

PRESS RELEASE - FINAL

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Donaldson Timber Systems launches timber frame training programme

Leading offsite timber frame manufacturer, Donaldson Timber Systems has launched an industry-first timber frame skills hub, to develop a workforce capable of building using offsite timber frame.

With over 50 years of experience, Donaldson Timber Systems is responding to the skills crisis by harnessing its knowledge and expertise of offsite timber frame to develop a bespoke training programme.

Modules have been created for all disciplines, from design and technical to commercial and construction, empowering Donaldson Timber Systems customers to realise the true benefits of building in timber frame, in terms of cost, speed and performance.

The programme is available on GRASSP, a new online innovative training platform, designed to make construction learning easy. It can be accessed on desktop or mobile with 24/7 access to allow for practical guidance on the move, whether in the office or on the building site.

Supported through the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)'s Industry Impact Fund, the interactive training programme consists of a series of easy-to-follow expert lessons, best practice guidance, checklists, tutorials and visual aids covering every stage, from design and commercial appraisals to installation and site completion.

Alex Goodfellow, CEO at Donaldson Offsite said: "The future success of the housing sector depends on the skills, confidence and availability of people to deliver it. Rather than add to the narrative about the problem of the skills crisis, we want to contribute to the solution. By working with CITB and GRASSP, we have taken our knowledge and developed a timber frame training programme to support housebuilders and contractors that want to make the change to timber frame and need guidance.

"To succeed and build sustainable homes more quickly, the industry must be fully equipped with new knowledge and capability. We believe by launching this training hub and sharing our expertise, we can make a difference. Collaboration will raise the whole sector - closing the skills gap, accelerating timber frame adoption and building the workforce and homes of the future that we so desperately need."

Tim Balcon, CEO, Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), said:

"We are delighted to support Donaldson Timber Systems and GRASSP with funding through the CITB Industry Impact Fund. Ensuring that on-site teams have the knowledge and skills required to effectively plan and build using Modern Methods of Construction is key to enabling better decision-making and encouraging a 'right first time' mindset.

"The Industry Impact Fund supports projects that shape the future of construction, boosting skills, innovation and collaboration. The Fund gives employers the power to design and develop training solutions that don't already exist - ensuring they are scalable, sustainable and make a lasting impact."

Celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, Donaldson Timber Systems offers unrivalled experience and knowledge in offsite construction, operating from a network of manufacturing and technical centres across the UK.

To find out more, visit: [The Timber Frame Learning Hub – Donaldson Timber Systems](#)

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For further information, please contact:

Holly Russell
Vermilion Public Relations
07850 662849
Holly.russell@vermilionpr.co.uk

Notes to Editors:

About Donaldson Timber Systems

Donaldson Timber Systems is the UK's market leading offsite manufacturer for timber frame build systems, with manufacturing bases in Oxfordshire and Aberdeenshire. They have the capacity to build 10,000 sustainable homes a year.

The business has been in operation for 50 years and in that time, the team has built over 150,000 homes, 300 hotels and numerous commercial and public buildings.

Earlier this year, the business was awarded the 'Order of Distinction' by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), in recognition of remarkable consistency in displaying the very highest levels of health and safety in the workplace for 16 consecutive years.

Along with its health and safety credentials, Donaldson Timber Systems has also achieved a range of third-party quality approvals, including BOPAS Plus, BBA, NHBC Accepts and STA Gold Assure, delivering the confidence that DTS products are durable and comply with building regulations and technical standards.

Donaldson Timber Systems adopts the principles of Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) to increase the precision quality of construction products and move the construction industry towards a different way to build. An offsite method that allows the sector to increase volume, while the wider construction industry is challenged with skills and labour shortages.

Since 2021, Donaldson Timber Systems has been part of the 165-year-old timber specialist and family business, The Donaldson Group. The Group consists of 14 individual businesses, each market leaders in their respective fields of timber engineering, saw-mills, distribution, merchants, roofing and cladding distribution, and laminate manufacture.

<https://www.donaldsontimbersystems.com/>

[About the Construction Industry Training Board](#)

The Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) is the designated industry training board for the construction sector in England, Scotland, and Wales. Its remit is to assist the construction industry in attracting talent and to champion skills development, with the overarching goal of building a better Britain, and its purpose is to support the construction industry in sustaining a workforce that is skilled, competent, and inclusive, both for the present and the future. CITB is committed to ensuring that the construction industry remains at the forefront of skill development and innovation, fostering a robust and diverse workforce that is equipped to meet the evolving needs of the sector. For more information, visit www.citb.co.uk