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# Global Leader in Financial Services Finds Sustainable Home at The HALO Kilmarnock

### **PRA Group's UK operations commit to 15 years in Kilmarnock community**

KILMARNOCK, U.K., Nov. 12, 2021 /PRNewswire/ -- The HALO Urban Regeneration has announced PRA Group, Inc. (Nasdaq: PRAA), a global leader in the nonperforming loan industry, as the anchor tenant of Kilmarnock's HALO Enterprise and Innovation Centre (HEIC), bringing career opportunities and a 15-year commitment to the town.

The US-based PRA Group employs 300 people across three locations in Kilmarnock, all of whom will move into two floors at the low carbon development within the 23-acre HALO Digital and Cyber Innovation Park. The company's investment in Kilmarnock is further reflected in its charitable giving to organizations such as Ayrshire Hospice, Break the Silence, North Ayrshire Foodbank, the Scottish Association of Mental Health (SAMH) and South Ayrshire Foodbank. PRA Group's new UK operational hub will enable the company to create additional jobs and deepen community partnerships while also prioritizing energy efficiency and enduring sustainability.

The HEIC sets the standard for low carbon energy sites by building a sustainable community powered by renewable energy, making it one of the most environmentally friendly developments in the UK. The HEIC also optimizes the workplace environment to promote the health and well-being of employees, which was essential to PRA Group's search for a new home.

One of the largest employers in Kilmarnock, the Nasdaq-listed PRA Group acquires and collects nonperforming loans, returning capital to banks and other creditors to help expand financial services for consumers worldwide.

"PRA Group was founded on doing things the right way for the long-term, so environmental sustainability is an enormous priority as we make decisions that will impact the future of our company and communities where we live and work. When the opportunity arose to change office space in the UK, we looked for a way to put that vision into practice," said **Tim Kirk, Country Operations Director of PRA Group UK Ltd.** "We saw in The HALO an incredible opportunity to make progress sustainably while cultivating the enduring success of our workforce, strengthening the vitality of the Kilmarnock community and fostering a strong local economy."

With HEIC, The HALO is creating an industry-leading cyber and digital training and learning facility that will pioneer the Fourth Industrial Revolution. PRA Group will work in partnership with The HALO to test its state-of-the-art digital, data and cyber training and learning facilities while also enhancing its employees' cyber and digital skills.

"The HALO is proud to have a long-term partner who values the quality of workforce Kilmarnock and Ayrshire can provide. We look forward to working with PRA Group to build on its presence in the town and to offer its team professional development with the digital and cyber skills that our partnerships uniquely enable The HALO to provide," said **Dr. Marie Macklin CBE, Founder and Executive Chair of The HALO Urban Regeneration Company.**

"HALO Kilmarnock is a fantastic regeneration project that is bringing new skills, investment, and jobs to the region. I am glad more businesses are moving in, bringing further high-quality employment to the area.

"The UK Government is supporting HALO Kilmarnock with £3.5 million as part of its £103 million Ayrshire Growth Deal investment, helping communities to build back better from the pandemic," said **Iain Stewart, UK Government Minister for Scotland.**

"I'm very pleased to see this progress in the Ayrshire Growth Deal, with PRA Group taking on a tenancy at the HALO Enterprise and Innovation Centre, further underlining their commitment to the local area.

"In a period of economic uncertainty and challenge, delivery of the Ayrshire Growth Deal is more important than ever, with the projects re-invigorating the regional economy.

"The Scottish Government is committing £103 million to the Deal, which will help drive future growth and prosperity and unlock investment," said **Ivan McKee, the Scottish Government's Enterprise Minister.**

With the support of the Ayrshire Growth Deal, the HEIC will be an industry-leading cyber and digital training and learning facility that will pioneer the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"Securing PRA as an anchor tenant is a huge step forward for HALO and great news for the local community. Scottish Enterprise strongly supports the HALO Project and its ambitions to promote and support sustainable entrepreneurship, innovation and growth," said **Adrian Gillespie, Chief Executive of Scottish Enterprise.**

**Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of East Ayrshire Council said:** "This is tremendous news for Kilmarnock and East Ayrshire. HALO is the first of our Ayrshire Growth Deal projects to come to fruition and I'm delighted that one of our well-established local businesses, the PRA Group, is set to become the anchor tenant of these outstanding facilities.

"PRA has created many new jobs and employment opportunities for local people and their move into the new HALO facility will ensure that they continue to have a successful future in East Ayrshire."

In addition to the landmark deal with PRA Group, The HALO Enterprise and Innovation Centre has just released a range of packages designed to support innovative, growing businesses on the facility's 15,500 square foot trading floor, where scale-ups, SMEs and newcos will create employment through digital and cyber technologies built around health, energy, and enterprise.

The HALO Digital and Cyber Innovation Park includes:

- The HALO Enterprise & Innovation Centre a 50,000 sq. ft. low - a carbon BREEAM Excellent rated building
- 210 innovative smart homes of the future fueled by 100 per cent renewable energy and digital healthcare monitoring systems
- 40 Low carbon Live Work Units for entrepreneurs
- The HALO #Rockme Green Economy Cyber Research & Training Centre
- Light Manufacturing Low Carbon Zone
- Urban Eco Sports Park
- Children's Innovation & Learning Hub
- VR Education & Gaming Hub
- Wave Surf Leisure & energy monitoring center
- Digital High Street
- HALO low carbon EV transport hub.

#### **About PRA Group**

As a global leader in acquiring and collecting nonperforming loans, [PRA Group](#) returns capital to banks and other creditors to help expand financial services for consumers. With thousands of employees worldwide, PRA Group companies collaborate with customers to help them resolve their debt. For more information, please visit [www.pragroup.com](http://www.pragroup.com).

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#### **About HALO**

The HALO Urban Regeneration Company <https://halo-projects.com/>

The HALO Kilmarnock is a £63m brownfield urban regeneration project on a 23-acre site, formerly the home of Johnnie Walker, the world's leading Scotch whisky.

With a vision for a dynamic commercial, educational, cultural, leisure and lifestyle quarter where people can 'Live, Work, Learn and Play', The HALO will provide a sustainable community approach to a mixed-use development powered by electricity with a net zero carbon footprint.

Phase 1 – The HALO Enterprise and Innovation Hub opens in January 2022 and will collaborate with our partner, Scottish Power, to create an industry leading cyber and digital training learning facility and support growing businesses on The HALO trading floor, establishing The HALO at the forefront of the digital Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Diageo, who owned the land occupied by the former Johnnie Walker bottling plant, gifted 23 acres of land to the HALO and has invested £2m in the project to help create a community regeneration development for Kilmarnock.

The HALO

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**Ayrshire Growth Deal**

The HALO Kilmarnock will receive funding of £3.5 million from the UK Government, £3.5 million from the Scottish Government, and £2 million from East Ayrshire Council as part of the £251 million Ayrshire Growth Deal – a ten-year investment program jointly funded by the UK and Scottish governments and local authorities.

SOURCE PRA Group

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