

CADRIC Project Summary

The **Cognitive Analytics and Digital Robotics Innovation Centre (CADRIC)** is a £39 million, research-led initiative at Ulster University designed to transform industrial innovation through advanced manufacturing and cognitive analytics. Scheduled for completion in 2028, CADRIC is part of the Derry City and Strabane District City Deal and represents the largest single government investment in the region's history.

CADRIC establishes two purpose-built Centres of Excellence:

- **CARL (Cognitive Analytics Research Laboratory)** focuses on applied research in bio-inspired AI, machine learning, and high-performance computing. It supports sectors such as life and health sciences, fintech, agritech, law, and creative industries, translating academic expertise into industrial applications.
- **CIDRA (Centre for Industrial Digitalisation, Robotics and Automation)** concentrates on smart manufacturing, deploying mature technologies including robotics, automation, Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT), and additive manufacturing to address productivity and innovation challenges across manufacturing sectors.

The project was developed through extensive consultation with over 100 companies, resulting in 34 Letters of Support and £6.7 million in indicative contributions. CADRIC's 'shared front door' model enables seamless collaboration between academia and industry, fostering co-development of solutions to real-world challenges.

CADRIC supports inclusive economic growth by creating high-skill jobs, attracting foreign direct investment, and delivering a robust talent pipeline. It enhances Ulster University's reputation for world-leading excellence in cognitive robotics and industrial digitalisation, while contributing directly to the Minister for the Economy's Economic Vision.

The project also strengthens the regional skills ecosystem through postgraduate training, Continuous Professional Development (CPD) opportunities, and new academic programmes such as the MSc Ethical and Responsible AI. By catalysing an ecosystem around digital technologies, CADRIC positions the North-West as a globally competitive hub for innovation, research, and industrial transformation.