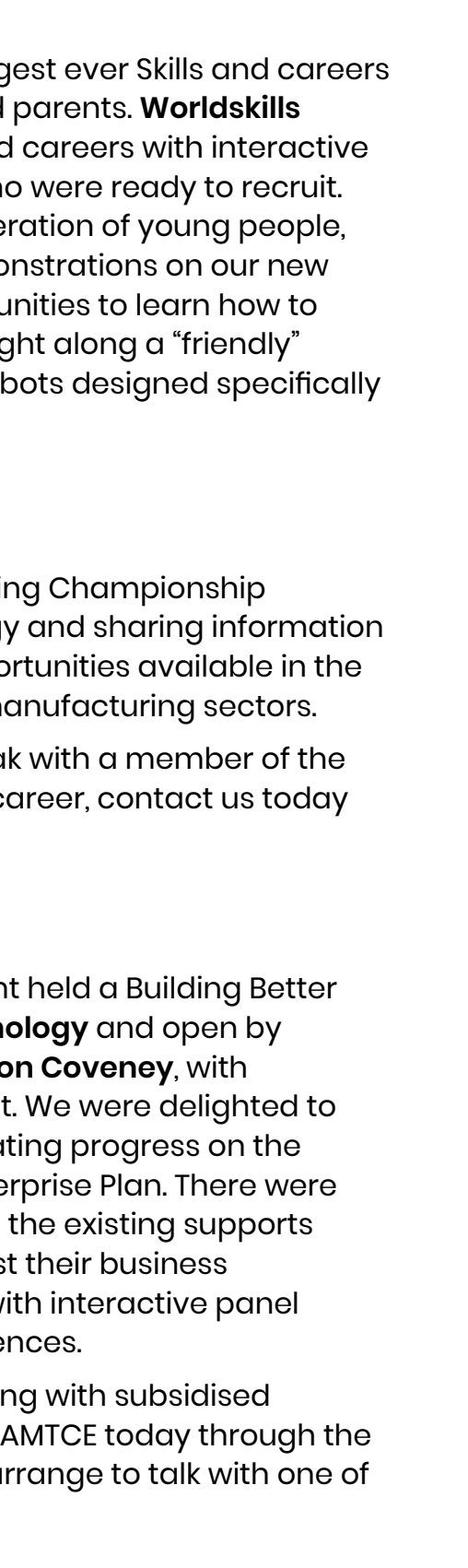
2024 L6 Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing Micro-Qualification Training Programme

The AMTCE, with LMETB, have developed a new programme in Robotics to support industry as it adopts Industry 4.0 technologies. The QQI L6 special purpose award in Utilising Robotics in Advanced Manufacturing, funded by the SOLAS Innovation through Collaboration Fund, and will launch Spring 2024 for first intake.

The programme comprises of five micro-credential modules. Micro-credentials are small, accredited bite-size pieces of learning designed to provide flexibility. The modules in this innovative programme cover topics such as robotic applications, robotic systems integration, programming, and key trends. The programme will have a strong focus on skills development through practical hands-on use of robotics using the AMTCE's state of the art industry grade equipment.

This programme is designed for learners seeking to upskill or reskill enabling them to be prepared within their current roles or take up employment in the advanced manufacturing sector or related sectors. The blended learning nature of this programme provides a flexible approach to learning and accommodates learners who are in full-time employment and want to complete a programme to up-skill and future proof their career.

If you are interested in this programme contact the AMTCE team today:



Events with the AMTCE

Worldskills Ireland 2023

With over 30,000 people registered, this was the biggest ever Skills and careers event in Ireland welcoming students, teachers, and parents. **Worldskills Ireland 2023** celebrated apprenticeships, skills and careers with interactive demonstrations, career zones and employers who were ready to recruit. The AMTCE team sought to inspire the next generation of young people, giving attendees hands on access to live demonstrations on our new VR Robotic Training Simulator, offering opportunities to learn how to operate a modern Robotic cell. We also brought along a "friendly" cobot cell onto the stand, demonstrating robots designed specifically to work safely with humans.

National Ploughing Championships 2023

Dermot was kept busy at the 2023 National Ploughing Championship demonstrating our VR welding training technology and sharing information on the skills to Advance subsidised training opportunities available in the AMTCE for upskilling and reskilling across the manufacturing sectors.

To learn more about AMTCE trainings, to speak with a member of the team for support for your business or your career, contact us today through the button below.

Building Better Business Event in Dundalk

The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment held a Building Better Business event, hosted in **Dundalk Institute of Technology** and open by Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, **Simon Coveney**, with attendance from businesses across the North-East. We were delighted to exhibit and also to contribute to discussions updating progress on the work and supports of the Northeast Regional Enterprise Plan. There were opportunities for attendees to learn more about the existing supports navigating their green journey and how to boost their business performance through digital transformation, with interactive panel discussions sharing real time business experiences.

If you need support with upskilling and reskilling with subsidised opportunities for your business, contact the AMTCE today through the button below for more information and to arrange to talk with one of our team.

Meath Careers Expo 2023

We were delighted to exhibit at the recent Meath Chamber of Commerce, County Meath Careers Expo held at the Arlboyne Hotel Navan. This event was a huge success with exhibits from over 50 local employers. The AMTCE team offered advice to attendees and businesses, an opportunities available for subsidised training to upskill and reskill and also information on how to boost business performance through digital transformation.

If you need support with training, please do not hesitate to register your interest for more information and to arrange a talk with a member of our team.

Training Courses 2024

For more information regarding our upcoming 2024 training courses click below:

A special thank you to all our partners, stakeholders, employers and employees. Wishing everyone a very **Happy Christmas with best wishes for a successful year ahead.**