

BHAVIK MISTRY

Head of Learning and Development at Agratas:

"As we prepare to begin battery cell manufacturing in Somerset, developing the skilled workforce needed to power this industry is a top priority. We're excited to be working with UCS College Group to help create opportunities for people across the region to upskill, reskill and build careers in advanced manufacturing. Together, we can develop the training pathways that will equip local people with the skills needed for high-quality jobs at our facility and support the growth of the UK's battery sector. This partnership has the potential to create lasting benefits for Somerset, the wider South West and the UK economy."



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UCS COLLEGE GROUP
TRANSFORMING LIVES

agratas
A TATA Enterprise

CASE STUDY



BUILDING A SKILLS ECOSYSTEM FOR STRATEGIC INVESTMENT

The Gravity Smart Campus at Puriton spans more than 600 acres of the former Royal Ordnance Factory 37, which closed in 2008. Salamanca Group acquired land at the site in 2017, aiming to create a centre for clean growth, advanced manufacturing and green technology.

Working with Salamanca Group and Somerset Council, UCS College Group made education and skills central to the investment proposition. We showed Agratas, Tata's global battery business, that Puriton offered more than a suitable site: it could provide the foundations for a responsive, sustainable skills infrastructure.

From the outset, a skills charter aligned employers, education providers and public-sector partners around collaboration, quality, inclusion, progression and workforce planning—helping ensure local people could share in the benefits of investment.

Agratas chose Gravity for its UK gigafactory for advanced battery manufacturing. With no established UK training pipeline for this emerging sector, UCS College Group became Agratas' strategic skills partner. Drawing on our experience supporting industries including nuclear and clean energy, we are co-designing and delivering programmes shaped around workforce needs. These will prepare employees for safe, efficient and innovative battery production and contribute to the development of the wider UK workforce.

Battery Innovation Programme funding is helping accelerate the training provision needed to support the industry's growth. Through collaboration with employers and university partners, the initiative will connect skills development with research, innovation and manufacturing.

The partnership supports national ambitions for battery manufacturing, electrification, net zero, productivity and resilient supply chains. It will create routes into high-value technical careers, generate economic opportunities across Somerset and the South West, and strengthen social mobility.

By building skills into the investment proposition from the outset, UCS College Group is helping attract global employers, develop local talent and deliver lasting benefits for UK manufacturing and the region.

£4bn
PRIVATE INVESTMENT

4,200
JOBS FORECAST

300
APPRENTICESHIPS

- STRATEGIC SKILLS PARTNER
- BESPOKE CO-CURRICULAR DEVELOPMENT
- LOCAL DEVELOPMENT GLOBAL OPPORTUNITIES
- TWO UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS
- DELIVERING FOR UK MANUFACTURING





