

# GALWAY HAS SITE SET ON LOCATION FOR NEW FILM STUDIO

Galway's Draft County Development Plan (2022-2028) has highlighted several sites of strategic importance and mutual interest to both the city and county councils. One is the former Galway Airport site, part of which has been earmarked for a new state-of-the-art film and TV studio, which aims to be open for business by next summer.

Following the ten-week public consultation, which closed on 30 July, it's expected the final County Development Plan will be published by May 2022, providing a roadmap for how the county will be developed and improved over the next six years.

And as part of the new developments proposed for Galway, a new state-of-the-art 40,000 sq. ft., high-tech film and TV studio has been given the green light to move to planning stage with the aim of being open for business for next summer.

The planned film and TV production studios are proposed for development on a section of the site of the former Galway Airport at Carnmore. Atlantic Studios has agreement in principle for a long-term lease with the site's owners – Galway City and Galway County Councils.

This creative project for Galway City, County and the Wild Atlantic Way will be developed on a phased basis. The first phase will involve creative development of the existing hangar building space to provide over 40,000 sq ft of film and TV studio space, along with offices and suites of support facilities. Atlantic Studios' strategic plan and key driver for the development is to capitalise on the global increase in film and TV production.

Phase two will include additional studio space with the objective of the Atlantic Studios facility becoming a prime location and media hub for production companies, who are focused on delivering key services to support film and TV production.

## INVESTMENT TO BENEFIT GALWAY ECONOMY

The initial investment in the Atlantic Studios development is expected to yield €10m-€15 million per annum to the Galway economy while creating between 150 and 200 production specific jobs.

As a key economic driver for Galway, Atlantic Studios will also showcase the talent, facilities and scenic locations of Galway and the western seaboard as a key location for high-scale movie and TV production to the world.

This development also ensures that Galway is central to Government's policy making for Ireland as a world centre of high-quality film and TV drama production.

Atlantic Studios has received the support of the Western Development Commission, Údarás na Gaeltachta and a wide range of industry stakeholders, including Screen Ireland and Galway Film Centre.

Siobhán Ní Ghadhra, Director of Atlantic Studios, said that they have a strong strategic plan and vision for what can be delivered for Galway and the West and Ireland as a whole.

"This development will be crucial to fulfilling the current lack of availability of appropriate full-service studio space in Ireland's audio-visual sector. Growth has been severely restricting in the sector as a result," she noted.

Atlantic Studios Director John Brady described the announcement as "an important step in the right direction", pointing out that Galway has a long-standing history of TV and film production.

"It will allow us and Galway to attract large scale international projects to shoot in the west, which will also have an obvious spin-off for



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the local economy and the tourism industry. We look forward to progressing the plans with Galway City and County Council to bring this project to fruition and to placing Galway on the international map in 2022.”

PRIME LOCATION FOR INCREASED BUSINESS

Ireland is recognised globally as an attractive shooting location for film and TV productions with many leading productions availing of the tax credits available to the film and TV industry and this development will support Galway as a location for increased business in this sector.

Galway Chamber of Commerce, Chief Executive, Kenneth Deery also welcomed the progress on this development, noting that media, TV, film and the creative industries are significant employers for Galway and the region.

“Danú Media have been huge ambassadors in the west and the support locally is a significant step in the right direction for this project at the old Galway airport. Galway Chamber wholeheartedly supports the Atlantic Studios project, which will lead to an increase in jobs and a positive economic impact across the film and TV sector and Galway as a whole,” he added.

Atlantic Studios

was set up by Danú Media, which was established in 2015 by John Brady and Siobhán Ní Ghadhra. It is based in the coastal village of Spiddal, in the Connemara Gaeltacht in South Galway to produce high quality TV and feature drama, for both the domestic and international markets.



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