iBEE & RICS CONFERENCE 2026

Learn by Doing Together

Building the Future Workforce in the Age of AI and the Database Boom



Dr. Irish Horsey
DIRECTOR OF INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT, PROCORE

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The Age of AI & the Database Boom

Understanding the tectonic shift in construction technology, digital data integration, and future workforce demands.



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Closing the Global Skills Gap



Education Preparation

Education institutions must transition from theoretical textbook instruction to hands-on, software-enabled project simulation. Equipping students with live digital workflows reduces transition friction upon entering the professional workforce.



Industry Expectations

Global AEC firms demand project-ready graduates who possess immediate digital fluency. Standardizing technology competence across higher education builds a scalable global talent pipeline aligned with international GTM standards.

Three Structural Trends Colliding

Across the global built environment, three structural trends are colliding simultaneously.

Talent Crisis

250k+

UK workers needed by 2028 (CITB) & global aging workforce.

CITB CSN

Digital Paradox

81%

AEC execs expect AI advantage, yet sector lags in digital maturity.

KPMG Global Construction Survey

Productivity Trap

1%

Annual global productivity growth over 20 years.

McKinsey Global Institute

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Construction Ecosystem

Pillar 1. Government & Policy:

Policy and funding frameworks must evolve at digital speed to actively support agile workforce development and policy reforms.

Pillar 2. Professional Bodies:

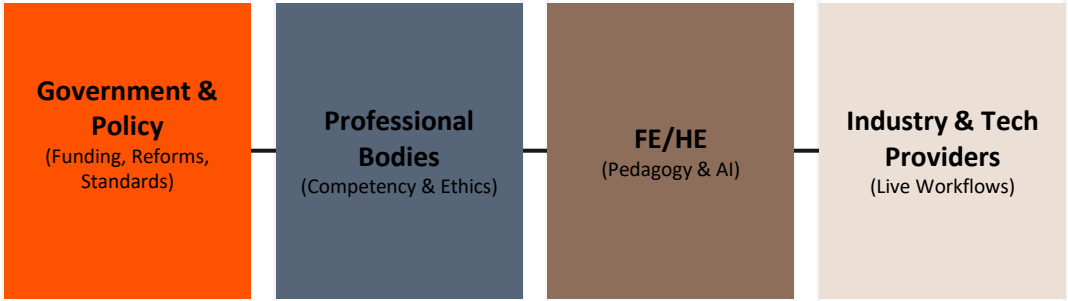
Professional institutions must embed dynamic digital capabilities and AI ethics into competency frameworks without eroding core standards.

Pillar 3. Further & Higher Education (FE/HE):

Education must pivot from testing passive memory to evaluating active, critical problem-solving that protects against AI-driven cognitive surrender.

Pillar 3. Industry & Tech Providers:

Tech providers and contractors must democratize access by providing students with free, hands-on experience on enterprise platforms and live project data.



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Connected Data in Construction

01 **Connected Platform Workflows.**
Real-time field-to-office data synchronization replaces fragmented, legacy desktop silos.

02 **Data-Driven Decision Making.**
AI and predictive analytics depend on structured, standardized project databases.

03 **Digital Jobsite Fluency.**
Today's jobsites requires immediate competence in BIM, automated workflows, and cloud contracts.

04 **Collaborative Ecosystems.**
Bridging asset owners,contractors, and surveyors on unified single-source software.



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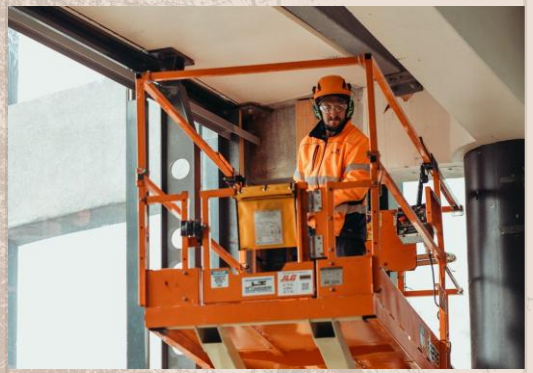
The 100-Day Classroom Audit

Question 1

In your current degree modules, what percentage of student work still relies on static PDFs or disconnected spreadsheets?

Question 2

What is ONE real-world digital workflow (e.g., live BIM, cloud snagging, AI risk auditing) you could embed this academic year?





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20k+

Global Projects Powered

Accelerating Onboarding & Adoption

By providing educators and students with direct access to enterprise construction management software, Procore eliminates early-career software learning curves. Graduates step into active jobsite roles fully proficient in modern project execution standards.

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Bridging Academia and Industry

Real-World Project Workflows

Empowering educators with free access to industry-standard tools—drawings, 3D BIM models, digital snagging, and contract management.

Hands-on experiential learning fosters practical problem-solving skills, preparing students for complex multi-disciplinary environments.

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Pillars of Future-Facing Learning



Digital Fluency

Embedding AI, automated database workflows, and cloud platform tools directly into accredited built environment curricula.



Collaborative Practice

Fostering interdisciplinary team projects combining quantity surveying, project management, and construction engineering.



Authentic Assessment

Replacing traditional rote exams with scenario-based digital project deliverables and professional APC-style evaluations.

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Collaborative Industry Vision

“When future and higher education and industry innovate together, we create a standardized pipeline of workforce talent that transforms the global built environment.”



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DIRECTOR, INDUSTRY ADVANCEMENT

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Standardizing Global Talent

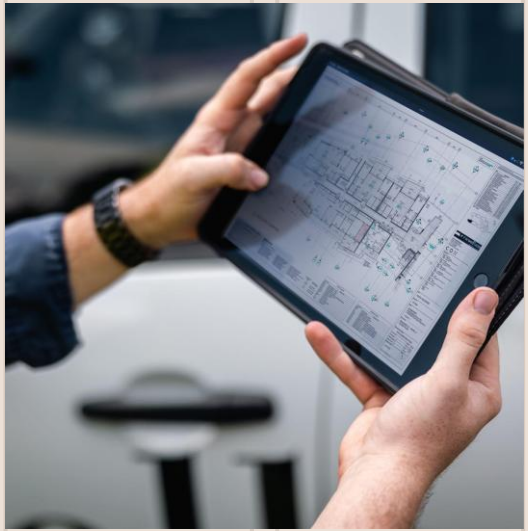
GLOBAL ALIGNMENT

Standardizing software competency across international university programs.



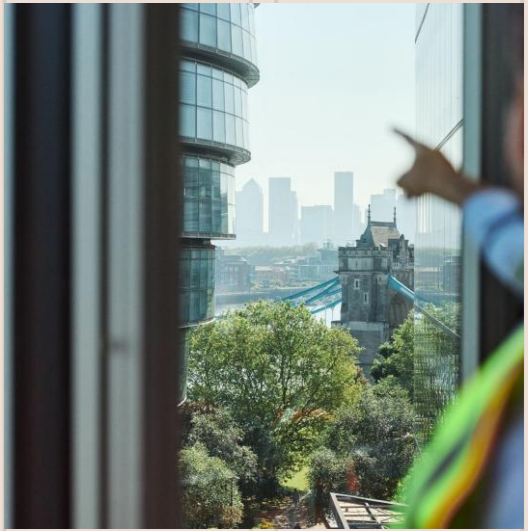
EDUCATOR ENABLEMENT

Providing professors with turnkey curriculum modules and free software tools.



FRICTIONLESS ADOPTION

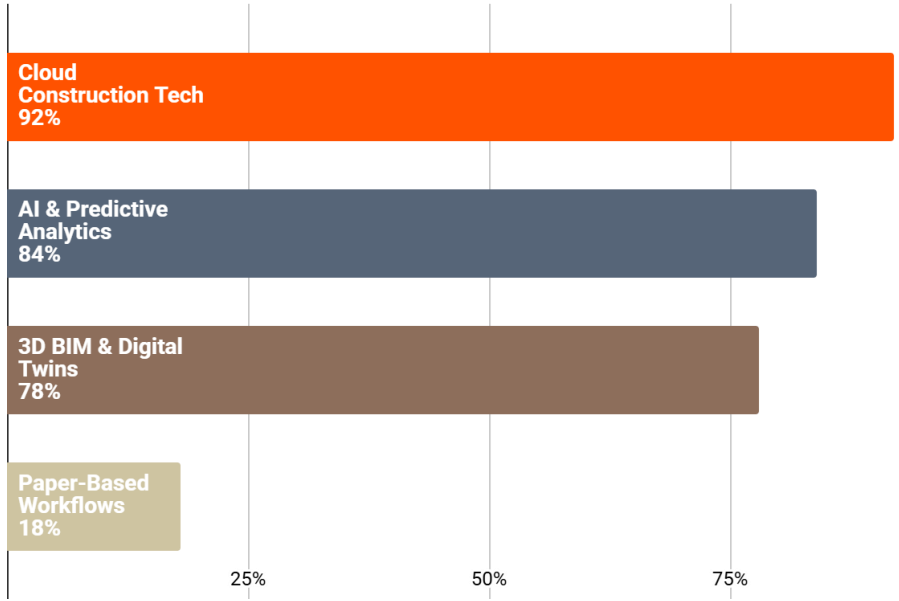
Reducing customer onboarding time across EMEA and international growth markets.



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Shift in Industry Digital Demand

Survey among leading AEC employers show an overwhelming demand for graduates skilled in cloud technology and data analytics over legacy paper methods.



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Academic & Industry Synergy Roadmap

Phase 1: Audit

Review accredited built environment degree modules for digital tool integration.

Phase 2: Enable

Provide educators with free Procore accounts, curriculum assets, and software labs.

Phase 3: Execute

Students solve real-world scenario projects using live cloud construction software.

Phase 4: Certify

Graduates earn Procore certifications alongside traditional RICS academic credentials.

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Contact Us



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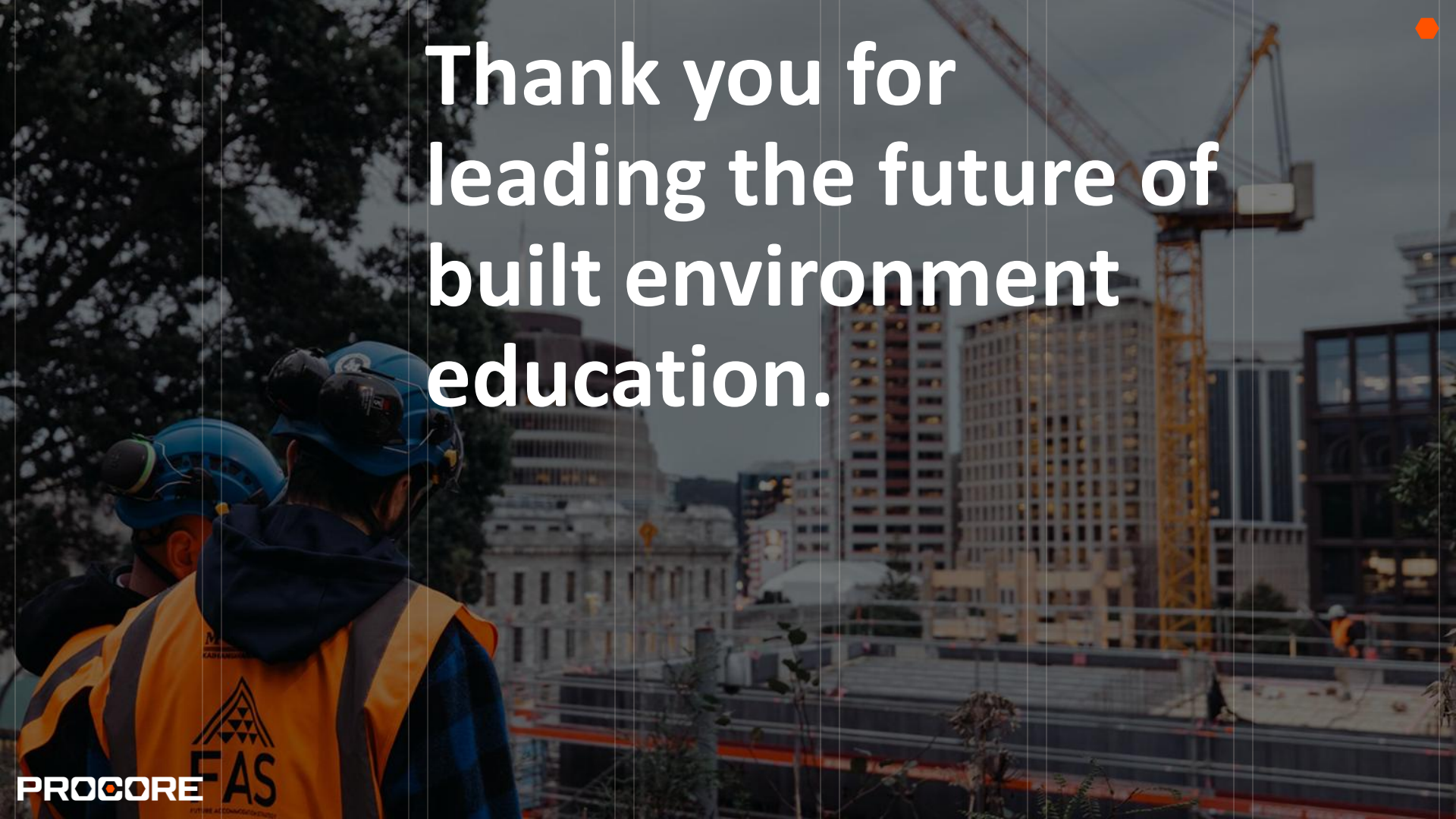
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