

## Extension for Limerick RTC

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LIMERICK RTC has a new computer centre and library on its Moylish campus. These new facilities are housed in an extension which constitutes phase 1A of a major three-phase building programme.

£7.5 million of Structural Funds has been allocated to Limerick RTC, and this is to be spent on a combined Phase 1B and Phase 2. "This will give a new administration block, lecture areas and further extend the computer and library facilities,"

Jeanette McDonnell, Chairperson of the Governing Body, told *Technology Ireland*. "This stage will be finished by the end of this year or early in 1995.

"Phase 3, to be finished by around the beginning of 1996, will provide an Aula Maxima, a restaurant and a lecture theatre for over 300 people."

The new building programme has been long-awaited. Although the college formally adopted RTC in its title as recently as January 1993, under its former name CoAct, the Limerick College of Art, Commerce and Technology, it pre-dated the other RTCs, and has had to make do with older buildings intended for much lower student numbers.

The extension, a light and airy

construction designed by Murry O'Laoghaire Architects, improves the appearance and infrastructure of the Moylish campus. Moylish caters for science and technology, taking in subjects from building to laboratory work. It offers certificates and diploma courses across a wide range, a degree course in computing, and a degree in quantity surveying from Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh.

The College's computer system is designed with an eye to the future. It is built around an IBM token ring network, using IBM OS/2 based software. The local area network is designed to serve as a core for the future buildings. The network links an IBM AS400 computer, an RS6000 and over 100 personal computers. Along with the other RTCs Limerick is linked in since February on the first phase of RTCnet, which gives access to HEAnet, JANET and other academic networks and databases in Ireland and abroad. The Minister for Education, Niamh Breathneach, was the first to use the system when she recently opened the extension.

The new library serves around 1,000 students each day. It has the latest in microfiche, CD-ROM, language booths and audio-visual facilities.

Moylish is one of several locations of Limerick RTC. The School of Professional and Management Studies is situated on the other side of Limerick city, and the School of Art and Design has several premises in the middle of the city.

