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## **Topping out ceremony marks milestone for new EnQuest North Sea headquarters**

Leading North Sea oil producer EnQuest today celebrated a major landmark after the structural building work phase of its new Aberdeen headquarters reached completion.

VIPs and business leaders from across the region joined representatives from EnQuest, developer Drum Property Group and award-winning UK construction and civil engineering company, Sir Robert McAlpine Limited (SRM), for an official topping out ceremony at the eight-storey, high quality office development to mark the occasion.

The ceremony was organised by SRM, who completed the first stage of EnQuest's purpose-built headquarters on time and budget. Topping out is a traditional ceremony to celebrate the last concrete pour on the highest point of a building.

EnQuest, which is the largest UK independent oil producer in the UK North Sea, also revealed the name of its new building today as Annan House, following the theme of a number of the company's fields which are named after Scottish rivers and locations such as Don, Deveron and Cairngorm.

Situated at the former derelict Aberdeen Seafood Park on Palmerston Road, Annan House which is part of Drum Property Group's The Grande development, is helping regenerate a long neglected area in the heart of the city and is expected to bring considerable economic benefits to the surrounding vicinity including the harbour.

Andrew McAlpine, director at Sir Robert McAlpine, which has been involved in some of the country's most high-profile projects from the London Olympic Stadium to the M74 Motorway completion in Glasgow, said: "We are delighted to be celebrating this key milestone in the delivery of EnQuest's new North Sea headquarters, a project which reflects our unwavering commitment to the highest standards of quality, safety and sustainability."

Neil McCulloch, president, North Sea, at EnQuest, said: "The completion of the structural works is an exciting development in the creation of our new flagship building which further reinforces EnQuest's long-term commitment to Aberdeen as our centre of excellence.

"Our current offices next to the site are a great vantage point and it's been fascinating to watch such an impressive building emerge so quickly from what was a derelict site just over eight months ago. We are also extremely proud to be supporting British manufacturing and skills, and have used home-sourced materials and services where possible. We have had extremely positive feedback from people who recognise the importance of our investment and how it will help breathe new life into the area."

Stuart Oag, finance director at Drum Property Group, said: "We are delighted that Annan House has reached this important milestone. This new North Sea headquarters for EnQuest is the first phase of development at The Grande, which will lead to the physical regeneration of a neglected and rundown area of the city. The development will also act as a catalyst in

generating additional long term economic activity for the wider harbour area and the city in general.”

Annan House, which is bounded by Palmerston Road, Raik Road, Poynerook Road and Stell Road, will cover approximately 120,000sq ft over eight storeys and provide associated car parking. EnQuest currently employs around 500 people at two locations in Aberdeen and the new building will allow the workforce to be consolidated under one roof.

Among those who attended the topping out event and were privileged to stunning skyline views across Aberdeen and the North Sea from the building’s top floor, were Aberdeen’s Lord Provost Councillor George Adam, and Ian Jessiman from Aberdeen Harbour Board.

The next stage of work to be completed is the building envelope, which includes all the elements of the outer shell that make the building water tight. Thereafter, works to the internal fit-out will commence, with a view to the building being complete and ready for occupation in Q2 2015.

For more information about EnQuest, visit: [www.enquest.com](http://www.enquest.com)