

CONSTRUCTION

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

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EDITORIAL



Google EU Headquarters, Gordon House, Barrow Street, Dublin. Image courtesy of Donal Murphy Photography

The CIF Annual Conference 2017, with its theme 'Realising the construction industry's potential to build Ireland's future', happens at a pivotal moment for the Irish construction industry and the Irish economy.

Ireland's proposition as a location for Foreign Direct Investment is underlined by the strength in numbers of highly experienced contractors. During the downturn, these companies invested in changing the way they operate to enable them to deliver high-end complex developments using modern building techniques such as Lean and BIM. Such was their success that many of the Irish contractors who have already adopted these new practices and technologies are now being asked by global clients to take on projects across the world.

In our Cover Story, we look at Ireland's FDI proposition and learn what makes Ireland stand out as a 'go to' place for many global brands, and what the construction industry is doing to facilitate

this corporate immigration.

In Category Focus, we learn from the country's leading Lean experts on their Lean journey and how this logical approach to project delivery is changing the way we build. We also provide some advice on how you can start your company's Lean journey today.

In our preview of the upcoming CIF Annual Conference, which has a strong focus on technological innovation, we hear from some of the key speakers on the issues they will be addressing. In our Construction Safety Week preview, we suggest some events that can be organised on-site or in the office.

CIF Industrial Relations Director Jean Winters outlines what, the soon to be enacted into law Sectoral Employment Order (SEO) will mean for your business.

Elsewhere in this issue, we bring you all the latest CIF News, Events, Industrial Analysis and Industry News.



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17 CONSTRUCTION'S CRITICAL ROLE IN SECURING FDI FOR IRELAND



CONSTRUCTION

CONTENTS

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

5 CIF NEWS

The latest news and views from CIF

PROJECT FEATURE

20 CLANCY CONSTRUCTION – APC LABORATORIES

BIM facilitates fast-track delivery of laboratory facility

CATEGORY FOCUS

23 HOW BIM HAS TRANSFORMED THE WAY WE BUILD

The professionals leading Ireland's construction revolution

30 INNOVATIVE IRISH CONTRACTORS ATTRACTING FDI TO IRELAND

CIF Director of Specialist Contracting discusses the role that building innovation has played in attracting FDI to Ireland

35 LEAN THINKING IN IRISH CONSTRUCTION

How to start your company's Lean journey

MEMBER FOCUS

43 THE LOGICAL GROUP – BRINGING A FRESH APPROACH TO PROJECT DELIVERY

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

47 PENSIONS

Susan O'Mara outlines how to make the most of pension tax relief

49 WHAT THE NEW SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT ORDER MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

CIF Director of Industrial Relations and Manpower Services, Jean Winters outlines the key points of the new SEO

50 CIS UPDATE

Large-scale projects in the Construction pipeline

52 THE IMPORTANCE OF 'NEAR MISS' REPORTING

Collen Construction MD Tommy Drumm makes the case for 'Near Miss' reporting

54 CIF CONFERENCE 2017 PREVIEW

A guide to what will be happening at this year's CIF Conference

CORPORATE PARTNER FOCUS

57 CIS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS IN BUSINESS

SAFETY FEATURE

59 REFURBISHING DETERIORATED SCAFFOLDING

EVENTS

62 CIF AT HIGHER OPTIONS CAREERS EXHIBITION

63 CIF LEAN WORKSHOPS

Companies of all sizes adopting Lean Principles

INDUSTRY NEWS

65 NEWS OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE WIDER INDUSTRY

71 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Don't miss a thing

72 TRAINING

A look at the CIF training schedule



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CIF NEWS

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF THE IRISH FDI PROPOSITION

A message from CIF Director General, Tom Parlon

With the Budget, the CIF Annual Conference 2017, and Construction Safety Week all set to happen in the coming month, October will be another busy month for the CIF.

During September, a CIF delegation met with Minister for Finance & Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe TD to formally present the Federation's Pre-Budget Submission.

Amongst the recommendations made in the Pre-Budget submission, the CIF reiterated the negative impact the paucity of significant infrastructure projects in the near term is having on the industry and the economy. We outlined that initiating planning stages for major projects now would enable a quicker turnaround, which would be to the ultimate benefit of Ireland's rapidly growing population and economy.

We also highlighted the importance of establishing a National Infrastructure Commission with responsibility for analysing the long-term infrastructural needs of the Irish economy and society, which will depoliticise infrastructure policy. An analysis carried out by DKM Economic Consultants showed only €350m will be available for new construction of infrastructure up to 2019. The Government's Summer Economic Statement subsequently indicated that a further funding will come on stream in 2019, but this will be too late. All stakeholders now believe that the Government can invest more to the benefit of the economy and long-term job creation. Ireland is currently last of the EU27 in terms of this type of investment, spending less than 2% of GDP on infrastructure. We must increase the rate of investment to 4% of GDP over the period 2018-2021.

I believe Minister Donohoe has a firm grasp of the issues we're facing in the industry and the knock-on impacts on housing supply, homelessness, regional imbalances, social inequality and increasing house prices. Within the constraints met, the Minister has delivered a number of key initiatives such as the Help to Buy scheme and the local infrastructure fund



CIF Director General
Tom Parlon

to move housebuilding forward. In private residential, in Dublin mainly, we have seen these measures lead to an estimated 20% increase in output. It is not enough to meet demand, but it is a significant step. The trick now is to develop initiatives to increase output across the housing spectrum including social and affordable housing. We've confidence that Minister Donohoe is pragmatically approaching these issues.

Overcoming the economic and societal challenges that Ireland will face in the coming years will, to a significant degree, be dependent on our capability as an industry to deliver world-class infrastructure and housing stock.

The construction industry has taken the lead in showing public and private clients how new development can be delivered in a more efficient manner using modern building techniques and practices. Our ability to deliver is an essential element in our country's ability to attract Foreign Direct Investment from major global brands. The sector plays a crucial role in Irish society, the economy and the environment. It drives economic growth,

creates new jobs and provides solutions for social, climate and energy challenges.

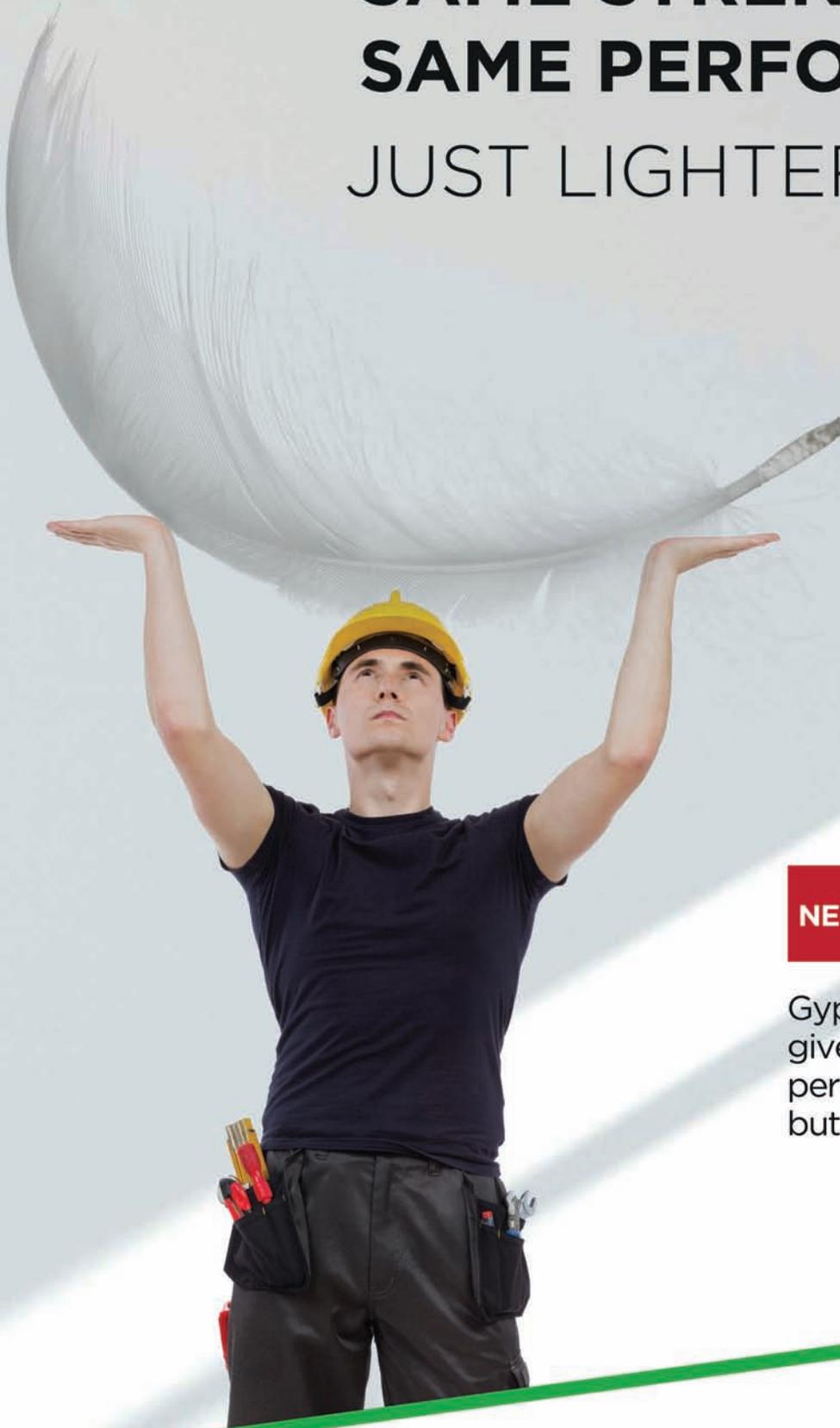
On 12 October, the CIF will host our Annual Conference at Croke Park. The theme of this year's conference is 'Realising the construction industry's potential to build Ireland's future'. The conference will look to the future of the industry, and explore the critical issues of how technological advances promise to enhance productivity and boost ROI. It will also look at innovative ways to prevent skills shortages. Over a year after the UK Brexit vote, the impact of the UK's departure from the EU is still not clear. Amongst other issues, the conference will address the immediate challenges Brexit presents for the Irish construction industry. Speakers will also look at ways in which Ireland can address the current housing and infrastructure deficits.

During 2016, there were nine fatalities and 592 reported accidents on Irish construction sites. While these figures are unacceptably high, they are a decrease in the 11 fatalities and 605 reported accidents in 2015. Employee safety and reducing workplace accidents are foremost for construction companies. In January of this year at a meeting of leading industry members, I asked construction firms to redouble their efforts to reduce accidents on site for 2017.

From 23 - 27 October, CIF will once again be coordinating our Construction Safety Week Campaign. Last year's Campaign was an enormous success with hundreds of sites across the country organising initiatives to spread the safety message. This year's Campaign is building up to be an even greater success. Construction Safety Week is an important vehicle to spread the safety message across and beyond the sector. It is important that all members embrace it and organise initiatives on their sites.

October promises to be a busy and interesting month for the industry. I hope to see you at the conference. **C**

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CIF DELEGATION MEETS FINANCE MINISTER FOR PRE-BUDGET TALKS

CIF Pre-Budget Submission calls for increase in infrastructure investment and access to funding for small builders to make construction sustainable



CIF Delegation arrives at Department of Finance to meet with Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform Paschal Donohoe

In its Pre-Budget 2018 Submission, the CIF has called on Government to increase investment in infrastructure and to establish a small builders fund to put the construction industry on a sustainable footing.

Putting these policies in place will enable regional builders to construct the essential housing and infrastructure required to deliver targets in the Government's jobs, regional development, housing and FDI strategies. It states that without these measures, economic activity will continue to be concentrated in Dublin, resulting in congestion in the capital and economic and social stagnation outside the greater Dublin area.

A delegation from CIF met with Finance Minister Paschal Donohoe and Minister for State in the Department of Finance Michael D'Arcy on 04 September to present the Submission.

Speaking after the meeting CIF Director General Tom Parlon said: "Minister Donohoe has a firm grasp of the issues we're facing in the industry and the knock-on impacts on housing supply, homelessness, regional imbalances, social inequality and increasing house prices. Within the constraints faced, the Minister has delivered a number of key initiatives such as the Help to Buy scheme and the local infrastructure

fund to move house building forwards. In private residential, in Dublin mainly, we have seen these measures lead to an estimated 20% increase in output. It's not enough to meet demand, but it's a significant step. The trick is now to develop initiatives to increase output across the housing spectrum including social and affordable. We've confidence that Minister Donohoe is pragmatically approaching these issues.

Amongst the recommendations made in the Pre-Budget Submission, the CIF highlights the paucity of significant infrastructure projects in the short term. The industry has stated that initiating planning stages for major projects now would enable a quicker turnaround to the benefit of Ireland's rapidly growing population and economy. This staged investment can be carried out within the limits of the fiscal space. The CIF has repeated its request that Government utilises measures available to increase the fiscal space such as the structural reform clause.

The CIF submission also calls on the Government to retain The Help to Buy (HTB) scheme, a significant contributor to the recent growth in residential construction

activity, and recommends that Government provide a fund for small builders who cannot access finance for viable construction projects.

CIF Director of Housing, Planning and Development, Hubert Fitzpatrick said, "CIF recognises that many small builders countrywide cannot access development finance facilities to build small schemes of new homes in their respective areas. Currently, available development funding models are focussed on larger sized schemes and are generally within the Greater Dublin and other metropolitan areas. There is a distinct absence of a development funding model for the smaller builder who wants to build small phases of a development in regional towns and villages where such schemes might now be viable.

"A small builders fund could be funded by the State through the Housing Agency. It should lend on commercial terms to the small builder who will deliver housing projects within a defined timescale. Lending of this nature must produce value for money to the State and at the same time, assist in resolving a crisis in development funding facilities for small builders."

The Federation also recommends that the commencement of planned contributions of €500m per annum to the 'Rainy Day Fund' in 2019 should be redirected to investment in infrastructure for the period to 2021. It is also calling for a review of construction costs, suggesting the use of Local Property Tax to replace Section 48 Development Levies and the introduction of a temporary VAT rate of nine percent for the provision, construction, renovation, and alteration of housing for a two-year period.

The CIF contends that the Government should amend the Seven-Year Capital Gains Tax Exemption, which encourages the retention of property with no incentive to develop the land purchased during the relevant period. It is also calling for the immediate restoration of a 100% tax deduction of the interest expense incurred on loans to acquire/develop residential property for rental purposes.

The CIF has presented its recommendations under five headings: Infrastructure; Housing, Taxation; Jobs Education and Training; and, Supports for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. **C**

The full submission can be read at www.cif.ie/reports-and-publications

INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICIT MAY UNDERMINE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

A new CIF report, prepared by DKM Consultants, highlights the challenges Ireland will face if the infrastructure deficit is not urgently addressed.

The CIF is calling for a radical overhaul of how infrastructure is delivered in Ireland. It warns that Ireland's historically low levels of investment in infrastructure threatens the country's economic recovery and could undermine growth in other sectors, such as technology, financial services, pharmaceutical, while also leading to social inequality arising from housing shortages and imbalanced regional development.

A new report entitled, *Enhancing Ireland's Infrastructure*, prepared by DKM Economic Consultants on behalf of the Federation, shows how Ireland's capacity to deliver infrastructure projects is negatively affected by political decision-making and proposes the establishment of a National Infrastructure Commission to support objective decision-making in Government in selecting projects.

"We need to invest more in infrastructure now to solve the housing crises, maintain FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) levels and reduce social inequality. The National infrastructure deficit may lead to systemic failures in Irish economy and society," says Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF.

"The infrastructure deficit has the potential to undermine the economic recovery," adds Tom. "So, firstly, significantly more investment in infrastructure is required. However, we must improve how we invest in infrastructure and how we evaluate projects and their benefits to all society. Infrastructure investment needs to be made with a 10 to 15-year time horizon in mind. We should build infrastructure for the next generation. However, our political system works against this type of long-term thinking. We're proposing that an infrastructure commission is established to take a long-term view, to critically evaluate projects and ultimately direct successive Governments' investment on infrastructure. We're asking Government to adopt approaches similar to those used by Canada, Australia and the UK where the delivery of critical infrastructure is less politicised, more cost-effective and ultimately more beneficial for society.



DKM Economic Consultants Director
Annette Hughes

"DKM's analysis shows that there is only €350m per year up to 2021 to invest in new infrastructure projects. While the figures quoted in the Public Capital Programme are vast, the proportion that is spent on new productive infrastructure, such as roads, rail, broadband, schools and hospitals, is reducing each year. DKM's estimates of the amount of additional funding available could be absorbed by just one of the critical strategic projects that need to be undertaken."

The basis of the report is that infrastructure is a vital component of a country's success and an important determinant of economic growth and competitiveness. Investment in high-quality infrastructure, which removes existing bottlenecks and adds to the productive potential of the economy, can boost productivity and reduce inefficiencies, while also supporting jobs and improving the quality of life for all residents.

DKM Economic Consultants Director Annette Hughes, who led the DKM team that wrote the report, says: "Ireland has the fastest growing economy in Europe, and yet spends the least amount on capital investment

(as a percentage of GDP) amongst all EU countries. Significantly more investment is required to meet the needs of Ireland's expanding population. There is at present a real opportunity to sustain and enhance the country's growth into the future.

"The establishment of an independent National Infrastructure Commission with responsibility for developing a long-term transparent National Infrastructure Plan, which would operate outside of the normal political cycle and assess projects on their merits, would go some way to meeting the needs of Ireland's future population. It would also result in greater confidence across all regions of the country as well as providing certainty to contractors about the future pipeline of projects, and would ultimately help drive economic growth for many years to come."

Based on the findings of the report, CIF is calling on the Government to:

- Ensure public capital projects are prioritised with reference to rigorous cost/benefit analyses
- Secure a relaxation on the fiscal constraints imposed by the EU,
- Use PPPs more effectively and securing other sources of finance such as the EIB,
- Improve the procurement processes to deliver better value for money for the state,
- Increase transparency of public sector infrastructure spending and upcoming projects.

The Federation would like to see the establishment of a national infrastructure commission, similar organisationally to the Irish Fiscal Advisory Council, whose role would be to advise on strategic infrastructure and improve delivery and prioritisation of projects, ensuring that every project undergoes a serious cost-benefit analysis. **C**

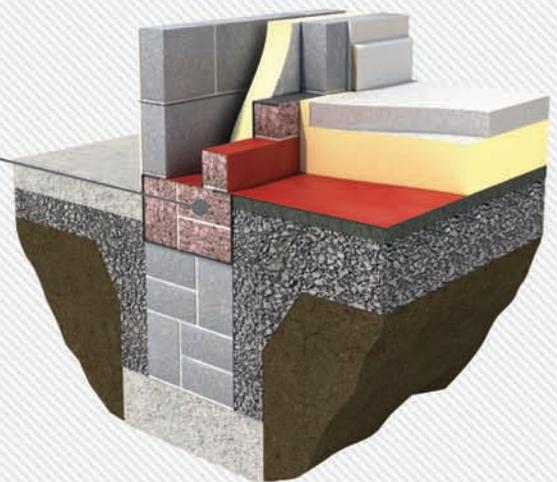
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**CONSTRUCTION
SAFETY WEEK**
23-27 October 2017

WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK?

Construction Safety Week 2017 is an opportunity to highlight the many advances made in on-site safety across Ireland. **ROBBIE COUSINS** suggests some ways in which your company can get behind this year's campaign

“In 2016, over 90,000 workers completed the Safe Pass training programme,” says CIF Director, Safety and Training, Dermot Carey. “This represents a €27m investment by construction firms in the safety of their workers. So far in 2017, over 60,000 workers have completed the programme. “To date, 300 construction firms

that have been awarded Safe-T-Cert Certification. This is 300 construction firms that have voluntarily opened their sites to be independently assessed by external examiners,” adds Dermot. “Construction is the only industry sector that invests so much in the health, safety and well-being of its workers. Construction Safety Week 2017 from 23

to 27 October presents an opportunity for Irish construction firms to show how we as a sector lead the way in achieving to and demanding the highest standards in on-site safety at all times.” The response to Construction Safety Week 2017 has been overwhelming and with many more companies registering their intention to participate than any previous



Dermot Carey,
CIF Director,
Safety and
Training

year. CIF is looking forward to highlighting activities that have been organised on sites across the country.

The message of this year's Campaign 'Many Roles – One Vision – Working Safely Together' underlines how essential it is for staff and workers at all levels to be acutely aware of best safety practice on site and in the office space.

Planned activities should also address individuals' health and general mental well-being. So, employers and employees should use the opportunity of Construction Safety Week to focus on their general health and safety outside of the workplace.

Not all activities need to be organised on sites. As the sector grows, office and administration staff are making up a larger proportion of the company team. Companies should consider organising in-office safety activities such as in-office First Aid or Manual Handling Training or refresher courses in the operation of office fire safety equipment.

YOUR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK PLAN

There are many ways in which your company can mark Construction Safety Week 2017. For example, organise an event such as a safety talk, invite a supplier in (Ladders/MEWPs/PPE, etc.) to give a talk on safety and their product and highlight safety and health during this week. There is a theme to each day – why not pick a topic associated with the theme of the day.

Whatever activity is organised, it should have 'buy in' at all levels in the organisation. Ideally, employees should be inspired and encouraged to work together in small teams before Construction Safety Week to come up with ideas and plan activities. A significant contributor to the success of any initiative is the inclusion of an innovative main event, which will spark thought, imagination and interest.

Don't worry if you have not registered or planned your Construction Safety Week events yet there is still plenty of time to get involved.

For more details or to register your participation visit www.cif.ie/safety-week

GET INVOLVED

Ten things you can do to mark Construction Safety Week 2017

1. Stand Down for Safety, Monday 12PM, 23 October 2017

CIF is calling on all companies to 'Stand Down for Safety' for one minute on Monday 23 October at 12PM. Please take a photo of the moment and share on your social media platforms using #standdownforsafety and #CIFsafety17

2. Organise on-site health screening

Book a Construction Workers Health Trust (CWHT) nurse to come to your site and carry out health screenings on your workers. A 45-minute health screening includes the measuring of Body Mass Index, blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes and lung function, as well as advice about diet and lifestyle. The nurse will set up in an onsite office and conduct health screenings free of charge. But, you will need to book soon, as availability is limited. Phone CWHT on 01-7093070 for more details

3. Site and task specific safety training

Get specialist sub-contractors/suppliers to deliver task-specific training refresher sessions on such topics as Manual Handling, Work at Height Awareness Training, etc.

4. Daily Toolbox Talk on the Theme of the Day

Brief workers at the start of the day on the Daily Construction Safety Week Theme. You can access a range of videos on the Construction Industry Federation website www.cif.ie to facilitate these talks.

5. Engage an expert speaker to come to site

Have an expert speaker make a presentation on some aspect of general physical health or positive mental wellbeing. Last year a number of organisations such as Pieta House, Aware, St Francis Hospice provided speakers to address workers. For more details contact Pieta House (01) 6219374. St Francis Hospice (01) 8327535/8294000

6. Organise a safety quiz

A quiz with prizes, based on site safety, will add an element of entertainment to your Construction Safety Week plan.

7. Run an on-site safety slogan competition

Place a safety slogan suggestion box and posters on-site. Get employee families involved by encouraging them to seek entries at home. At the end of the week, give prizes for the best entries from employees with a special prize for the best family member entries.

8. Carry out a safety audit that involves workers

Carry out a safety audit and organise for the site supervisor to work through the audit findings with workers on-site.

9. Display CIF Construction Safety Week posters prominently around your site

CIF can provide your sites with a Construction Safety Week Resource Pack including posters and leaflets. Visit the CIF website at www.cif.ie/safety-week to order your pack.

10. Share your Construction Safety Week activities on Social Media

Using #CIFsafety17 share your activities on company's social media platforms and encourage everyone on site to promote your Construction Safety Week activities. CIF will highlight the "Best of the Week" on its platforms, and Construction magazine will feature many of these in a follow-up Construction Safety Week 2017 feature.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK 2017 – MISSION

Our collective mission for Construction Safety Week 2017 is to partner together to;

- Reduce accidents on construction sites in Ireland
- Increase awareness of the importance of being committed to safety & health...every day
- Inspire all of us to share best practices and to work together to strengthen our industry's safety culture
- Celebrate safety achievements to date

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK DAILY THEMES

Monday 23 October:

Safety at Heights

Tuesday 24 October:

Plant & Machinery

Wednesday 25 October:

Occupational Health – Dust

Thursday 26 October:

Mental Health

Friday 27 October:

Driving for Work

HOW TO REGISTER FOR CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK ONLINE

Go online to cif.ie/safety-week, register your company's intention to participate in Construction Safety Week and give a brief outline of your plans. CIF will publicise your plans on its website and social media platforms. You can also download a copy of the Safety Week logo and use it on your website and your email signatures. CIF also has a specific 'Partner Logo' which you will receive when registering as an official partner to Construction Safety Week, contact mcourtney@cif.ie to become a partner. You can upload your logo when completing the online form and CIF will include it on the partner section of its website.

CONSTRUCTION MUST ATTRACT MORE WOMEN TO SOLVE HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE CRISES

CIF #BuildingEquality event hears greater diversity will result in better decision-making and improved turnover.



Dr Michelle Cullen, (MD, Accenture) addresses the #Building Equality Event.



(L to r): Anne Dooley (MD, Winthrop); Tom Parlon (Director General, CIF) and Tara Flynn (Director, Paul Flynn Construction).



(L to r): Dominic Doheny (President, CIF); Defence Forces Chief-of-Staff, Vice Admiral, Mark Mellett, Tom Parlon (Director General, CIF).

The Construction Industry Federation welcomed over 100 people to its Women in Construction Network on Tuesday 26 September.

The event entitled #BuildingEquality saw the launch of the CIF's Women in Construction Network. The objective of the network is to increase the number of women working in the construction industry.

The event heard that women accounted for about eight percent of the Irish construction industry's workforce.

"We have many women working in senior positions across construction, said CIF Director, Industrial Relations, Jean Winters. "Through our network, we are aiming to harness the skills and commitment of this cohort to increase overall the numbers of women working at all levels in the industry. With so many women in key roles in construction, I believe we can really bring about a positive change in this industry. Increasing diversity and gender equality is not just the right thing to do; in our industry, we face significant skills shortages in light of the huge amount of construction activity



(L to r): Dr Clare Glanville (Associate Director, Aecom); Rachael Stewart (Director, Stewart Construction); Nellie Reid (MD, Meehan Green); Tiffany Quinn (Director, Mac-Group), Sinead Savage (Head of Business Development, Colten Construction).



(L to r): Marci Bonham (MD, Hilti); Georgina Molloy (Scaffold Design Ireland); and Sarah Farrell (Stewart Construction).



(L to r): Sarah McDonnell (Uni Space) and Shauna Fitzpatrick (Uni Space)



(L to r): Speakers at the #BuildingEquality Event. Jean Winters CIF Director, Industrial Relations; Anne Dooley, Managing Director, Winthrop; Dr Michelle Cullen, Managing Director, Accenture; Defence Forces Chief-of-Staff, Vice Admiral, Mark Mellett; and Nikki Gallagher, Director of Communications & Secretariat, SOLAS.

in the pipeline and recruiting more women into the industry is critical. As our industry recovers and evolves, we are increasingly competing with other sectors for talented young people who are concerned about equality and diversity.”

Other speakers at the event included Dr Michelle Cullen, Managing Director and Head of Diversity & Inclusion-Ireland, Accenture; Defence Forces Chief-of-Staff, Vice Admiral, Mark Mellett; Anne Dooley, Managing Director, Winthrop; Nikki Gallagher, Director of Communications & Secretariat, Solas; and Dominic Doheny, CIF President.

Dominic Doheny said: “Increasing the number of women in construction is a key objective of the CIF from this point on. This network will focus on removing barriers to women building careers in construction. It won’t be easy but with the group of industry leaders we have gathered around this issue and the commitment of the CIF, we will make a difference. The network will be tasked with identifying key barriers to equality and developing a strategy to address these also. I believe that from the youngest age, young girls are dissuaded from even considering working in construction and engineering. By the time, these young girls have grown up they have been consciously and unconsciously barred from our industry. We, as an industry, need to address this. We also need to work more closely with the education system to ensure female students know that they are welcome in our industry and that they can build fantastic and fulfilling careers here.” **C**



Membership Application Form



Please Complete Form in BLOCK CAPITALS

Company Name: Company Registration Number (if applicable):

Company Address:

Office Phone Number:

E-Mail Address:

Web Site Address:

Names of Directors/Proprietors:

Have any Directors of this company ever been a Director of a CIF member company? Yes No

Name of Primary Contact*: (*must be one of those named above) Primary Contact Position:

Primary Contact Mobile No.: Primary Contact Email:

Additional Email Contacts for information on specific areas e.g. Safety, Training, Industrial Relations etc.

Primary Business of Company: Company Status: (Company/Partnership/Sole Trader)

Year Company Established: PAYE No.: VAT No.: EL/PL Insurance Policy No.:

Total Number of Employees: Number of Site Based Employees:

List details of at least 3 recent projects carried out:

	Client	Value	Date Completed
1.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Is the Company a member of CIRI*: Yes No Pending CIRI Reg No.:

*Construction Industry Register Ireland – See www.ciri.ie

Is the Company registered with the CWPS*: Yes No

*Construction Workers Pension Scheme – See www.cwps.ie

If no, does it provide a pension scheme or PRSA facility for its employees: Yes No

This Company applies to become a CIF Member

Signed Date

Please return completed form to: Membership Dept., CIF, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6 or email to membership@cif.ie
 Queries: Contact 01 406 6017 or email membership@cif.ie

visit www.cif.ie



NEW MEMBERS

The Construction Industry Federation welcomes the following new members who, having met all the necessary criteria, have been approved for membership by the CIF Executive Body.

Alpha Mechanical Services Ltd
Unit 8 Willsborough Business Centre
Willsborough Industrial Estate
Clonshaugh
Dublin 17

EPM Ltd
Unit 3 JFK House
John F Kennedy Road
Bluebell
Dublin 12

LMC Energy Solution Ltd
5 The Courtyard
Kilcarbery Park
Nangor Road
Clondalkin
Dublin 22

Newline Homes Ltd
24/26 City Quay
Dublin 2

Paul Mulligan Construction Ltd
81 Donore Avenue
South Circular Road
Dublin 8

Rochmont Developments Ltd
3rd Floor
The Boathouse
Bishop Street
Dublin 8

B McCormack Construction Ltd
Caherlissakill
Monivea
County Galway

Coshla Quarries Ltd
Cashla
Athenry
County Galway

Paraic Allen Construction
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Tokio Marine HCC - International Group is a trading name of HCC International Insurance Company plc, which is a member of the Tokio Marine HCC Group of Companies. HCC International Insurance Company plc is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority and is also regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland for conduct of business rules. Registered in England and Wales No. 01575839 with registered office at 1 Aldgate, London, EC3N 1RE. The Irish Branch is registered in Ireland No.902629 with registered office at Summit House, Embassy Office Park, Kill, County Kildare.

A member of Tokio Marine Group of Companies

CONSTRUCTION'S CRITICAL ROLE IN SECURING FDI

The construction sector's record of delivering complex, large-scale developments is a key determinant in the decision of global brands to set up operations in this country.

BARRY McCALL looks at the central role contractors play in attracting FDI to Ireland.



Facebook's
European
Headquarters,
Grand Canal
Dock, Dublin

Whenever Ireland's much-vaunted attractiveness for foreign direct investment (FDI) is discussed, it is often factors such as our skilled labour-force, corporation tax regime, and flexible, enterprise-friendly culture that tend to be put forward as important components. One crucial element that is often left out of the conversation is the construction sector's ability to deliver. The full story may not be getting told because of requirements by clients for nondisclosure on projects. But a major change in corporate culture and work

practices in the construction sector over the past 10 years has meant that Irish contractors now deliver large-scale complex projects in Ireland. The expertise and competence that has been gained in Ireland from FDI projects are now benefitting an Irish construction sector that is increasingly winning projects overseas.

IDA IRELAND VIEW

The capability of the Construction sector when it comes to meeting the needs of FDI clients is critically important.

"The Construction sector is centrally

important from our perspective as every client needs a property solution", says Mary Buckley, Executive Director, IDA Ireland. "It is an essential component of investment decisions and is a critical part of our offer to clients. Ireland has always delivered high-quality property solutions."

That capability is manifest in buildings such as US company Tyco's global headquarters on Cork's Albert Quay. Labelled Ireland's smartest building on its opening in 2016, it represented another triumph for Ireland's world-class design and construction sector. The €60m building features a range of cutting-edge



CIF Specialist Contracting Director, Sean Downey



IDA Executive Director Mary Buckley



Enterprise Ireland Head of Construction, Stephen Hughes

systems including fire safety monitoring, security, asset tracking, energy efficiency, automated comfort control, elevator operations, lighting systems and even smart parking for employees and visitors.

Add to this the fact that Ireland has been chosen as the location for some of the world's most advanced data centres by companies such as Microsoft, PayPal, and Facebook, world-class biopharma facilities by BMS, Regeneron and Pfizer, and the most advanced manufacturing facilities by companies such as Intel and Analog Devices, offers further proof, should any be needed, that the construction sector in Ireland is equal to, if not better than, the very best in the world.

ENTERPRISE IRELAND VIEW

This is also a reflection of the ability of the industry to evolve and grow in capability along with the needs of its international clients. Indeed, it is only a few decades ago that many Irish construction firms would have sought out international partners when undertaking major infrastructural and industrial projects. This is no longer the case, and international partnerships are very much a matter of strategic choice rather than a practical necessity today. A significant portion of this progress can be attributed to close working relationships developed by the industry with US

multinationals over the period.

What this reflects is a quite remarkable capacity to learn, adapt and evolve on the part of the Irish construction sector. Stephen Hughes, Enterprise Ireland's Head of Construction believes those qualities were exemplified both in the industry's response to the economic downturn and in its continuing success in servicing the needs of international clients.

"The whole dynamic of the sector was impacted by the crash," Stephen explains. "It affected the entire industry and the supply chain – in the products and services area. Overnight the dynamics changed, and many firms didn't survive. Those that did manage to survive were left with no option but to internationalise. The collapse in the domestic market forced Irish contractors to look overseas."

Timing was on their side to a certain extent with the UK, and the London area in particular, quite active in construction terms at the time. "They were lucky enough at that point as the UK had started to build again and there were major projects like the London Olympics starting off. Irish construction firms were able to win a number of contracts to supply the Olympics and related infrastructure. This enabled them to get a foothold in the UK market."

But FDI remained strong at home. "One part of the domestic market that didn't feel the downturn was the whole FDI sector", Stephen says. "For us, two main areas were very important: Biopharma and Medtech. Both were vibrant in terms of development activity. Also, data centre development was starting to gain a lot of momentum at the time. Some construction companies saw and took the opportunity to win business overseas, as a result of working on contracts in Ireland. Today, FDI companies are looking at global supply chains, and Irish companies have to be right at the top of the game to work for them."

CIF VIEW

Sean Downey, CIF Director, Specialist Contracting agrees. "We are a very flexible country", he says. "During the downturn, a lot of people went across the water, saw new ways of doing things and brought them back home with them. When Irish people see a better way of doing things they adopt it. We are very flexible; it's the type of people we are. The biggest achievement for many firms during the downturn was survival. They kept their core teams and were very strategic in their approach. That's paying dividends now."

SURVIVAL INSTINCT

This survival instinct has translated into





Some of the world's most innovative brands have invested in Ireland
(Image courtesy of IDA Ireland)

a strong international reputation as well, according to Mary Buckley.

"The Irish construction sector is very highly regarded internationally", Mary comments. "When you think about many of the contracts they win here, these are substantial and in many cases world leading, extremely complex projects. There is a lot of capability here when it comes to constructing large high-tech buildings, and the contractors have organised themselves around these various competencies. And it's not only in manufacturing buildings in sectors like Life Sciences, Technology and Engineering. We also see it right across the board in offices. For global business services, our clients require sustainable and energy efficient solutions and much smarter buildings."

PROACTIVE APPROACH TO PROJECTS

The success of the Irish construction sector in servicing FDI clients can often remain unnoticed due to the nature of the way those companies operate, according to Sean Downey.

"In my experience of dealing with FDI clients through Lean Construction Ireland", Sean explains, "there are a number of factors that FDI companies take into account when deciding to locate in a country. High among these is the capacity of the Construction sector in a country to meet their needs. For many, what stands out about the Irish construction industry is its can-do attitude. It's a cultural thing. But we don't tend to hear about this because most contractors have to sign non-disclosure agreements with their multinational clients. So, they can't speak publicly about their work with them. They are operating under the radar, but they are working on some enormously complex projects. There is a lot of really great work going on."

Sean says that FDI companies compare jurisdictions and Irish construction companies

perform very well compared to their counterparts in Europe and Asia.

"Irish contractors have a very proactive approach to projects", he explains. "They are not prepared to just stand back. The client expects construction service providers to give them the benefit of their experience and they get that in Ireland."

"The proactive approach of Irish firms is a significant factor. They are not just another part of the supply chain. They are very much part of the creative process. Some projects are very process-led and very technical, and Irish firms can do that too."

Sean believes a strong Irish supply chain also helps. "We have a robust supply chain here across the whole industry including process engineering, M&E, and so on and the industry has built up an excellent skillset. There is a progressive approach to delivering projects with the industry adopting Lean techniques. Irish engineers have a great capacity for fulfilling complex project needs. Stability is also very important. We have a good industrial relations environment here with the Workplace Relations Commission and the Labour Court playing a critical role. Our robust Industrial Relations framework has paid dividends over the past 10 years. Clients value the certainty and stability that they may not get in other jurisdictions."

He says the most important thing for the industry to do is stay abreast of advances. "Contractors need to adopt new technologies such as BIM. Irish contractors have shown themselves adept at adopting new technologies and have invested hugely in upskilling over the years. FDI firms have benefited from that."

SOLID LEADERSHIP

Enterprise Ireland's Stephen Hughes agrees.

"We have outstanding companies here and solid leadership. This leadership plays an important role. I would be concerned that not enough companies are prioritising technologies like BIM as high up as they should be. BIM will become the norm in future, and we want to make sure the sector is not caught on the hop by things like that. One very positive aspect is that many of our companies have very strong management teams and that makes them very resilient. It is critical to their growth and further internationalisation. A lot of them internationalised by reputation gained here as a result of working with FDI companies. That has led to us having an exceptionally high cohort of construction companies specialising in the Pharma and other high-tech sectors."

TECH SECTOR VIEW

These high-tech areas include data centres. Garry Connolly of Host In Ireland, an organisation dedicated to the growth of the data centre sector in Ireland, believes that the construction sector has the skills and capability required for its needs.

"Irish construction companies have long experience in designing, building and operating data centres", he says. "They have been designing, building and operating them since the first wave of data centres in the late 1990s. They have been doing it for 20 years here, and it has been one of the stepping stones to their international success."

"Data centres are a core ingredient for FDI", he continues. "Irish construction companies have developed a strong capability in this area, and that has been important in attracting companies such as Facebook. Irish companies have benefited as well, as they are now picking up data centre contracts outside Ireland."

NO TIME FOR COMPLACENCY

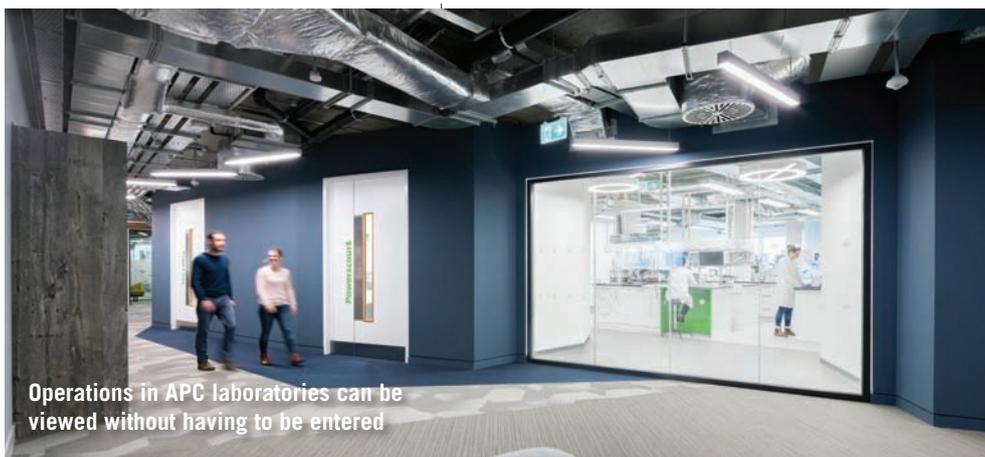
In closing, although much has been achieved, there is a call for caution in how the future of FDI in Ireland is approached.

"We should not allow ourselves to become complacent", comments Mary Buckley. "Our competitiveness has to be borne in mind by the sector. Our clients want property at the right price, right quality, delivered on budget and on time as they benchmark cost and other criteria across the world."

"Property is a vital part of our attraction. We saw that during the downturn when we saw how attractive our property became. It's an essential element of the mix when a company is looking for a new location or expanding. The industry also needs to be innovating in all areas to meet demands of FDI, both now and into the future. That's what our clients require," she concludes. **C**

BIM FACILITATES FAST-TRACK DELIVERY OF LABORATORY FACILITY

Clancy Construction Contracts Manager **IAN MORRISSEY** tells Robbie Cousins about how modern construction technologies and practices enabled the fast track delivery of APC Ltd's laboratory research facilities and offices.



Operations in APC laboratories can be viewed without having to be entered



Phase Three amphitheatre spans between and links Phase One and Two of the project

Clancy carried out the fast-track fit-out of the new state of the art research laboratories and offices in Cherrywood, Co Dublin for APC Ltd over three phases that involved a total of 17 months on site across two years. The success of the project can be attributed to the integrated project approach taken by the project management team and buy-in to Lean practices

and BIM technology by all workers and sub-contractors on site.

“How successful project teams work together and large-scale projects are delivered in Ireland has changed dramatically in the past few years as a result of Lean practices and BIM technologies,” says Clancy Construction Contracts Manager Ian Morrissey. “Once someone at any level on-site understands and begins to use the practices

and technologies, it is difficult for them to revert to traditional project delivery methods.”

The APC Ltd laboratories and offices project is one of a growing number of examples of how modern building technologies and processes being adopted and practised by Irish contractors are improving the efficiency of project delivery in this country.

The client, APC Ltd – established in 2011 – has grown in just a few years to become a major global pharmaceutical and biotech process research company that is assisting clients across the world to accelerate the development and launch of new medicines.

Phase One of the premises in Cherrywood's Science and Technology Park was handed over to the client as a third-floor shell by landlord Dun Laoghaire County Council. APC has been growing at an immense rate in the past few years. So much so that the design and build of its new facilities and offices were carried out in three separate phases, so their growing requirements could be worked into the plans.

APC's brief called for an open building that comprises separate but interconnected laboratories and office spaces. APC, who have clients regularly on-site, wanted a facility with labs whose operations can be viewed without having to be entered, and for large open workspaces, where staff can easily interact, but can also work on an individual basis.

ON SITE

The work was carried out in three separate phases between 2015 and 2017.

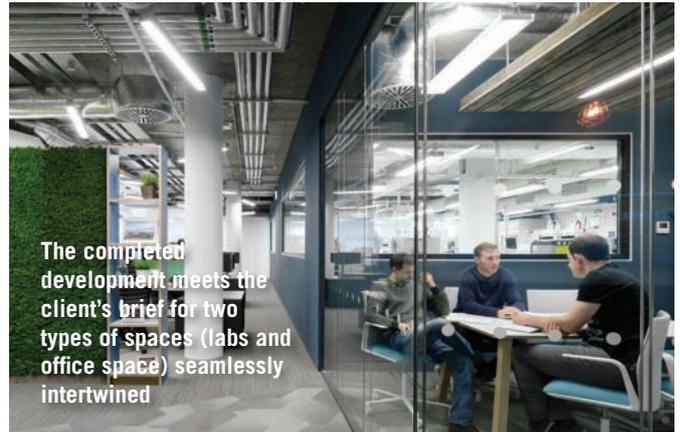
Phase One: A third-floor Containment Laboratory, Large Molecule Laboratory, Small Molecule Laboratory, 60-person open plan office, ten meeting rooms, entrance hall and building services rooms (Six months).

Phase Two: Completion of the third-floor fit-out included a Microbial laboratory and Analytics lab, 30-person office, canteen, staff recreation areas and four meeting rooms (five months).

Phase Three: Containment laboratory, four meeting rooms, a 70-person office space, file storage room, freezer/ cold room and infill construction of a feature two-storey central amphitheatre 'Town Hall' Area linking Phase One and Two structures (Six months).

Transferring RKD Architects' design from screen to realisation required much planning, coordination, cooperation and BIM buy-in from everyone that was on site.

"From the start, each member of the project team treated the project as a partnership. We all installed a management team that could make decisions quickly, and progress meetings were held



more regularly than would be the case on more traditional projects," Ian explains

"T5's Mechanical & Electrical design was developed into a 3D BIM model. Everyone on the project team and on-site was able to see their work set out clearly and how this fitted in with the rest of the building's operation. If any changes needed to be made to the design, everyone could see in real-time how this would affect the overall project.

"How we used BIM was a major contributor to the success of the project. For instance, if we were discussing a particular element of a project with a tradesperson, such as how a door or ducting worked, they could see how it worked and impacted on the overall scheme of the project and how other elements interacted with it. It was a picture that painted a thousand words."

He continues: "Phase One was the learning curve. All teams got practised in and enthusiastically adopted the technology. Communicating through BIM became the norm for everyone, and by the end of Phase One you could see the shared enthusiasm and the greater efficiency with which everyone one was operating."

BIM applications can also speed up the snagging process. "As the project progressed, if an issue was spotted on site, we could photograph the item, attach a reference and it would be automatically emailed to the relevant sub-contractor for addressing. This meant remedial action could be taken quickly as the project progressed, and the sub-contractor was happy because they could finish their work quicker."

By the time Phase Two was on site, the client had moved into Phase One. Through planning and efficient operations, the construction work had minimal impact on the client's operations, and any significant operations could be scheduled for times when they had zero or minimal impact.

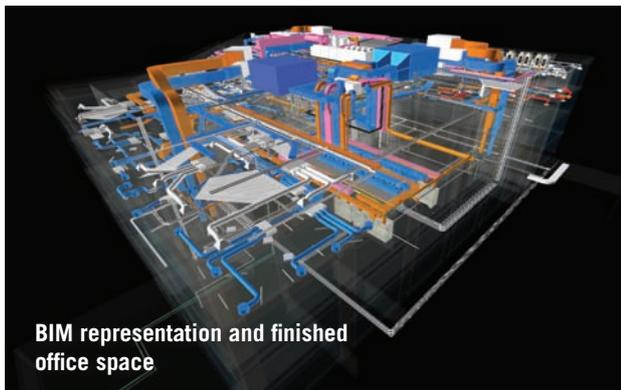
Phase Three, which has just been completed, comprises an infill amphitheatre that spans between and links Phase One and Two. Called "The Townhall", this auditorium is lined by glass walls and feature floating beech staircases.

OUTCOMES

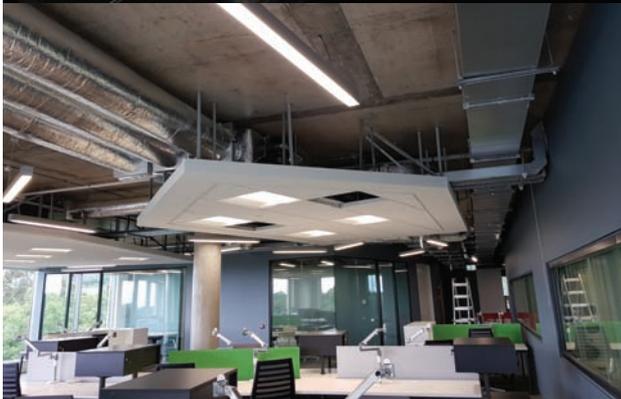
The completed development meets the client's brief for two types of spaces (labs and office space) seamlessly intertwined across different levels to appear as one, but at the same time operating separately. The spaces are filled with wall graphics in colours and styles that match APC's branding.

The office area is open plan with meeting rooms, collaboration space, individual office areas, private work areas, team areas, changing area, locker rooms and storage areas.

Throughout the building, features include exposed services, moss walls and reclaimed wooden ceiling, labs enclosed with seamless glazed screens, meeting pods. Corridors feature "Touchdown" areas, where colleagues can break off into a small alcove area fitted with benches and Corian worktops. **C**



BIM representation and finished office space



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HOW TECHNOLOGY IS TRANSFORMING CONSTRUCTION

New technology and working practices are transforming the delivery of our built environment globally. **CAROL TALLON** meets the professionals leading Ireland's construction revolution.

IN DESIGN

JOSEPH MADY, DESIGNER GROUP

Joseph Mady is Virtual Design & Construction (VDC) Lead at Designer Group and a member of CIF Lean Construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Innovation and Continuous Improvement sub-Committee. He is also a member of the NSAI Technical Committee on Building Information Modelling.

Joseph says that on a recent Designer Group project for Bristol Myers, BIM played an essential role in the completion of the electrical installation.

"At the peak of the LOC Building in Blanchardstown for Bristol Myers," Joseph says, "we had of over 200 staff on site. We successfully utilised BIM processes and standards. We developed, managed and coordinated the BIM model using BIM software. This project had great buy-in from the site team. The supervisors of each floor utilised Navisworks with



Joseph Mady, Designer Group

a model updated daily; they utilised tablets to review drawings/raise RFI's (Request for Information) and used a paperless workflow to create the As-Built information onsite. We had a full BIM deliverable on the project as the client valued the use of the technology, the added benefits and rewards to them and

their management of the building from the pre-construction and right through the whole life cycle of the building."

Speaking about future innovations, Joe says, "Designer Group will shortly unveil the first electronic visualisation lab (EVL) in the UK and Ireland. This area consists of a bespoke constructed wall, high-end projection system, VR station and touch-screen TV. The area is user-friendly, having been tested over the past number of weeks to prepare for the official opening. Designer Group staff are consistently utilising the area and technology within it over the standard meeting rooms. We are using the Lab to conduct meetings internally and with external consultants, as they find it easier to experience the design, share information and resolve issues within a collaborative environment."

According to Joseph, "Lean principles are important in every aspect of our organisation and can be implemented at the lowest level, regardless of technology. While BIM and Lean Construction are not dependent on each other, there are synergies." **C**



BIM model for a Designer Group project



BIM model for a Designer Group project

IN ENGINEERING



BIM modeller at Mercury's "BIM Hub" in Newbridge



Cleanroom at Mercury's off-site fabrication facility in Newbridge.

SEAN DOWD, MERCURY ENGINEERING

Sean Dowd, Head of BIM at Mercury Engineering, delivers for a portfolio of large multi-national/FDI clients across the ICT, Data Centre and Pharma sectors including Microsoft, Facebook, Intel, Bristol Myers Squibs, Alexion, and LinkedIn.

"Mercury is taking advantage of BIM, field technology and cloud-based collaboration software to help drive project delivery in shorter durations," says Sean. "We use BIM to deliver clash-free models that feed our off-site fabrication of modular construction and/or spooled piping systems for a Lean installation on site. Our field technology and QRC solutions allow us to track progress throughout the life cycle from take-off, fabrication, delivery install to testing and inspection. Our cloud-based Mercury Share platform solutions allow us to share 'The Mercury Way' with our project standard operating procedures (SOP's) across 1,000 construction staff in 10 countries. Deploying Autodesk 360 cloud solutions enables us to collaborate and share models with project stakeholders.

"At the turn of the decade, Mercury set out a long-term BIM strategy based on three core tenets: Technical Competency, Standardisation and Innovation. Mercury has delivered €2bn worth of construction projects through BIM so far this decade. We have benefited from increased experience of delivering large projects in the UK where BIM adoption has been gaining significant momentum since the early 2000's, with the UK Government's Construction strategy mandating BIM on government projects since 2016."

Similar legislation is expected in Ireland, and the industry will need to solve the key challenges of sufficient digital asset information early in the project, ensuring BIM costs translate to savings across the supply chain while also cross skilling BIM designers and construction field personnel in new means and methods. **C**



Joe Murphy, Suir Engineering



3D BIM models allow clients to visualise the end result

JOE MURPHY, SUIR ENGINEERING

Joe Murphy, Design Manager at Suir Engineering, has another viewpoint on BIM: "Interestingly, the best way to see the value of BIM is in retrospect. An interesting perspective can be had by first managing a project with virtual construction and then managing the next phase without it. The reaction is always the same. Think of the feeling you get when you leave your phone at home by accident, or when the power goes out during some bad weather. Things can still get done, but tasks are less safe, take longer, cost more, and there will inevitably be an atmosphere of frustration as everybody knows there's a better way – one might say; questioning the costs of BIM is no different than questioning the cost of site lighting."

Over the past five years, Suir has pioneered and innovated in virtual construction by fully engaging in BIM as a project management process. What started out as one FDI client and their metaphorical burning platform, has now turned into the norm. The company is actively working on BIM projects for Intel, BMS, Alexion and West Pharma as well as Government and commercial clients. The company has also exported its BIM services to its parent company in the UK.

"Five years ago, it was innovative to coordinate geometry. We now innovate as our clients innovate. As their requirements evolve to build twice as quick, twice as dense, we bring to the table solutions to their requirements. We work closely with our clients to build libraries of components that are data-rich from design to facility maintenance. Currently, we are working on the parametric integration of design into BIM. What this will mean is that as a design is changed, models will automatically change. It's a simple idea but will result in serious gains. Survey points have moved to laser scans, which allow you to route within an As-Built environment. This is now the norm. The next norm will be virtual reality and augmented reality." **C**



IN CONSTRUCTION

CILLIAN KELLY, SISK

Cillian Kelly, BIM Leader at Sisk is currently working on a significant data centre campus project in Dublin and on two pharmaceutical projects in Cork. He recently managed the company through BRE BIM Level 2 accreditation, which means Sisk now has the processes and support in place to deliver to PAS 1192-2 & BS 1192 standard.



Cillian Kelly, Sisk

“Sisk’s extensive experience in BIM ensures that through our processes we deliver improved construction co-ordination bringing programme and cost efficiencies,” explains Cillian. “This enables us to validate designs and quickly identify and solve problems when they occur. Utilising the latest BIM technology supports the implementation of a Lean Construction approach. Working with our supply chain to reduce waste, making our environment safer and enhancing quality on site. Improvements have been achieved in planning, communication, clash detection, laser scanning and prefabrication. The use of BIM is encouraged through an extensive training programme for all our people, which is part of our commitment to them to ensure they have the key skills to deliver to our clients.

“We had a focused strategy to be Level 2 certified by 2016, ahead of the British government’s 2016 target to achieve Level 2 BIM capability on all central government infrastructure projects. We are delighted to have achieved this. This further enhances our reputation for continuous improvement in our operational processes with our zero accidents and zero defects philosophy.

Cillian also takes a lead role in industry adoption of Lean Construction. He is the current Vice-Chair on the CIF Lean Construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Innovation and Continuous Improvement Committee and plays an active role in the working group which has developed documentation to raise awareness and give guidance to contractors across the industry. **C**



On-site Sisk BIM station



Multinational data centre campus currently on-site for John Sisk & Son utilising an industry-leading BIM process



Paul Brennan, BAM Ireland

BIM & LEAN

PAUL BRENNAN, BAM IRELAND

Paul Brennan is the Technical Department Manager at BAM Ireland and a Board Director with the Construction IT Alliance (CitA).

BAM is involved in a number of substantial FDI projects for some of the world’s largest multi-national clients operating in Ireland.

“When the financial crisis hit our industry in 2007, and the Irish economy went into free-fall, BAM made a strategic decision to invest in technology and innovation as a way of remaining competitive within the Irish based market and allowing our project delivery teams ‘to do more with less’.

“As BAM is an international business, the Ireland division was in a position to work on a number of joint venture projects with sister companies across Europe, the Middle East and further afield. However, we could not directly compete for work in Europe, as many of our domestic competitors had done. So, we had to be even more innovative in Ireland. Strategic investment in technology and people gave us that edge that we required to maintain our services during the economic downturn.”

When asked about the continuing importance of Lean principles as technology advances, Paul explains, “many of the building blocks associated with Lean Construction can be delivered using BIM processes, standards and technology. If you can leverage the principles of BIM, you are therefore delivering a Lean way of working. Trying to get ‘BIM people’ and ‘Lean people’ together to work as one group in our industry is essential. Everybody wants value. You need to be efficient. You need to do more with less, cut waste, and deliver risk-free projects. To do this, you need Lean, BIM and digital processes.

“Unfortunately, many people are inclined to discuss Lean Construction on its own rather than converse on the synergies offered by Lean and BIM combined. I believe we will get there in the end; people will adopt both as the demand for greater value intensifies.

“If you don’t change, if you don’t innovate, if you don’t join the digital revolution you will become irrelevant.” **C**

BIM & LEAN

RACHAEL STEWART, STEWART CONSTRUCTION

Rachael Stewart, Director of Stewart Construction, says the key to success in any BIM project is a collaborative effort by all team members.

“Information data must flow freely, but in a structured way between all of the BIM project team members to obtain maximum advantage from the interoperability of the various digital processes, explains Rachael. “The project owner plays a central role in leading the discussion and decision-making process when it comes to applying BIM to the project.”

Stewart Construction is currently working on a number of high-profile FDI projects across Ireland.

“The Irish construction industry is extremely dynamic and has the capability of being able to translate FDI’s needs into facilities that are fit for project, fit for client and allow FDI companies to deliver on their vision and offer cost-effective yet flexible solutions to allow for growth.”

Referring to the continuing importance of Lean Construction thinking in the digitisation of the industry, Rachael says, “It goes beyond the cost benefits of process efficiencies and waste elimination, to the human benefits of increased safety on-site. An overall focus of Stewart Construction is to reduce and prevent safety mishaps. The refreshing and introduction of new safety protocols is a key continuous process. In comparison to industry average of 4.6 accidents and incidents rate, Stewart Construction’s rate is 0.09. This is a prime example of how Stewart Construction is gaining and achieving results when it comes to Lean.” **C**



Rachael Stewart,
Stewart Construction



APC Laboratories

BRIAN CASS, CLANCY CONSTRUCTION

Brian Cass, BIM Champion and Coordinator for Clancy Construction says the company has recently been working with clients on two major projects; APC in Cherrywood and Facebook in Clonee, County Meath where Lean and BIM have had an immense impact.

“We class ourselves as an innovative company,” says Brian. Clancy Construction has had many technology-based innovations in the past few years.

In a competitive market, you need to be different to get a competitive advantage. You can only maintain a competitive advantage for a short timeframe, and thus Clancy is continuously looking at new and innovative areas to maintain this. Construction can be a very complex journey from initiation to the operational phase. In a competitive market, you need to be different to get a competitive advantage. Therefore, those who implement BIM and manage it well will always see benefits. The key word being ‘manage it’, as people are still the most important element and if there are inappropriate resources in key positions that do not know how to manage the processes and other resources, it will fail.”

“BIM plays a pivotal role in Lean Construction. The development of BIM is inspiring construction workflows and how project teams strategise towards prefabrication and lean techniques. The significant advantage of BIM is empowering the augmented employment of prefabrication and Design for Manufacture and Assembly (DfMA), which results in better quality work onsite and general job efficiency. Lean with prefabrication delivers anticipated outcomes for project budgets and programmes.”

The BIM Innovation Capability Programme (BICP) Global BIM Study 2017, published by CitA, reviewed rates of BIM adoption in the construction industry across 27 countries and found that over 50% of these countries already have, or shortly will have, a regulatory BIM requirement. Standardisation is both inevitable and necessary. The CIF Lean Construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Innovation and Continuous Improvement Committee is helping to set these standards and is on-hand to guide members through this transformational change. **C**



Brian Cass, Clancy
Construction



Grifols International Logistics Centre (Phase 1) with
Biopharmaceutical Process Facility (Phase 2) – BIM
and Lean processes



Dublin Airport
Central Phase 1 –
BIM Level 2 project



Grifols International Logistics
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AIMING FOR A MORE CONNECTED INDUSTRY

DR KEN THOMAS, Head of the School of Engineering at Waterford Institute of Technology and co-founder of the CitA, the Construction IT Alliance, explains to CAROL TALLON how CitA can help the industry to embrace and benefit from new technologies.

WHAT IS CITA?

“CitA, as an idea, goes back almost 20 years. What started as a conversation between interested people in the late 1990’s about how the construction sector needed to make a step change regarding its use of IT, grew into a national organisation promoting the best practice and early adoption of technology. It remains a broad industry/academia alliance, supporting members from the design community consisting of Architects, Engineers and Quantity Surveyors, to the whole construction spectrum and including owners/operators and developers – it’s quite a myriad of players and CitA facilitates the advancement of each through the innovative use of IT.”

WHAT DOES CITA DO?

“CitA is a neutral body designed to push the use of information technology across the entire spectrum, helping to connect the industry for greater efficiency and to help attract more people into the industry. In the early days the focus was on processes, now that information technology is ubiquitous, CitA has a role to play in ensuring that Irish companies are on a par with international best practice exemplars. In recent years, BIM has become the main connectivity tool and, of course, a more connected industry is a better industry.”

WHY IS THAT IMPORTANT?

“The technology continues to evolve, but the principles remain the same. What started decades ago as value management transitioned into Lean, and BIM is one of the tools used to achieve greater efficiency, less waste, fewer mistakes, increased profitability, continuous improvement and getting things right the first time. These are basic business principles that also apply to construction. They are at the core of Lean, and they are at the core of everything CitA does. This is vital for promoting the Irish construction industry abroad via Enterprise Ireland.”



Dr Ken Thomas, Head of the School of Engineering, Waterford Institute of Technology

AT WHAT STAGE IS THE IRISH INDUSTRY AT IN ADOPTING AND WORKING WITH BIM?

“At the moment, each main contractor and each big development project will have its own set of processes, which means that even experienced subcontractors will need to undergo training to get up to speed in individual project processes as they start on a new site. There is a move across Europe to standardise BIM, and CitA is contributing to that. Also, third level institutions have stepped up in this regard; graduates are generally BIM-savvy so they become the drivers of technology when they join organisations that might not be embracing BIM yet.”

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT KEEPING PACE WITH INNOVATION WITHIN THE INDUSTRY?

Organisations need to understand that they are part of an overall chain that is the construction sector, not just design and construction, but also facilities management and the operation of all these facilities. There are some costs involved, but there

are enormous benefits to be gained by companies. However, there are also threats for those who fail to adopt the technology in the near future. For example, such organisations may find themselves left out of contracts and tender opportunities. “CitA is helping CIF members who have already adopted BIM. However, many member companies have yet to start the process. But, the CitA team is geared up and ready to assist with this transition.” **C**

For more details Contact general manager Suzanne Purcell, www.cita.ie or telephone +353 1 676 6052.

“ THESE ARE BASIC BUSINESS PRINCIPLES THAT ALSO APPLY TO CONSTRUCTION. THEY ARE AT THE CORE OF LEAN, AND THEY ARE AT THE CORE OF EVERYTHING CITA DOES. ”

INNOVATIVE CONTRACTORS ATTRACTING FDI TO IRELAND

CIF Director, Specialist Contracting, **SEAN DOWNEY** discusses the role building innovation has played in attracting FDI to Ireland over the past decade and outlines to **CAROL TALLON** how technology will transform the construction industry into the future.

The CIF's Lean Construction, Building Information Modelling (BIM), Innovation and Continuous Improvement sub-Committee comprises representatives from the General Contracting, Specialist Engineering, Civil Engineering and Housebuilding sectors. The committee considers all policy developments and matters in the area of Lean Construction, BIM, Innovation and Continuous Improvement. As Secretary of the sub-Committee, CIF Director, Specialist Contracting, Sean Downey has a unique perspective on how the construction industry is adopting Lean principles and BIM practices and achieving substantial efficiencies and savings for clients on sites across Ireland.

When asked about the changing FDI landscape in Ireland over the past decade and the importance of innovation, Sean Downey says: "The FDI market looks at Ireland as possibly one of the most agile construction sectors in the world. Our companies can deliver projects at the highest safety standards and challenge any jurisdiction for value per square foot. The construction sector in Ireland delivers right across the spectrum of Med-Tech, Pharmaceutical, IT and Data. These high process-led environments are very demanding and require specialist technical expertise and management skills. Our companies are at the top of their game. They have been delivering at this level for a number of decades, so much so that when clients come to Ireland, they are coming here possibly because an Irish contractor has delivered a project for them in another jurisdiction already, or the international assessment of Ireland is a destination where projects can be delivered with certainty.

Sean explains that the Irish construction industry has a sophisticated ecosystem in the supply chain to support these projects and that many of the companies in Ireland take that supply chain with them to export their services abroad.

"When client companies are going to Europe, other parts of North America,



Sean Downey, CIF Director, Specialist Contracting

the Middle East or Asia, they are taking engineering and construction companies from Ireland with them to deliver other projects in those other jurisdictions. So, Ireland is punching above its weight. It's probably in our nature that we seek out the challenge. We have a trait built into our culture where we want to try and continually do better than the norm."

Sean says that the industry has been steadily developing under the radar for the last decade. "When on the surface it looked like the construction industry was on life support, that was a time when there was considerable output in the FDI led sectors of the economy. There was little output in general contracting on the commercial side of the industry and perhaps in residential construction and retail – that part that people see. The part that has been developing at a relatively fast pace over the last decade is the FDI market, the part that's 'under the hood'. These factories and R&D centres, where they're developing new medical products and pharmaceutical drugs, have all been happening over the last

“**THE FDI MARKET LOOKS AT IRELAND AS POSSIBLY ONE OF THE MOST AGILE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN THE WORLD**”

10 to 15 years, and particularly on sites that are not high profile. So, the industry has been regenerating itself, and it has been developing extremely advanced skill-sets over the past decade.”

INNOVATION

Any management team looking to evolve a company into a more efficient and Lean organisation need to understand their clients' needs and being able to help their staff achieve their best capability.

"For companies that really understand innovation, they know it's all about their people, having a good core of people aligned with a clear strategy to serve the market. You have to understand what your customer needs and how you are going to deliver that. It involves assessing where you are and then ensuring continuous training and improvement to get the best out of your people. Give them an opportunity to feed into the whole process, so the trade at the coal face gets a chance to explain how he would like to get things done better, ie, what's holding him up, where are the blockages, what's preventing him from being more productive, what support does he require to get that job done to a higher standard, safer, higher quality and perhaps quicker?"



BIM project model

WHERE LEAN AND BIM CONVERGE

BIM is only one Lean tool or method within a Lean, end-to-end process. Sean explains the difficulty is that there are so many strands to Lean.

“You have got to understand exactly what it is, and you have to understand it in a construction context so that you can take your project production flow and implement a range of Lean tools, which may be technology or off-site fabrication,” explains Sean. “It may be looking at modularisation of individual elements of the project, or it may be simply the way you operate, manage and store information, or how you run your meetings.”

INNOVATING FOR THE FUTURE OF CONSTRUCTION

Sean believes digital construction is a major challenge for the industry but it is one that we need to embrace, or we will be left behind.

Six Sigma is a big buzzword at the moment. It is a disciplined, data-driven approach and methodology for eliminating defects, in any process – from manufacturing to transactional and from product to service.

“Six Sigma is a very effective production technique that many CIF manufacturing clients use. What we wanted to do is look at the technology, management principles, operational procedures and work out how we can try to replicate in the construction process what those clients are doing on their factory floor. This involves looking at the people, the systems, IoT (Internet of Things) and wearables to see how we can track where waste is and how we can improve on that process. When we look at what our clients and the end-users of the building are doing, we can see how technology can lend itself to the construction process, whether it’s BIM or whether it’s digitising the build to get everyone on site onto the same platform, recording live information and basically avoiding the need for



BIM modeller at work

duplication of work.”

LOOKING TO A LEAN FUTURE

Sean and his team at CIF host workshops for member companies that are ready to assess their operations, facilitated by a consultant and supported by Enterprise Ireland or the local Enterprise Offices, under the LeanStart programme. LeanStart is open to small companies to help them get started on their Lean journey.

“LeanStart is a health check, a present-day analysis of the organisation to identify areas of waste, opportunities for improvement and to look at what can be done next. We are hoping this will spur a whole generation of both housing developers and general contractors to move into this space where they are looking to develop an operational excellence programme within their own companies, and this is good for the industry as a whole,” Sean concludes. **C**

“**IRELAND IS A DESTINATION WHERE PROJECTS CAN BE DELIVERED WITH CERTAINTY**”

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Kingspan Insulated Panels is running a series of CPD workshops and webinars, focusing on the fire testing and real-life fire performance of external envelope systems. These will cover the following learning objectives:

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Time

11:00 am

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MERCURY'S SECTOR FOCUS STRATEGY DELIVERS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

Two years ago, Mercury Engineering embarked on a new strategy of specialising its service offering by sector. **SEAN MURPHY** reports ON how “Mercury TWENTY21” has helped the firm grow its global business.

Mercury’s “Mercury TWENTY21” strategy was developed to enable it to transition into a sector-based rather than geographic-based firm, bringing it to the next level of engineering and construction excellence. This means that project teams work on projects on a sectoral rather than geographic basis, giving clients the confidence they have the leading experts in their sector allocated to their projects.

Mercury TWENTY21 has brought Mercury to a stage where it not only provides engineering services to global clients in Ireland but also on client projects across the globe.

Over the past 45 years, Mercury has grown into one of the largest independent engineering contractors with projects completed throughout Europe, Russia, North Africa, the Middle East and the USA with annual revenues exceeding €500million. Its client-focused approach and an appreciation of the value of long-term relationships is shown in the fact that a large part of the company’s work comes from existing clients, some of whom are Fortune 500 registered.

As part of its five-year strategy, Mercury has now successfully moved from a regional base to a sector driven group. The sectors it provides services to include Building Services, Enterprise Datacentres, Life Sciences & Advanced Technologies, Sprinkler, Healthcare and Hyperscale Datacentres. Healthcare, Life Sciences & Technology were identified by the company as catalysts to drive future growth substantially. The company also sees the Healthcare, Life Sciences & Technology sectors as booming, not just in Ireland, but in the rest of Europe.

ADDED VALUE OF FDI

Ireland is one of the most open economies



Eoin Vaughan, Chief Executive Officer, Mercury Engineering

in the world, and this is reflected by the continued Foreign Direct Investment from North American, European and Asian companies here. Throughout the recessionary years, FDI investments ensured Mercury continued to deliver in line with its current revenues.

“We were lucky enough to work on several key projects across a range of sectors in which we were not affected by the global recession. A definitive strategy enabled long-term sustainability in Mercury. As of now we are seeing a steady increase in FDI, and we have to be involved in a fair amount of it,” says Mercury’s Chief Executive Officer, Eoin Vaughan.

A prime example of where Mercury illustrates the added benefit of FDI in Ireland was when, owing to the firm’s strong relationship with one of its top clients in Ireland it was engaged in the construction of a new large-scale, greenfield data centre in Denmark.

Enabling works commenced on their greenfield site, multi-million-euro data centre in Ireland, in 2015 and construction of Phase Two is on-going. Ireland is the client’s second data centre site outside of the US, and the facility will be one of the most advanced and energy efficient data centres in the world. It will feature the latest server, storage and network designs developed, and it will be powered by 100% renewable energy. Mercury was initially engaged on site on Phase One, March 2016 through the electrical and sprinkler installations and are delighted to be involved in Phase Two of the project, which is due to be completed in February 2018 and has run concurrently with Phase One.

Building on its relationship with the main contractor and client, Mercury secured further works at the client’s new facility in Odense, Denmark, again on the electrical and sprinkler installations of the project. A common management team and engaging local supply chain partners on both sites have ensured a seamless deliverance of projects across European borders.

STRATEGY SUCCESS

Mercury is now two years into its Mercury TWENTY21 strategy and can clearly see its new vision growing and blossoming. “We are proud to say that focusing our efforts on specific sectors and positioning our strongest people to roles where they could champion these roles has seen us secure some very high-profile projects in the Healthcare, Infrastructure, Leisure and Data Centre sectors. We are proud of our achievements and even more proud of the people who work for and with us to help make us Mercury Engineering, directly reflecting our core visions and values,” concludes Eoin Vaughan. **C**



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LEAN THINKING IN IRISH CONSTRUCTION

DR RICHARD KEEGAN, Manager at the Enterprise Ireland Competitiveness Department, outlines the key principles of Lean Thinking and explains how construction firms can start their Lean journey.

Lean is about building the capability and capacity of people and processes. It is not about cutting jobs or pushing people to work harder. It is about giving people, managers and staff, the tools and techniques to be able to look and see where 'Value' is being created and also to be able to see waste and remove it.

Lean is very important in a sector such as construction, where margins are tight and pressures are high to complete on time and well. Early adopters of Lean Thinking in the industry have reported significant improvements in productivity, efficiency, snag list reduction, rework and ultimately profit from using Lean Thinking to engage staff, managers, contractors and suppliers in a hunt for Value.

LEAN CONSTRUCTION

Enterprise Ireland has been driving the Lean approach to competitiveness improvement in Ireland since 2009. To date, 985 Lean projects have been directly supported by Enterprise Ireland. Ninety-nine of these cases have been with Construction Sector companies. The supports comprise 53 LeanStart projects, 36 LeanPlus projects and 10 LeanTransform projects.

Last year, IDA adopted the Lean approach and is now successfully rolling out a Lean offer to its clients. Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) have adopted Lean and can support eligible companies on their Lean Competitiveness journeys.

LEAN ONE-STOP-SHOP

In 2017, key agencies, industry, representative organisations, consultants and academia co-created a "one-stop-shop" website (www.leanbusinessireland.ie) for Lean in Ireland. This provides information, case studies and resources including a case study from Techrete. This resource will continue to develop as Ireland continues to adopt Lean.

GETTING A LEAN START

LeanStart is the introductory level of Lean. Typically happening over six to seven days, a Lean Service Provider (from the Enterprise Ireland directory of accredited service providers) works with a company to capture real benefits – the low



Dr Richard Keegan,
Manager at the
Enterprise Ireland
Competitiveness
Department

hanging fruits. Independent analysis shows the benefit from LeanStart as averaging at €45,000 from an investment of €6,500, 56% of which is available as a grant for suitable applicants. This works out at a net investment of €3,250 for an Enterprise Ireland client company.

LeanPlus project impacts are independently verified as averaging €145,000, while the LeanTransform project impacts are recording savings of the hundreds of thousands to millions of euros. (See 'Enterprise Ireland Lean Development Programmes' panel for more details).

BENCHMARKING TOOLKIT

Enterprise Ireland is keen to support companies in terms of knowing how well they compare with other companies. This is achieved by using a benchmarking toolkit. This can measure innovation capability against companies in 19 other European countries, through sales and marketing capabilities as well as more traditional performance benchmarking – financial metrics comparison and practice benchmarking.

A good start has been made by the Construction sector, but there are still opportunities to support further projects within the sector. **C**

ENTERPRISE IRELAND LEAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

LEANSTART

LeanStart offers an introduction to Lean concepts and allows business owners gain an understanding of what Lean tools and techniques can do for their companies in a short, focused engagement.

LeanStart is open to small and medium companies who have been trading for at least five years engaged in manufacturing or eligible internationally traded services, including construction related services. Large companies are not eligible to apply.

LEANPLUS

Companies looking to undertake a Lean project over a medium-term period can apply to Enterprise Ireland for a Business Process Improvement Grant to support the costs of the LeanPlus assignment. A LeanPlus assignment is a medium-term business process improvement project, which will result in the sustained use of Lean techniques and related methodologies.

The LeanPlus assignment should:

- Deliver significant productivity improvement and cost reductions,
- Embed a culture of business improvement and Lean techniques to a cohort of trained staff, and
- Introduce a programme to pursue company-wide improvement.

Assignments will typically be completed within six months and will not exceed a project cost of €100,000.

LEANTRANSFORM

LeanTransform is a large-scale, extensive and holistic company transformation programme delivered by an external training team of international reputation. The main support mechanism is by training grant. Support is available for consultancy costs for SMEs, but not large companies.

For more information on any of these programmes visit www.enterprise-ireland.com

THE NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTRE, MOUNT LUCAS

The National Construction Training Centre at Mount Lucas, Daingean, Co Offaly includes a 15-acre simulated construction work environment, which is complemented by a 700-sq m construction hall and technology-supported classrooms.



It utilises these facilities to respond to non-craft skill deficits in the construction industry and simultaneously support the progression of individuals who are unemployed, under-employed, or in employment but require new or enhanced skills.

Working hand in hand with key stakeholders – SOLAS, Construction Industry Federation, local and national employers and the Department of Social Protection – Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (LOETB) has managed a significant enhancement of activity levels at the centre. During 2016, its first year operating under LOETB, 531 participants completed programmes at Mount Lucas, an increase of over 100 from the previous year. This year it is expected that between 700 and 800 participants will be directly benefit from the programmes on offer.



CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME (CSCS)

The demand for SOLAS CSCS Registration Cards has led to the need for Mount Lucas to significantly increase its through-put for this programme. Thus, additional instructors have been procured to attain 40% growth before the end of the year. Modern plant machinery has been leased to ensure the most realistic experience for trainees. Arguably the most significant acquisition has been the new remote control Tower Crane – a SAEZ TL 35 Crane with lift hoist and a Jumbo two-person cab that offers the opportunity for unique instructor-trainee interaction.

Mount Lucas Training Centre provides for the training, assessment, certification and registration of non-craft operatives within the construction sector through the SOLAS Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS). The aim of the CSCS is to

enable participants to apply the skills and knowledge that are associated with their occupations in the construction sector.

Mount Lucas National Construction Training Centre offers CSCS on several (outlined below) items of plant machinery with programmes for both new entrants and for experienced operators. All candidates must be aged 18 years or over, hold a current valid Safe Pass and meet the specific requirements of the chosen occupation;

- 360 Excavator
- Articulated Dumper
- 180 Excavator
- Slinger/Signaller
- Telescopic Handler
- Mini Digger
- Site Dumper
- Tower Crane

SOLAS/CITB UK CHANGEOVER PROGRAMME

SOLAS and the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) have an agreement in place to facilitate people who hold a valid SOLAS CSCS Plant Operator Card to acquire an equivalent blue CPCS Plant Operator's Card in the same category. Mount Lucas administers the CITB UK changeover programme with the CPCS theory test and CPCS Skills and Experience interview available on-site. The required Construction Skills Health, Safety and Environment test is also offered at Mount Lucas.

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS FOR EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES

Mount Lucas offers a choice of programmes aimed at providing unemployed people with the skills and knowledge they need to work in the construction industry. Funded by SOLAS and accredited through City & Guilds,

these programmes provide training in a range of skills required by industry – with the focus currently on general operative, formwork, and steel fixing. Also, through developing relationships with employers, ensures training continues long after employment and supports the individual to develop a sustainable career in the construction industry.

Work placement forms a crucial element of these practical training programmes and all assessments – that lead to formal qualifications for the trainee/employee – are practical in nature and must take place on a live construction site. **C**

For more details on services available from National Construction Training Centre, Mount Lucas Contact Laois and Offaly Education and Training Board (057) 8621352/(057) 9349400 or visit www.laoisoffalyetb.ie/mount-lucas Contact Mount Lucas: Telephone: 01 5332552 Email: info@mountlucas.ie



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BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL BRAND

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STS Group team on-site at West Pharma project in Waterford



STS Group (STS – Specialist Technical Services) has offices in Dublin, Waterford, the UK, Belgium, France, Switzerland, Italy and Germany, servicing Ireland, the wider European and international markets. The senior management team at STS Group know their strengths, having over 40 years’ experience working in the Middle East, Africa, Europe, and on leading projects in Ireland and the UK.

The company employs a flexible, highly experienced team who have worked on major projects all over the world.

Specialist Technical Services retains a scale and ethos, which means that clients personally know the key members of the team and are guaranteed a level of service that larger competitors cannot match.

In Ireland, STS Group recently completed

work on a large pharmaceutical project for West Pharma in Waterford. The company is also working with Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) in Cruiserath, Dublin and with Johnson & Johnson in Cork and Limerick. Data centres are a growing market in Ireland and one with which STS has extensive experience and expertise. The company is working with three of the big data centre clients in Ireland and are also working with those companies in Germany, England, France, Italy, Sweden and the Middle East.

In Europe, the STS Group has also recently completed a large project for a multinational pharmaceutical company, Sanofi in Belgium. The successful delivery of this project has led to a larger bio-pharma project for Biogen, Switzerland.

This part of Europe is a geographical

market that the company is concentrating on to grow its international reputation.

“Expanding our business into the Benelux area of Europe is part of our company wide strategy,” explains CEO Eddie Walsh. “We are putting management structures and systems in place at the moment, to facilitate us establishing a strong market presence in this region.”

In addition to STS’s broad range of projects, a specialist team of in excess of 600 people, and its support locally and on an international level, the importance of safety is not forgotten and is one of the key priorities for the staff and management at STS Group.

The company is a member of The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA), The National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) and the Construction

CATEGORY FOCUS: BIM & LEAN CONSTRUCTION

Eddie Walsh, CEO,
STS Group



Industry Register Ireland (CIRI). STS was awarded the Best New Entry Large Size Organisation at the 25th Annual NISO/NISG Safety Awards for 2016.

Speaking about the importance of safety to the company, STS Business Development Director Liam Linehan says, "It is our number one goal, both for the benefit of our clients and our employees. Consequently, as we were working to the highest environmental and safety standards in Ireland and abroad, we acquired accreditation for Safety Management System OHSAS 18001. We are committed to maintaining the highest level of environmental protection and are committed to zero accidents on all our sites."

The company's staffs' skill, capability and commitment to excellence are what makes STS stand out as the partner of choice. Key to that is ensuring that every employee achieves their full potential. The company's apprenticeship training programme was built around young people in the community and is an integral part of STS Group's Corporate Social Responsibility strategy.

STS Group is also a stakeholder in the communities where it works, and the company engages with and supports local initiatives including GAA and rugby teams; sponsors local and national charities as well as supporting fundraising for worthy projects.

On an international level, STS Group has partnered with the Haven Haiti Partnership and has provided a number of skilled employees who recently travelled with them to work on school building projects. Haven has been working in Haiti since the aftermath of the destructive earthquake in January 2010 and more recently following Hurricane Matthew in October of last year and the recent Hurricane Irma.

STS was proud to sponsor The Pieta Challenge, which saw a group of local hikers trek to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in July 2017. This mission allows the group to raise awareness for Mental Health in Ireland and raise funds for Pieta House. Promotion of positive mental health in STS is a key on-going project for STS. The company has recently launched its own mental health awareness programme, Mind Matters, which comprises its Employee Assistance Programme for each employee through VHI, and a series of mental health awareness workshops, talks and events around the country for all employees. **C**

For more info on Specialist Technical Services, visit stsgroup.ie



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A FRESH APPROACH TO PROJECT DELIVERY

Founded in 2010 by **BARRY O'HALLORAN**, the Logical Group provides an integrated building surveying, contracting and project management service.

The Logical Group provides an inclusive building surveying service assisting clients in the acquisition, disposal and transformation of assets. The company established a contracting and project management wing – Logical Contracting – in 2012. The contracting wing of the group now offers a commercial contracting and project management service bringing projects from start to hand-over including ancillary project services such as BCAR, Fire and DAC certs, PSDP etc, as well as regular professional contractor services.

Logical was founded in a period of economic uncertainty. “When I set up in 2010, I felt the time was right to establish a commercial property consulting firm that brought fresh thinking to its approach and delivery within the marketplace,” says Barry O’ Halloran. “Initially, it was smaller instructions. However, as the NAMA portfolios of assets began to come on-stream, the market began to return, there was an urgency amongst clients to get work done cleanly and efficiently. Having tendered, we were appointed by Starwood Capital to assist in the acquisition of Project Aspen, and from there, our business started to grow.

“Having identified issues during the survey process our clients began to ask could we assist in resolving these issues. From here Logical Contracting was formed in 2012 as a natural progression for the business.

“This brought the business beyond the client expectations by enabling us to offer a variety of new disciplines and skills as part of one integrated service. We developed a reputation quickly for real engagement and honest advice with exceptional results,” says Barry.

“When the economy picked up, and transaction rate increased we began to see an increase in demand for our services and



Barry O’Halloran,
Managing
Director, The
Logical Group

also a greater need for quality fit and finish within the Client expectation. We worked hard at developing relationships when we first started out, and those clients stayed with us when things improved.”

Barry is qualified as a Quantity Surveyor, chartered as a Building Surveyor and has extensive experience in the acquisition, disposal, development and strategy/leasing of commercial property. His focus from day one has been commercial property, encompassing all aspects of technical due diligence associated with the acquisition and disposal process.

Logical now employs 18 multi-disciplined staff. In addition to Barry, key management roles are held by Christopher Deery (Head of Consulting), Brendan Campbell (Head of Contracting), Derek Horan (Head of Design) and Valerie O’Keeffe (Director and Head of Strategy, Marketing & HR, Clients and Projects).

Logical’s client base includes commercial property agents and intermediaries;

institutional clients such as Starwood Capital, Chartered Land, and Lugus Capital; as well as landlords and tenants of commercial space.

Recent projects completed by Logical include Herbert House on Harmony Row in Dublin 2 for Lugus Capital. Work on the 20,086-sq-ft building comprised the full strip-out and Cat A fit-out of the entire building. The construction of an additional floor – designed by architects Douglas Wallace – on top of an existing building was added as the project progressed.

Services provided on this project included project management and contract build, as well as ancillary bolt on services (Fire Safety, Disability Access (DAC), PSDP, etc.). The project value was €2.5m.

Another recent project was fire remediation works on a multi-family residential portfolio comprising some 300 units. Services provided included full fire safety due diligence and reporting, the design of remedial works, implementation of the remedial works and the completion and certification of these works to the satisfaction of the Local Authority Fire Officer.

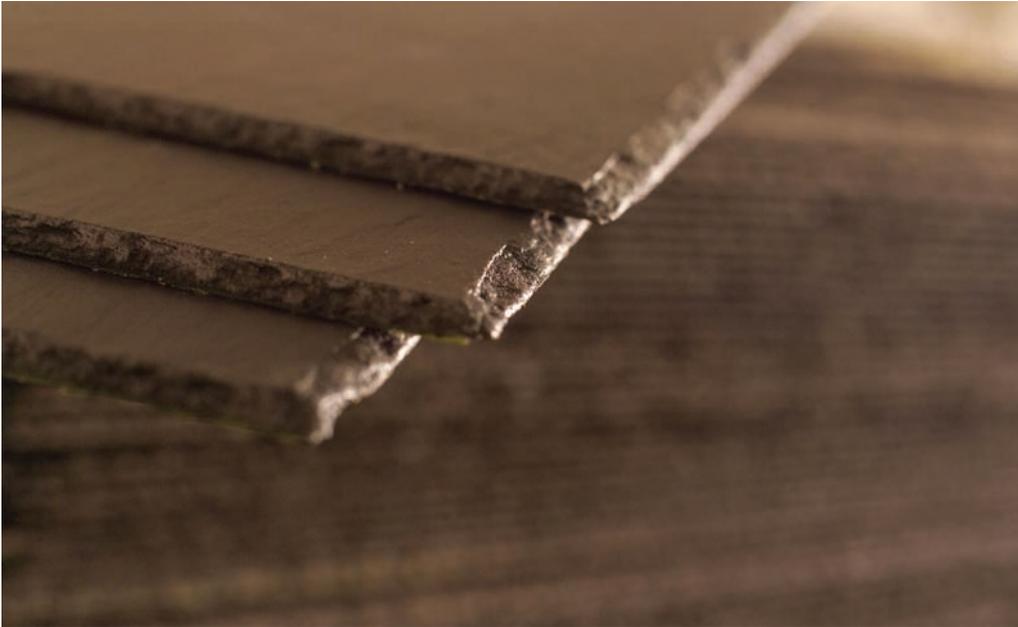
Barry believes that the standard of work being delivered by Irish contractors and sub-contractors and their efficiency is giving client companies the confidence to invest in Ireland.

“These are busy times in the commercial market in Dublin. Clients are clear about what they want, and sub-contractors such as the ones we are working with are delivering with great professionalism and efficiency. Also, I believe the standards delivered by the BCAR process in Ireland are giving clients the highest level of assurance in the quality of work being carried out and materials being used.”

Barry concludes by saying: “Our clients value having a ‘one point of contact’ for the projects on which they embark. While we will build our team and service offering, we will also bring in the best external architectural design and other expertise on projects, when needed.”

That, as they say, makes for a logical plan. **C**

SIGA Man-Made: No other fibre cement slate comes close



SIG Roofing, Ireland's leading distributor of roofing products for over 30 years, and synonymous in the Irish Construction Industry for their Capco Natural Slate range of products amongst other leading brands, have just brought to market their brand-new range of fibre cement roofing.

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Strength and durability are

key features of our slates, which are an economical, authentic and easily installed alternative to natural slate, in addition all ranges are complimented by an extensive range of ridge tiles and other roofing accessories.

"As the market leading distributor of roofing products in Ireland we were well positioned

to commission the widest range of fibre cement products, which we know meet the demands of both the Irish climate and the discerning taste of the architectural community in Ireland. We are now delighted to share with the construction community in Ireland our brand-new range of "SIGA" slates which are backed up by their respective structural and colour guarantees." Declan Duignan, SIG Roofing.

Contact SIG Roofing for more details, samples or to arrange a site visit from a member of our specialist technical team.

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MAKING THE MOST OF PENSION TAX RELIEF



You can reduce your final tax liability for 2016 and your 2017 preliminary tax liability by making contributions to a pension by 31st October, writes **SUSAN O'MARA**

The 31st October is a key date in the tax calendar. This is something you'll see me writing year after year both here and to my clients. It is worth repeating, however, as there is a significant tax advantage to using pension savings to reduce your tax bill.

There are unfortunately no food or beverage analogies that I can think of to make tax interesting – but taking advantage of tax reliefs is a no brainer in terms of the financial rewards available.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

If you are self-employed, you will have to calculate your tax liability in respect of

- Final tax assessment for 2016
- Preliminary tax for 2017

You can reduce your final tax liability for 2016, as well as your 2017 preliminary tax liability by making contributions to a pension by 31st October 2017, or 14 November 2017 if you are using Revenue Online Services ROS.

If you are a Proprietary Director, you must also file self-assessed tax returns by 31 October, even if all of your income is taxed under the PAYE system. If your income includes non-PAYE income, you must pay any balance of income tax outstanding from the previous year, and you should now consider paying preliminary tax for the current year.

Once again, a pension contribution can reduce the total tax due for 2016 if a lump

sum is made by 31/10/2017. The lump sum allowable is subject to an earnings cap of €115,000.

While PAYE employees do not have the pay and file deadline, the 31st October is a good opportunity to maximise your pension contributions for the previous year – that is 2016.

Tax relief is available as follows:

Age Band % of Net Relevant Earnings

Under age 30: 15% of Remuneration
 Age 30 to 39: 20% of Remuneration
 Age 40 to 49: 25% of Remuneration
 Age 50 to 54: 30% of Remuneration
 Age 55 to 59: 35% of Remuneration
 Age 60 and over: 40% of Remuneration

Please note that an earnings cap of €115,000 applies for contributions.

The example that follows should be of particular interest if you are retiring in the short term.

JOHN AGE 65, RETIRING IN DECEMBER 2017

John is an executive in a large construction company. He is a member of the company pension scheme. As a member of this scheme, John's employer contributes the equivalent of 10% of his salary into the company pension scheme, while John also makes

a pension contribution of 10% of his salary. As you will see from the above table of available rates, John can make an Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) of 30% of his salary (40% maximum less his own 10% already contributed).

As John didn't make any AVC's in 2016, he can now maximise his available allowance for 2016 if he does so before 31st October 2017. John can also make a contribution for 2017 of a further 30% of his salary in 2017 – allowing him to make a large contribution to his pension pot in 2017 before he retires.

Year	2016	2017
Salary	€75,000.00	€77,500.00
AVC 30%	€22,500.00	€23,250.00
Total	€45,750.00	

So, as you can see from the table, John can make an AVC of €45,750 in advance of 31st October in the year that he is due to retire. As pensions are subject to tax relief at marginal rates, John is entitled to tax relief at 40%, which means that his AVC offset by 40% tax is a net outlay to John of €27,450. In other words, John can uplift his pension fund by €45,750, for a cost of €27,450.

Speak to your advisor today to see how you can maximise the pension tax reliefs this October. **C**



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WHAT THE NEW SECTORAL EMPLOYMENT ORDER MEANS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

CIF Director of Industrial Relations and Manpower Services, **JEAN WINTERS**, outlines the key points of the new Sectoral Employment Order, which is about to come into force.

A new Sectoral Employment Order (SEO) covering rates of pay, sick pay, and pensions across the construction industry will shortly enter into legislation following the acceptance of Pat Breen, Minister of State at the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, of the recommendation from the Labour Court.

The SEO replaces the old Registered Employment Agreement (REA) mechanism, which the Supreme Court struck down in 2013. REAs were established by the Industrial Relations Act 1946. That mechanism saw collective negotiations take place between unions and industry, with agreement eventually being reached. The Labour Court was subsequently requested to register the Agreement, thereby making it legally binding on all employers and workers in the industry. The terms of the REA were legally binding, but the Supreme Court found this practice unconstitutional because the employers and unions had reached agreement on the rates without Labour Court involvement and Oireachtas oversight.

The Supreme Court decision effectively left the industry with no legally binding rates, pensions or sick pay. Indeed, there was a debate about whether we had an agreement at all. CIF sought the views of members, and they told us that robust legislation was needed to allow for legally binding rates of pay, pensions and sick pay to be set.

This response was perfectly understandable. Labour costs account for more than 40% of an average tender. That's a huge proportion and contractors were simply looking for a level playing field on labour costs.

This led CIF to lobby Government for new legislation and resulted in a very different mechanism for setting legally binding rates of pay, pensions and sick pay



Jean Winters, CIF Director of Industrial Relations and Manpower Services

in the industry.

The Industrial Relations (Amendment) Act 2015 set up the SEO mechanism under which a party can apply to the Labour Court to carry out an examination of rates of pay, pensions and sick pay in a sector with a view to making a recommendation to the Minister to set legally binding remuneration, pensions and sick pay in the sector.

It is therefore not the employers or the unions entering into negotiations or reaching an agreement anymore, the Minister, if he or she thinks fit, accepts the recommendation of the Court and then lays it before the Oireachtas for approval. That fulfils the terms of the Supreme Court judgement and ensures the SEO is constitutionally sound. The net effect is the same. Legally binding rates, pensions and sick pay, but with a different route to them.

CIF made an application to the Court for an examination of rates, pensions and sick pay towards the end of 2016. In 2017, the Labour Court placed an advert in the national newspapers inviting submissions from all interested parties. The CIF, ICTU, Unite and the Construction Workers

“ THE COURT AGREED THAT AN SEO WAS NECESSARY AND SET OUT THE RATES OF PAY, PENSIONS AND SICK PAY WHICH IT BELIEVED APPROPRIATE. ”

Pensions Scheme lodged individual submissions. The Labour Court hearing took place on 26 June with all interested parties attending. The Court issued its recommendation on 18 July. The Court agreed that an SEO was necessary and set out the rates of pay, pensions and sick pay which it believed appropriate. Overall, the Court recommended a 10% increase on the REA rates together with the same contribution rates to pensions and sick pay as heretofore applied under the REA.

The Court did not recommend the inclusion of travel allowances in the SEO. CIF made strong arguments against the inclusion of travel while the unions made strong arguments in favour of an allowance.

The SEO also contains a disputes resolution procedure to be utilised in the event of a dispute arising over a term in the Order. While the recommendation from the Court provides for varying increases on labour costs depending on rates currently being paid, overall, the SEO is to be welcomed. It puts a legally binding floor on rates throughout the country, and that will bring about the level playing field in relation to labour costs which members have been seeking. **C**

LARGE-SCALE PROJECTS IN THE CONSTRUCTION PIPELINE

With steady activity across the industry, Construction Information Services (CIS) Managing Director, **TOM MOLONEY** provides an overview of significant projects which have moved stage in recent weeks.

Center Parcs, Holder Mathias Architects



Tom Moloney, CIS Managing Director

RESIDENTIAL SECTOR

The Residential sector activity is steady at the moment, particularly in the Dublin area. John Sisk and Son have been appointed as the main contractor for the construction of 71 housing units and associated site works as part of a Rapid Build Delivery Programme at the St Aidan's site, Brookfield Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24.

Planning permission has been sought for Phase One of a housing development as part of the €2.5bn 'Project Cherry' in South County Dublin.

These first plans propose the development of over 240 apartments and 80 houses with public amenity areas.

Pre-qualification questionnaires from developers have been issued by Dublin City Council for the development of the O'Devaney Gardens, Arbour Hill, Dublin 7 site. The development site can allow for up to 585 units. Construction work is projected to commence in Q1 2018.

Plans have been submitted for a €20m social housing development in Ballyfermot, comprising 61 units. This

direct build development will be processed under the City Council's internal planning system. If the application is successful, the proposal should come before the City Council in early November 2017 for agreement to go to tender. An exact start date has yet to be determined, but works are expected to take in the region of 18 months to complete.

STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SECTOR

Activity remains high with Student Accommodation developments, particularly

Kingswood Post Primary School Tallaght, ARPL Architects



O'Devaney Gardens, Reddy Architecture



in the Dublin region. Main contractor Bennett Construction has commenced work on a €29.8m student accommodation development at Oisín House, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. This 250-bed-space development is expected to be completed in time for the 2019 academic year.

HOSPITALITY SECTOR

Looking to the Hospitality sector, an appeal has been lodged with An Bord Pleanála against Wicklow County Council's decision to refuse planning permission for a €30m hotel development in Bray. This hotel would provide 141 bedrooms.

Plans have been lodged for a €20.1m 365-bedroom hotel development at 1-6 Liffey Street Upper, Dublin 1. The development for Noel Smyth is expected to be operated by the Motel One chain.

COMMERCIAL SECTOR

Appeals have been lodged against Dublin City Council's decision to refuse planning for the €150 million Tara House development on Tara Street, Dublin 2, for Johnny Ronan. A decision is expected later this year.

In the Education sector, main Contractor Glasgiven Contracts have been appointed for the €14 million primary school development at Kingswood in Tallaght, Dublin 24. Works are expected to

commence imminently and will take in the region of 21 months to complete.

REGIONAL PROJECTS

In the Commercial sector, pre-qualification questionnaires are currently being sought from contractors for a €5m IDA office development in Brockagh, County Galway. The development proposes the construction of a building to provide over 3,000-sq m of commercial space.

In Cork City, plans have been approved for an €8.7m office development at the South Mall for the JCD Group. The developer proposes to provide 7,000-sq m of office space.

At University College Cork, JJ Rhatigan has commenced works on a €13m student hub building and works are expected to take in the region of 15 months to complete.

MEDICAL SECTOR

Looking to the Medical sector, John Paul Construction has commenced site set up works to allow for the overall main construction to commence on the first phase of the €40m redevelopment of the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire. Main works are expected to commence soon and will take in the region of 24 months to complete.

Mythen Construction have commenced site set up works to allow for the construction of a €6.2m retirement home in Cabra, Dublin 7. Main works are expected to commence soon and will take 18 months to complete.

SPORTS AND LEISURE SECTORS

In the Sports sector, tenders are currently being sought for the construction of a €1.9m single tier spectator stand at Tallaght Stadium. Meanwhile, in Donegal, plans have been approved by for a new 6,000-seat stadium for Finn Harps FC.

In the Leisure sector, enabling groundworks are now underway for the Centre Building West and Cycle Centre as part of the overall €233m Center Parcs holiday village in Ballymahon, County Longford. Works are also underway on a new housekeeping technical services and storage building. Roadbridge Limited are carrying out all enabling/foundation works for the buildings, along with the main infrastructure works. The main contract for the holiday lodges and other respective buildings is expected to be awarded in the coming months.

CIVILS SECTOR

In the Civil sector, tenders are currently being sought from a select list of contractors for the main construction contract for the new Limerick Prison on Musgrave Street. Tenders are expected to be returned in November 2017. The main contract is expected to be awarded in Q1 2018. It is hoped that work will start in Q1 2018 and be completed during 2020.

*The costings on these projects are indicative and are based on a price per square metre for shell and core only. **C**

This project information was accurate on 29th August 2017. For the latest information on these developments, call CIS on 01 2999 200, email sales@cisireland.com or visit www.cisireland.com

THE IMPORTANCE OF 'NEAR MISS' REPORTING

Leadership must establish a culture of reporting 'Near Miss' events to prevent harmful incidents and reduce risks, writes **TOMMY DRUMM**, Managing Director of Collen.



CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK
23-27 October 2017

'Near Miss' events are gold dust as they can highlight a weakness. A number of Near Miss events can identify a trend and help the manner in which we focus our efforts on eliminating accidents.

A Near Miss is an adverse event that, while not causing any actual harm, has the potential to cause injury or ill health and may include a dangerous occurrence.

Adverse events have many causes. What initially appears to be bad luck (wrong place/wrong time) may, on analysis, turn out to be a chain of failures and errors that have led almost inevitably to the event. To prevent adverse events, effective risk control measures, which address the immediate, underlying and root causes must be provided.

As part of our leadership and as a team, to ensure best practice in our safety management system for continual improvement, we have agreed to build a trusting team environment where Near Miss reporting is embraced.

To build trust, our team must be supportive of the process that flows from an individual being brave enough and having enough initiative to report an incident, which did not result in a person being injured or an item of plant being damaged but had the potential to do so.

We have this process in place for the past two years and are now seeing upwards of 40 Near Misses in a full year. We recognise people for bringing them to our attention, in a positive way, and thank team members for trusting us enough to do so.

Near Misses happen every day on construction sites. Regardless of their potential for personal injury and property damage, all near misses should be taken seriously and consistently reported. It is



Collen Managing Director, Tommy Drumm

important that everyone understands what exactly constitutes a Near Miss and why it is essential to make a record of it so it can be investigated and addressed.

Collecting Near-Miss reports help create a culture that seeks to identify and control hazards, which will reduce risks and the potential for harm. Ideally, the number of Near-Misses that will be reported should decrease in time as you'll be addressing the underlying hazards that created the Near-Misses in the first place. As workers pay more attention to Near-Misses, they'll also improve their attention to safe work practices, reducing the likelihood of Near Miss occurrences.

Tracking Near Misses can also be utilised as a leading indicator to measure safety performance, and it's crucial to establish a reporting culture where workers are encouraged to report Near Misses in a positive environment without fear of blame or repercussion.

Leadership must establish a reporting culture that reinforces every opportunity to identify and control hazards, reduce risk and prevent harmful incidents. If

a supervisor does not treat Near Miss reporting as a priority, the likelihood is that workers won't either. Supervisors need to lead by example by reporting Near Misses themselves. When workers see that their supervisors are actively reporting Near Misses, it will make them feel more comfortable in also reporting Near Misses.

Providing feedback and recognising worker participation in the reporting of hazards is key to encouraging workers to report. At Collen, findings from Near Miss reporting represent opportunities for valuable training, feedback on performance, and enhance our commitment to continuous improvement.

Building a trusting environment can take a lot of time and effort and can be undermined if not consistent. **C**

Construction Safety Week takes place from 23 – 27 October. For more information and to find out how you and your company can get involved see <https://cif.ie/safety-week>

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REALISING CONSTRUCTION'S POTENTIAL TO BUILD IRELAND'S FUTURE

The CIF Annual Conference 2017 takes place on Thursday 12 October at Croke Park. The much-anticipated event will focus on the construction industry's potential to build Ireland's future.

The CIF Annual Conference 2017 takes place at a crucial time for the Irish construction sector. The country needs a long-term infrastructural plan that will drive inward investment and the development of indigenous industries as well as address the many social and environmental issues challenging the country.

Over the past number of years, the Irish construction industry has picked itself up and is once again driving economic development in the country, creating jobs and facilitating the development of other sectors.

The most recent Central Statistics Office (CSO) Quarterly National Household Survey indicates that in Q1 2017, there were 142,500 people employed in the Irish construction sector, approximately seven per cent of the total working population.

The industry in Ireland is still in recovery. Despite the achievements of

the past few years, output remains below where it should be. The lack of finance and skills has delayed the recovery to more normal levels of activity. The industry will need to absorb an additional 112,000 workers over the next four years to deliver the Government's ambition of 35,000 housing units per annum and over €45bn in public capital investment up to 2021. How can Government and the industry work together to deliver these ambitious targets optimally and sustainably?

Due to the changing nature of the Irish economy, the construction industry faces more fundamental change than any time in the past 50 years, and it must adopt and adapt leading technologies and processes into its business model. New (digital) technologies – such as Building Information Modelling (BIM), Internet of Things (IoT), wireless sensing and 3D printing – are already transforming the way that infrastructure and buildings are designed and constructed.

This digital disruption resulting from new technologies and business processes has the potential to boost efficiency and productivity levels in construction and even reshape societies and economies as a whole. Countries such as Ireland will increasingly require digital construction to remain competitive at a global level. But, how can the Irish construction industry capitalise on the opportunities presented?

On Thursday 12 October next, key stakeholders from the entire national construction eco-system will gather at Croke Park Stadium Conference for the CIF's Annual Conference 2017. This year's conference will look to the future of the industry, exploring the critical issues of how technological advances promise to enhance productivity and boost Return on Investment (ROI) and devise innovative ways to prevent skills shortages. It will also look at the more immediate challenge of Brexit, responding to the housing shortage and addressing the infrastructure deficit.

SPEAKERS

The keynote speaker at this year's conference is Mark Farmer, Chief Executive of Cast Consultancy, who, in 2016 at the request of the UK Government, carried out a major review of the UK construction industry's labour model, specifically looking at the issues of skills and innovation. The Farmer Review entitled 'Modernise or Die' outlined how the UK industry should move towards developing a more efficient business model.



"I am really looking forward to speaking at this year's CIF Conference where my presentation theme will focus on what has happened in the year since the publication of my UK Government review, Modernise or Die," says Mark. "The biggest single theme that my report has tried to convey, and hopefully is now gaining traction amongst politicians and the construction industry itself, is that we are entering a critical juncture that will define the future state of the industry. We have major structural problems regarding skills and resourcing that are no longer transient or recoverable. They are potentially irreversible shifts that have significant economic and political ramifications. If construction does not seize the modernisation agenda quickly enough, we will simply not be physically able to deliver the critical social and physical infrastructure, housing and commercial construction needs of the future.

"What is clear is that Ireland has many of the same symptoms of failure that I defined for the UK industry," he continues. "The most telling appear to be firstly the growing skills and resourcing challenges driven by an ageing workforce, and not enough new entrants. The ability of the Irish construction sector to grow following the economic crisis has been a major point of stress. This, in turn, has manifested into growing concerns, as we now have in the UK, over the quality of construction being delivered, especially in the Housing sector. This is bringing the health of the construction higher up the agenda in Ireland as it is in the UK. It is pleasing to see the Irish Government and Enterprise Ireland starting to recognise this through developing a BIM adoption strategy and a broader Construction 2020 strategy. As in the UK though, it is now actions and reform that are critical in the period ahead, not strategies."

CLAIRE PENNY is Global Industry Leader with IBM's IoT Business Unit with a focus on Asset and Facility Management, BIM and IoT. She is expert in the applications



of BIM beyond Design and Build and says BIM has endless potential across the entire lifecycle of the assets.

"BIM and IoT are two major topics in the construction industry," says Claire. "In my presentation at the CIF Conference, I will be focussing on the importance and value of transferring and using data generated during the BIM process into the 'operate phase' of a building's life cycle and the concept of developing a digital twin."

A digital twin is a virtual/digital representation of a physical building, machine or system. "Think of it as a marriage of physical and digital worlds in a way that gives people a new level of visibility into the things that matter to them or their business.

"I will be looking at how the ongoing use of this meta-data, supplemented with IoT data can not only deliver savings in operational costs, but it can also increase the value of the building itself. These combined data sets can then be presented to people in a variety of roles, so they can understand the data sets' status, history, needs, and how they interact with them and a building to do their jobs."

Claire will also be talking about Cognitive Buildings and how IBM is working towards delivering buildings that learn how people use them, and how this influences energy utilisation and the performance of the assets.

"Cognitive building solutions give real estate and facilities management professionals the tools necessary to better manage and simplify real estate planning and management."

MARIAN FINNEGAN,

Chief Economist, Cushman and Wakefield, who will be a member of the discussion panel, is acutely aware that the property crash, which lasted for five years from 2007 to 2012, has had a seriously damaging impact on the property market.



"The long-term impact on supply will perhaps be the most damaging impact of the property crash," says Marian. "As part of my contribution to the conference, I will be discussing stock levels in the office, industrial, retail, PRS and student accommodation sectors, as well as the residential sector. I will be highlighting the markets with the greatest supply deficiencies and outlining some potential outcomes."

Gold Sponsors for this year's Conference are Kingspan, EY and Philip Lee solicitors. Silver sponsors are CRH and the Construction Workers Pension Scheme (CWPS). **C**

To learn more or to book your ticket for the CIF Conference 2017 visit www.cifconference.ie 2017.



CONFERENCE SPEAKERS & PANELISTS

Dominic Thasarathar, Primary Thought-Leader and Evangelist for the Global Construction, Energy and Natural Resources Sectors, Autodesk, UK

Mark Farmer, CEO, Cast Construction Consultancy and Author of The Farmer Review of the UK Construction Labour Model

Marian Finnegan, Chief Economist, Cushman and Wakefield

Dominic Doheny, President, Construction Industry Federation

Tom Costello, Head of Construction, IPUT and 2017 Construction Industry Leader of the Year

Simon Hart, Senior Innovation Leader – Smart Infrastructure, Innovate UK and Management Officer, Building Information Modelling (BIM)Task Group, UK

Shane MacSweeney, Partner – Government and Infrastructure Advisory, EY

Tom Dunne, Head of the School of Surveying and Construction Management, Dublin Institute of Technology

David O'Brien, Senior Advisor to the Construction Procurement Policy Unit, Office of Government Procurement (OGP)

Philip Lee, Partner, Philip Lee

Tony Horan, President, The Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI)

Claire Penny, Global Industry Leader, Watson IoT for Buildings, IBM

Donal Murphy, Head of Infrastructure and Credit Investments, Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF)

Tom Parlon, Director General, Construction Industry Federation (CIF)

Ian Kehoe, Editor, The Sunday Business Post (Host)



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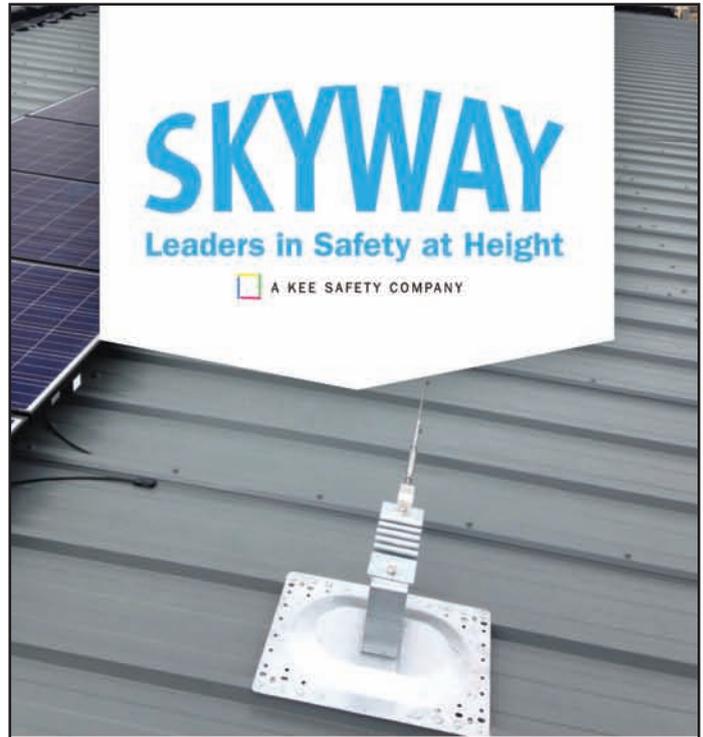
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CIS CELEBRATES 45 YEARS IN BUSINESS

SEAN MURPHY reports on the history of Construction Industry Services and how its intelligence report has come to be known as 'The Bible of the Industry'.



L to r: Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF; Paddy Hayes, founder, CIS Report; Tom Moloney, Managing Director, CIS and Liam Casey, Associate Director, John Paul Construction.

This is a milestone year for Construction Information Services (CIS) as it celebrates 45 years since the first issue of the CIS Report was published. Since then, it has become a cornerstone of the construction and related industries, providing comprehensive, reliable, timely and verified business contract and supply opportunities and intelligence.

The first edition of the CIS Report was published on 19 May 1972, a date lodged in the memory of the company's founder Paddy Hayes. The then 26-year old worked for Haden Young Ltd, a mechanical and electrical engineering company, and part of his role required him, on a regular basis, to specifically to check the planning files in the Planning Office, then located on Dame Street, Dublin, for potential business opportunities.

The head office of Haden Young was based in the United Kingdom, where they monitored planning applications, and they required this process to be replicated in Ireland. One day Paddy prepared a report for his manager, listing approximately 12 new construction projects, which were potential business opportunities to pursue.

In preparing the report, he recognised the potential of this information in a commercial context. He put together an initial report, printed 20 copies and approached 20 companies, of which 16 purchased the report on a three-month subscription at just £19. The first customer of the CIS Report was John Paul Construction Ltd, who remains a valued customer to this day.

CIS has witnessed much change in the intervening years in both the industry and business environments.

"The primary reason for CIS's continued success is its ability to adapt to change, to innovate and take advantage of the many opportunities it has encountered on its journey thus far," says CIS Managing Director, Tom Moloney.

In 2007, following a strategic review of its business and the needs of its customers, CIS invested in new technologies and data gathering processes to enable it to deliver its project opportunity information online and meet its customers' needs for real-time data. This investment enabled CIS to trade through the recessionary period.

"Today, through continuous investment in our online service providing real-time advance information on activity in the construction industry on an All-Ireland basis, we are also developing new channels and links for distributing our factual and verified information," explains Tom.

"We have recently launched some exciting new developments including 'mapping', which plots the GPS coordinates of each project and 'company connections', which allows clients identify with whom their competitors and potential customers are working.

"Last year, we opened

our office in Banbridge and are now the only construction leads provider to have researchers on the ground in Northern Ireland. We are also in the process of re-developing our website, which will utilise the latest technologies to enhance our customer experience."

Recently, CIS introduced a new CIS Insights service. This service provides bespoke research for various companies, Government Departments and organisations, including the CIF, on construction activity analysis and project monitoring.

Since the company was first sold in 1985, it changed hands on several occasions before being repurchased by its original owners in 1996. In 2002, CIS Ltd was purchased by Tom Moloney and Paddy McSwiney.

Tom Moloney has been responsible for both the technological development and successfully steering the company through the worst recession in Ireland's living memory.

Tom has developed new channels and links for distributing factual and verified information. As part of his strategy, he developed a strong association with Barbour ABI, the leading provider of construction information throughout the UK. This relationship has resulted in Barbour ABI distributing CIS-verified Irish data to UK companies who have an interest in the Irish construction sector.

As part of CIS's corporate strategy, Tom has built a strong relationship with CIF to provide business intelligence to its membership by producing monthly and quarterly analysis of activity on a regional basis.

Today, CIS employs over 20 people and is commonly referred to as 'The Bible of the Industry'.

"This 45-year milestone provides CIS with the opportunity to thank our many valued and loyal customers," says Tom Moloney. "We look forward to continuing to deliver quality, comprehensive, timely and verified information for the Irish construction sector in the years ahead." 

For more details about Construction Information Services visit www.cis.ie



Cover of the first CIS Report

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RESTORING OLD SCAFFOLDING TO MEET CURRENT SAFETY STANDARDS

SEAN MURPHY learns about a unique scaffolding refurbishment service offered by Wexford-based KDK Scaffolding



Refurbished scaffolding ready for delivery to clients

KDK Scaffolding was founded in September 1997 by directors Robert and Matt Kelly and has since grown to employ 80 – 100 staff and become a leading innovator in the scaffolding contractor sector.

KDK Scaffolding believes in a working partnership with its clients regardless of project size. Its philosophy of ensuring all its staff are professional and expert in their field has helped it become an innovator bringing new products and services to the construction sector, as well as expand laterally into new markets beyond the construction sector. However, its success over the years has been primarily driven by repeat orders from existing clients.

In addition to providing scaffolding to the construction sector, KDK offers specialised access systems for the manufacturing, pharmaceutical industries and clean room environments.

KDK's company motto is "Work Smarter, Better, Safer". Health and Safety is fundamental to everything KDK does. It rigorously adheres to the standards of the SafeTCert safety management systems and has the distinction of being accredited with an 'A' grade for the past four years.

IRISH DISTRIBUTOR FOR ALFIX SCAFFOLDING SYSTEMS

Recently, KDK was appointed as the sole Irish distributor for ALFIX scaffolding systems. ALFIX is an established European market brand for façade and modular scaffolding systems, mobile towers and temporary roofing systems.

REFURBISHMENT OF OLD SCAFFOLDING TO MEET CURRENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

KDK's unique scaffolding refurbishment service has helped the company establish an important safety niche in the market. Comprising of scaffold inspection, cleaning, shot blasting and repainting, the service enables customers to restore scaffolding that has decayed as a result of lying idle in recent years.

The service involves a thorough inspection of individual components for damage. Rusted, bent, broken or rotted pieces are separated away from restorable items that are fit for purpose to provide safe access and egress for workers operating at different heights.

"Our new product line and the refurbishment service complement our strong contract scaffolding core business," explains KDK Scaffolding Director, Robert Kelly.

This type of refurbishment service has not been available in Ireland until now. Unless your scaffolding has passed the rigours of our advanced complete inspection process, then you simply cannot rely on it to do its job properly.

"We have an inspection rejection rate of 30% to 36% on scaffolding that has just been taken down off a project," says Robert.

KDK's expertise in this area is considerable, and they believe that every piece rejected could have easily caused a collapse or death or serious injuries to unsuspected users.

"All items marked and painted for use on clients' scaffold by KDK are of the high standard required of finish products and will perform as required. All scaffolds, especially those treated for rust, will need to be graded every two to three years as rust decay doesn't stop, but carries on for the lifetime of the unit of scaffold."

KDK SCAFFOLDING REFURBISHMENT PROCESS

All items are visually inspected before being stacked for shot blasting by trained operatives. All damaged items are removed and stacked to be returned to the customer for disposal.

All standards (uprights) pass through the 'Nodding Donkey' test. This involves physical inspection testing and searching for weaknesses in the wall thickness, V-pressings, spigots and for internal rust that eats away from the strength of the standard.

After items pass through the shot blaster, the components are returned and put through for the second time, before further visual inspection. If passed, the component moves onto the paint conveyor dipping process and is dipped to customer colour requirements. If failed, it is stacked for disposal by the customer.

Destructive testing by an independent company forms part of the overall inspection and certification process. Damaged components fall into many types – pins, bananas, wedges, welded joints, broken welded joints, inside tube rust, rust accumulation on all items. **C**

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK SPECIAL OFFER

To mark Construction Safety Week, during October, KDK is giving a 10% discount to all scaffold owners who register to get their scaffold tested, shot blasted and dipped with them.

A simple test to see if you qualify for the 10% discount:

1. How old is your scaffold?
2. How was it stored in bad weather?
3. Was it horizontal in stacks?
4. When it was moved, did rust or water escape in the vertical position?
5. Is the outside rusty with no paint?

Mechanical & Electrical Contractors Association

Our members are at the heart of every building project in Ireland

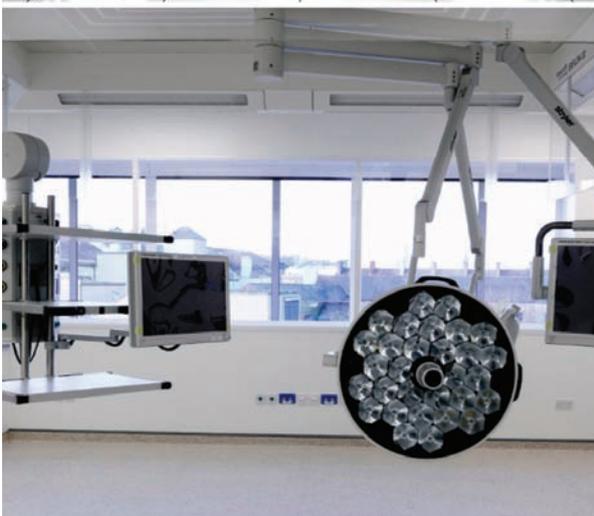


The Mechanical and Electrical Contractors Association (M&ECA) is the national representative trade association for mechanical and electrical contractors operating in the electrical contracting and building services sector in Ireland.

We represent members from the Mechanical Engineering & Building Services Contractors Association and the Electrical Contractors Association.

The M&ECA helps with:

- representing member interests individually and collectively
- promoting the interests of the association both within, and outside of, the CIF
- negotiating agreements with trade unions
- negotiating with prime contractors for fair and equitable conditions
- promoting policy decisions of the association to the executive body of the CIF and other relevant organisation, including Government departments
- liaising with appropriate stakeholders in the industry in relation to apprenticeships, health and safety, tendering, payment practices, employee relations, technical standards and economic policy



Members wishing to avail of the services offered, or potential members wishing to join the association, please contact Sean Downey, Tel: 01 406 6000 or Email: sdowney@cif.ie



IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOPS TO RUN ACROSS OCTOBER

Anybody engaged in house building activity today in Ireland must be fully informed about the updated regulatory and economic environment affecting home builders. As part of its annual programme of events, The Irish Home Builders Association (IHBA) runs a series of workshops across the country to inform residential house and apartment builders about the latest developments affecting the Housing sector.

This year IHBA Annual Workshops are running throughout October and into November. These workshops are tailored to provide answers to all members' housing and planning related questions. The workshops provide an opportunity to keep up to date with changes in legislation and regulations before engaging with statutory agencies and bodies.

They also provide an opportunity to raise questions, and most importantly, network with other home builders.

"I believe it very important that residential house and apartment builders

attend the upcoming workshops due to the numerous changes that have occurred in our industry over the past six years, such as BCARs, compliance documentation, Part V with Local Authorities, difficulties with utilities such as ESB Networks, Irish Water and Bord Gáis, etc," says Anthony Neville, Chairman of the IHBA.

"There are various complications with numerous bodies involved in residential house building at the moment. Therefore, there is a requirement for our members to be acutely aware of the current legislative changes and indeed the interpretations of regulations by our governing bodies. It is equally important that all of our members are up to date on developments as they happen. The workshops are an initiative to re-engage the residential builders with the CIF and in turn, start the dialogue flowing between the CIF and its members."

Topics that will be up for discussion include Planning, Regulations, Building Control, Housing Activity levels, Mortgage

approval, ESB Network, Irish Water, Bord Gais, Broadband, Part V, Budget 2018 Submission, Industrial Relations, Help to Buy Scheme, Demotion Waste, and Rebuilding Ireland.

Attendance at these workshops is open to both members and non-members

IHBA REGIONAL WORKSHOPS DATES

11 October 2017 Dublin Workshop CIF Head Office 4.00 – 6.00pm
 18 October 2017 Castletroy Hotel, Limerick 4.00 – 6.00pm
 19 October 2017 Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny 4.00 – 6.00pm
 23 October 2017 CIF Office Little Island Cork 1.00- 3.00pm
 26 October 2017 Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo 4.00 – 6.00pm
 02 November 2017 Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore 4.00 – 6.00pm **C**

To book your free place, contact Cathy Gurry
 Tel: 01 4066008, email cgurry@cif.ie

CIF TRANSITION YEAR INITIATIVE TO BE LAUNCHED AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CIF's Manpower Education & Training Sub-Committee will be launching a new initiative at this year's Annual Conference to promote work experience opportunities for Transition Year Students in the construction industry.

The initiative, in conjunction with careersportal.ie, will link construction companies across the country and young people in their local area to create valuable work experience opportunities.

The CIF has developed an accompanying workbook for students and manual for employers, so the student and the company can make the most of the work experience programme and ensure that the work placements

offered are in line with the school curriculum.

"This initiative will help members across the country build even greater links with their communities and possibly identify future employees locally," comments CIF Director of Safety & Training, Dermot Carey. "It will also give young people a real glimpse of what it is like to work in the construction industry. The workbook and manual are designed to ensure that both parties get the most from the work experience programme."

Details on the programme will be published in the next issue of Construction and can be found on the CIF website www.cif.ie **C**



CIF OUTLINES CONSTRUCTION CAREER OPTIONS FOR STUDENTS



Lorcan Hickey (John Sisk & Son) with Mojoqin Oyenuga, Whitney Ig and Mel Oyanga, (Loretto College, Mullingar)



L to R: Patrick Mullaney, Adam Pentony, Luke Nolan (St Patrick's Classical School, Navan), Kim Hutchinson (CIF)



L to R: Rebecca Reilly (Collen Construction), Christine McGowan (CBRE), Ryan Kennedy (Collen Construction), Dara Kelly (John Sisk & Son) and Diana Abrunhosa (Arup).



L to R Ciara Nolan, Hannah McManus, Greg O'Brien (Blessington Community College), Stephanie Gallagher, (Jones Engineering)

The Irish Times Higher Options Exhibition took place on the 13, 14 and 15 September at The RDS, Dublin. Over 25,000 second-level students attended the exhibition, which is the biggest careers event in the country.

CIF hosted a stand along with the Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB), Society of Chartered Surveyors (SCSI) and Engineers Ireland (EI).

The four organisations also ran a series of seminars during the exhibition promoting careers in the construction/engineering/ surveying industry. Around 1,800 young people attended these presentations and showed great interest in the potential of Construction, Engineering or Surveying in offering them a successful and sustainable career.

“CIF has been working closely with second-level institutions and bodies over the past few years to highlight the opportunities a career in construction offers young people,” comments CIF Director of Safety & Training, Dermot Carey. “This was our third year to host a stand at the Irish Times Higher Options Exhibition. We were once again delighted with the response to the presentations as well as the level of interest and enthusiasm shown by the students. We look forward to building on this and working with students and their schools to help them get all the information they need to choose a career in construction.”

OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMPANIES OF ALL SIZES WHO ADOPT LEAN

Charlie Wigzell outlines the key principles of the Last Planner project planning system



CIF Director of Specialist Contracting, Sean Downey, Dr Stephen Ward and Charlie Wigzell of Lean Construction Ltd



A Lean Workshop hosted at CIF Headquarters on 15 September was attended by a large cross-section of member representatives comprising home builders, general contractors, civil engineers and sub-contractors.

The workshop was facilitated by Dr Stephen Ward and Charlie Wigzell of specialist consultancy Lean Construction Ltd.

The key message that the facilitators wanted participants to take away from the workshop was that there is a significant opportunity for companies of all sizes who employ Lean to reduce waste and inefficiency across their operations radically. This will result in a more skilled and effective workforce as well as greater profits, which can all be achieved without having to increase turnover.

Speaking at the workshop, Sean Downey, CIF Director of Specialist Contracting, said that there are significant changes taking place in how buildings are being constructed in Ireland. Referencing an FDI project about to go on site where the client is shipping in a complete facility in modular form, he said: "Irish contractors have to be able to meet clients' needs in Ireland, or clients will seek solutions elsewhere.

"With building costs increasing, it is down to the construction firms using practices such as Lean to lead the way by demonstrating to Government and private clients how savings and efficiencies can be achieved."

Speaking to *Construction* Dr Stephen Ward



Participants taking part in a Lean Thinking exercise

said: "Lean is having a major impact on how construction delivery is being managed. For example, a major retail chain reduced its average store fit-out time from 11 to four weeks by applying Lean Thinking. A UK road maintenance firm quadrupled its profits over a five-year period while maintaining the same turnover during a recession. This was all achieved by reducing waste and increasing efficiency."

Dr Ward says Lean should be considered by every construction firm regardless of their size, and that there are local Lean programmes available whereby companies will be coached to achieve improvements in

a matter of weeks.

"If any company – large or small – is interested in starting their Lean journey, a simple first step would be to contact their local Enterprise Office about their LeanStart programme. Through LeanStart they will be coached through some simple actions they can take to reduce waste, improve efficiency and increase profit."

Dr Ward concludes by saying: "I understand, anecdotally, that Lean is increasingly becoming a requirement on tenders and PQQs. If this is the case, it makes sense that companies adopt a Lean approach as early as possible." **C**



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INDUSTRY NEWS

ROADSTONE SUSTAINABLE CONSTRUCTION SOLUTIONS SEMINARS

Roadstone is hosting a series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) accredited seminars throughout the country. The seminars will focus on some of the fundamental changes to Irish Building Regulations and present practical and cost effective solutions that will contribute significantly toward the efficient design and construction of new buildings.

“Roadstone is committed to product innovation aimed at providing building solutions to builders, contractors and designers alike,” comments Roadstone National Technical Manager, Alan Lowe. “These seminars will present an overview of Roadstone solutions to challenges presented by recently amended Building Regulations and specifications.

The programme will be of particular value to Contractors, Architects, Engineers, Designers and professional representatives from across the sector. Attendance is by invitation and pre-registration. Each seminar will include a light buffet breakfast and networking opportunities with colleagues and the Roadstone Commercial Innovation team.



Seminars will take place:
 11 October, Tinakilly House, Wicklow
 19 October, Páirc Uí Chaoimh, Cork
 24 October, Citywest, Dublin
 07 November, Menlo Park Hotel, Galway
 14 November, City North Hotel, Dublin

Registration and breakfast from 7am for a 7.30am start (Seminar duration 90 minutes). **C**

To request further information or to book your place on one of the seminars, visit www.roadstone.ie

ROADBRIDGE PUTS KOMATSU TO FORE IN CENTER PARCS LONGFORD DEVELOPMENT

Komatsu is featuring strongly in the line-up of heavy-duty machinery assembled by Roadbridge for work on the 395-acre Longford Forest Village being developed by Center Parcs near Ballymahon.

Coupled with two 80-tonne PC800LC-8 excavators – the largest machines on site – is the latest Komatsu Dash. Eleven machines were purchased by Roadbridge to carry out ground works at the site include a number of PC138US-11, PC210LC-11 and PC360LC-11 units. Also included in the mix of machines acquired by Roadbridge, are a number of construction site-specified Merlo P38.13 Plus telehandlers.

“The Center Parcs project in Longford

is a prestige development that, when completed, will become one of the finest of its kind in Europe and a prime visitor attraction in this country,” comments McHale Plant Sales Managing Director, Michael McHale. “We are delighted to see that Komatsu has been selected to fulfil the expectations of the leading contractor chosen to carry out the development work involved.”

The first Center Parcs development of its kind in Ireland, the new Longford Forest project is scheduled for completion in 2019, creating around 750 new jobs during construction and a further 1,000 permanent jobs when opened. **C**



The 80-tonne PC800LC-8 used by Roadbridge on the Center Parcs Project.



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CLÚID HOUSING SEEKS DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS TO BUILD 2,500 HOMES

Approved housing body (AHB) Clúid Housing is searching for development partners to help build 2,500 homes over the next three years.

Just over nine months into a three-year business plan, Clúid Housing is on track to deliver 2,500 new homes to people on social housing waiting lists before the end of 2019. The organisation has been delivering housing since 1994 and now owns or manages over 6,000 properties across the country.

“We know our target is ambitious, but it’s reinforced by a strong pipeline of units already identified,” says Clúid’s New Business Director, Fiona Cormican. “The majority of the units are new build turnkey acquisitions. We have a vast amount of experience working with private developers, local authorities and other AHB’s. As we ramp up our efforts, we are actively appealing to developers and Local Authorities to join us and help deliver these homes.”

Despite a headline-grabbing business plan, Clúid’s commitment remains twofold; implementing a growth strategy while simultaneously investing in the



Fiona Cormican, Business Director, Clúid

performance of current housing stock through a comprehensive asset management strategy. By 2019, the organisation will have built up a property portfolio of new, low maintenance homes in areas of high customer demand.

Clúid Housing delivers housing in five different ways:

Clúid Design & Build; Developer Design & Build; Part V; Turnkey & Acquisitions; Refurbishment & Regeneration.

Recent Clúid schemes include St Mary’s Mansions in Dublin City Centre and the completion of unfinished apartment blocks in Cork. The organisation now has a staff of over 175 qualified professionals; including in-house legal, design, finance and property service teams with a wealth of experience and expertise in the housing sector.

The organisation recently moved into a new to state of the art premises on Sheriff Street Upper, and at this year’s Irish Building and Design Awards, Head of Delivery, Eibhlin O’Connor won the Building and Design Woman of the Year Award.

Over the next three years, Clúid is aiming to increase the number of people it serves by almost 50%. With demand for social housing lingering around 90,000 units nationwide. **C**

GUARANTEED IRISH MARK SEPTEMBER AS ‘CONSTRUCTION MONTH’



Brid O’Connell, CEO, Guaranteed Irish

During September business membership organisation Guaranteed Irish marked its Construction Month with a programme of events to share insights on how to develop Ireland’s construction sector in a sustainable way.

Events feature industry experts who shared insights on how best to stimulate Ireland’s construction sector and ensure a sustainable housing supply in future decades. These included a roundtable for Guaranteed Irish members that featured a panel discussion with contributions from Paddy Kelly, Managing Director, Tegral.

“A decade after the economic downturn first hit this country, our member companies have kept themselves afloat, kept communities alive and provided real jobs for the people of Ireland,” said Brid O’Connell, CEO of Guaranteed Irish in advance of Construction Month.

“At Guaranteed Irish, we want to champion these businesses and showcase how their experiences and expertise can help in the development of sustainable construction policies for future years.

“There is a real sense within this sector that companies have worked hard through the recession and are well equipped to face future challenges. As such, they are perfectly positioned to share insights on the current housing crisis, and how best to develop a sustainable construction sector, particularly given the new challenges we are facing in light of Brexit.”

Guaranteed Irish is a business membership organisation with over 300 members nationwide. These members include construction product firms CRH, Tegral, Wavin, Kingspan, Comblifit, Celuplast, Dulux, Fleetwood, Kilsaran and Camfil. **C**

SANBRA FYFFE AND HERRON & SON IN DEAL TO NEW ZEALAND SPECIALIST



Pictured at the announcement of the international deal with New Zealand water solution specialists Hansen are; Noel Conroy Sanbra Fyffe (left) and Colum Murphy, Herron & Son.

Two Irish building suppliers have joined forces to launch a range of specialist plumbing and water solution products from New Zealand on the Irish market.

The unique collaboration between Dublin-based plumbing and heating products manufacturer Sanbra Fyffe and Sligo-based hardware distributor

Herron & Son, Sligo brings a range of over 1000 plumbing and water solutions products by New Zealand specialist manufacturer Hansen. The range includes poly compressions fittings for commercial and domestic plumbing applications.

“There are no comparable products on the Irish market that can rival Hansen in terms of quality, cost-effectiveness or

ease of use, said Noel Conroy, Sanbra Fyffe’s Commercial Manager. “Key benefits include the fact that one fitting can be used with all pipe types, they are manufactured to withstand the harshest weather conditions, and they carry a lifetime guarantee.”

Colum Murphy of Herron said that the company “is proud to bring Hansen’s range of proven and competitively priced products to the Irish market.”

Six Hansen product ranges will now be available in Ireland. These include a new range of Easy Fit compression fittings, specifically designed and manufactured for the Irish market, which can be hand tightened to 40bar.

Also available will be True Fit Threaded Fittings; True Fit Tank Fittings; Quick Connection Unions and Easy Fit Self Tapping Saddles. Another highly desirable product range available for agri, rural, horticultural and irrigation use is Hi-Flo Trough Valves (Fast, Super and Maxflo). Sanbra Fyffe and Herron & Son believe that the Hansen Superflo and Maxflo valves will quickly become the next industry standard for high-performance float valves.

The new partnership will also increase employment at Sanbra Fyffe and Herron with five to six people being added to their sales and marketing teams initially. **C**

GYPROC ANNOUNCES ACCREDITATION PROGRAMME FOR PLASTERERS

A new initiative from Gyproc offers experienced plasterers the opportunity to gain recognition from the Gyproc brand regarding their ability to understand and apply the full range of Gyproc plaster products in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions. Successful completion of the two-day course, which is validated by an on-site third-party assessor throughout its duration, provides a Gyproc brand endorsement as a Gyproc Approved Plaster Product Applicator.

“Our two-day, hands-on, practical Gyproc Plaster Application course provides the ideal opportunity for experienced plasterers to keep abreast of all developments such as advances in technology, changes in regulation and performance requirements, explains Jason Horrex, Gyproc Training Manager.

“Our Gyproc Approved Applicator endorsement gives the plasterer the ability to demonstrate to prospective customers and employers that they are engaging in further relevant training. The course is held every month in our Kingscourt Technical Academy



and can facilitate up to six attendees each month.”

Day One of the course provides participants with a comprehensive overview of the full range of Gyproc plaster products. Hands on practical tutorials are undertaken on the recommended application of all Gyproc

undercoat and finishing coat plasters. Common site detailing and issues are reviewed with practical tutorials on suitable background preparation for relevant Gyproc plasters. As part of the course, participants are also briefed on key content contained within relevant Codes of Practice, Building Regulations and Guidance Documents.

Day 2 is the assessment day and requires participants to successfully demonstrate that they understand specific information relating to Gyproc plaster products and that they can apply these products in full accordance with the instruction provided on Day One of the course. Participants are also presented with a unique Gyproc Plaster Site Pack containing all the relevant information a plasterer needs to assist a project to successful sign-off and hand over.

Suitable plastering experience is essential to be accepted onto this Gyproc Plaster Product Application course. To find out more or enquire about spaces on available courses you can contact Gyproc directly on Freephone 1800 744480 or techacademy@saint-gobain.com **C**

FINAL CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR IRISH CONCRETE SOCIETY AWARDS

The Irish Concrete Society is seeking final nominations for the 36th Annual Concrete Society Annual Awards. The closing date for entries is Friday 20 October.

The first awards were presented in 1979. Since then, the awards recognise excellence in the use of concrete, irrespective of type, scale or complexity. A coveted award scheme, adjudicated by a distinguished independent jury, these awards acknowledge construction achievements in which concrete, in any form, contributes significantly to the built environment.

Entries include any project type or any aspect of a building where concrete has been used, including civil engineering, architecture and landscaping.

Entries are subdivided into three categories:

- Building
- Infrastructure
- Element (housing or small projects, eg, walls, stairs, paving)

There will be one overall winner chosen, with category winners in the other sections, depending on the level and quality of entries.

Previous overall winning projects include:

- St. Angela's College, Cork
- DLR Lexicon Library, Dun Laoghaire
- Rosie Hackett Bridge, Dublin
- The River Erne Bridge, Cavan

The jury will consider awarding special recognition for the use of concrete in a sustainable context. Nominations should include a brief description of the contribution of concrete in this regard.

Nominations for the Awards may be made by clients, Architects, Consulting Engineers, Material Suppliers, Contractors or others directly involved with the project.

Nominations must refer to completed work, located in Ireland, which commenced after January 2014. Entries submitted for the



previous year's award may remain eligible for this year's scheme if they meet the requirements of the above commencement date.

"The winners will be announced at our annual awards evening, which will be held in March of next year," explains Jim Mansfield, Chairman of the Society. "The awards evening is a great showcase of exceptional concrete work constructed in Ireland. The Awards are also a testament to the skill of the contractors and project teams involved."

Winners will have an opportunity to compete at a European level through the European Concrete Societies Network (ECSN) Award scheme.

Entry forms for the Irish Concrete Society Awards can be downloaded at www.concrete.ie

CLONMEL ENTERPRISES' MD FOLLOWS IN SHACKLETON'S FOOTSTEPS ON ANTARCTIC TREK



The group arrive at Shackleton Gap, in South Georgia

In April, Kildare-based Clonmel Enterprise's Managing Director, Eamonn Stapleton was part of a four-person team that followed in Kildareman Ernest Shackleton's and Kerryman Tom Crean's footsteps across the unforgiving landscape of South Georgia. In 1916, Shackleton, Crean and the rest of the crew had to abandon their ship *The Endurance*, when it got trapped in ice and sank, and undertake an arduous journey on foot.

"The weather for the majority of the expedition was excellent. There were a couple of very bad days in the boat, which gave us some idea of what Shackleton and his crew must have experienced on their journey," explains Eamonn.

"In construction, when you prepare a project, you plan to address any issues that may arise on the project, particularly when

it comes to safety. On this expedition, I was hugely impressed with the level of planning that went into ensuring our safety when we eventually set off on the trek.

"As an experience, the trip was incredible," Eamonn says. "We were able to complete a trek that only a lucky few have been able to do. The overall experience was also very informative from a historical and environmental perspective. Given my engineering background, it gave me a real and unique perspective on some of the environmental issues facing the world. I also got to appreciate on some level the extensive planning required for an expedition.

I would be envious of the likes of Shackleton and Crean, who had the opportunity to be genuine adventurers and trailblazers."

YOUGHAL WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ON TARGET FOR 2018 COMPLETION



The Groundforce Super Mega Brace in-situ adjacent to a residential area.

With a population of over 7,000, Youghal is served by some untreated foul sewer outfalls to the Blackwater estuary. Sorensen Civil Engineering and EPS, are currently undertaking a Design, Build, and Operate (DBO) project for Irish Water, in partnership with Cork County Council in Youghal, to address this problem.

This project, part of the Youghal Main Drainage Scheme, aims to augment and upgrade the town's wastewater management

system and provide a new wastewater treatment plant to treat all of the town's foul flows and discharge the treated effluent to the sea through a new marine outfall pipe.

One element of the project is the design and construction of an upgrade to an existing underground reinforced concrete pumping station and associated building. This pumping station will function as the only feeder pumping station to the new 16,000PE wastewater treatment plant.

The upgrade works involve the construction of a large underground in-situ reinforced concrete tank next to the existing pumping station, as well as an extension to the existing pumping station building that will mainly sit on top of the new 16m x 16m x 6.5m deep tank.

Sorensen approached construction equipment specialists Groundforce to explore options for temporary support of the cofferdam, as given the depth of the excavation, silty ground conditions and high-water table, a cantilever sheet pile solution was not feasible.

The Groundforce solution was a Super Mega Brace hydraulic frame with a fabricated section of 575mm x 622mm, which enabled Sorensen to excavate and pour the walls of the tank without obstruction.

"The primary challenge was constructing a cofferdam that would safely retain the ground to a depth of 6.5m in severe ground conditions, surrounded by a network of existing services while also maintaining an opening of 18m x 18m," Sorensen Director John Wallace said. "The Super Mega brace allowed clear, uninterrupted opening, which in turn permitted us to complete the steel and concrete works in a safe and timely manner."

Sorensen and EPS were awarded the DBO contract in 2015. The construction element is two years, and the operation contract runs for a further 20 years. The project is on course to achieve its completion date of January 2018. **C**

ECOCEM IRELAND EXPANDS ITS UK OPERATIONS



Ecocem's new Sheerness bulk import facility

Ecocem Ireland has recently increased its export capacity with the official opening of a second bulk import terminal, capitalising on the potential to supply the London/South East construction market.

This is Ecocem Ireland's second bulk import

facility in the UK, and it is located in Sheerness in the Port of Medway. Ecocem Ireland opened its first facility in Runcorn in early 2016.

The new terminal required an investment of approximately €2.9m, which will see the firm being able to supply the UK market

with 250,000 tonnes of its low carbon cement alternative per annum, as part of the overall Ecocem materials strategy to develop additional export markets from its existing facilities in Ireland, Holland and France.

"Our second investment into the UK in a state of the art import facility demonstrates the need for our low carbon cement alternative and the growing demand from the UK construction industry," says Micheál McKittrick, the recently appointed new Managing Director of Ecocem Ireland. "We have already engaged in long term agreements with major concrete manufacturers in the UK and will continue to build momentum in the coming months."

Ecocem's cement has been used widely in Ireland and the UK in projects such as the Aviva Stadium in Dublin and The Shard in London.

"We are delighted to be working with the Ecocem team," comments Andrew Martin, Group Land & Property Directory of Peel. "We have been able to provide a multisite solution that will accelerate the delivery of product as close as possible to the areas of consumption. We wish Micheál and his team the best of success for the future." **C**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Helping you plan ahead

Monday 9th October 2017, 4:00pm
CORK BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Location: CIF Cork Office, Construction House, 4 Eastgate Avenue, Little Island, Cork
Contact: Brid Cody 021 4351410

Wednesday 11th October 2017, 3:00pm
MBCA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Denise Tuffy 01 4066066

Wednesday 11th October 2017, 4:00pm - 6pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Thursday 12th October 2017, 9:00am
CIF CONFERENCE 2017

Location: Croke Park, Dublin
Contact: comms@cif.ie

Tuesday 17th October 2017, 11:00am
EXECUTIVE BODY MEETING

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Gillian Heffernan 01 406 6016

Wednesday 18th October 2017, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Thursday 19th October 2017, 10:00am
M&ECA MEETING

Location: Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry
Contact: Orla Brady 01 4066048

Thursday 19th October 2017, 12:00pm
M&ECA/ACEI CONFERENCE

Location: Killarney Plaza Hotel, Killarney, Co Kerry
Contact: Orla Brady 01 4066048

Thursday 19th October 2017, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: Lyrath Estate Hotel, Lyrath Co. Kilkenny
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Monday 23rd October 2017, 1:00pm
CORK BRANCH IHBA MEETING

Location: CIF Cork Office Construction House, 4 Eastgate Avenue, Little Island, Cork
Contact: Brid Cody 021 4351410

Monday 23rd October 2017, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: CIF Cork Office, Construction House, 4 Eastgate Avenue, Little Island, Cork
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Tuesday 24th October 2017, 10:00am
IHBA NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Midlands Park Hotel, Jessop Street, Portlaoise, Co Laois
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01 4066008

Wednesday 25th October 2017, 1:00pm
PROCUREMENT TENDERING & CONTRACTUAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Denise Tuffy 01 4066066

Thursday 26th October 2017, 9:00am - 11:00am
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: Maldron Hotel Galway, Sandy Road, Galway
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Thursday 26th October 2017, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Thursday 2nd November 2017, 4:00pm - 6:00pm
IHBA REGIONAL HOUSING WORKSHOP

Location: Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co Offaly
Contact: Cathy Gurry 01-4066008 or email cgurry@cif.ie

Monday 6th November 2017, 6:00pm
GALWAY BRANCH MEETING

Location: The Ardilaun Hotel, Taylors Hill, Galway
Contact: Justin Molloy 091 502680

Tuesday 7th November 2017, 4:30pm
MID WEST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Castletroy Park Hotel, Dublin Road, Limerick
Contact: Brid Cody 021 4351410

Tuesday 7th November 2017, 8:00pm
MIDLAND BRANCH MEETING

Location: Bloomfield House Hotel, Belvedere, Mullingar, Co Westmeath
Contact: Justin Molloy 091 502680

Wednesday 8th November 2017, 7:00pm
SOUTH EAST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Brandon House Hotel, Chambersland New Ross, Co Wexford
Contact: Brid Cody 021 4351410

Monday 13th November 4:00pm
CECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Denise Tuffy 01 4066066

Wednesday 15th November 2017, 9:00am
M&ECA MEETING

Location: Maldron Hotel, Midway, Abbeyleix Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois
Contact: Orla Brady 01 4066048

Wednesday 15th November 2017, 9:00am
PROCUREMENT TENDERING & CONTRACTUAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Denise Tuffy 01 4066066

Thursday 16th November 2017, 2:30pm
ASCA MEETING

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Orla Brady 01 406 6048

Wednesday 22nd November 2017, 3:00pm
MBCA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING (FOLLOWED BY MBCA AGM AT 5PM)

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Denise Tuffy 01 4066066

Wednesday 22nd November 2017, 8:00pm
DONEGAL BRANCH MEETING

Location: Mount Errigal Hotel, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co Donegal
Contact: Justin Molloy 091 502680

Tuesday 28th November 2017, 11am
EXECUTIVE BODY MEETING (FOLLOWED BY CIF AGM AT 12.45PM)

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Gillian Heffernan 01 406 6016

Wednesday 29th November 2017, 2:30pm
NASAC AGM

Location: CIF Head Office, Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin
Contact: Orla Brady 01 406 6048

Thursday 30th November 2017, 8:00pm
NORTH WEST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Sligo Park Hotel, Pearse Road, Sligo
Contact: Justin Molloy 091 502680 **C**

CIF TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

CIF training and education programmes for October 2017

Course Title/Venue	Course	Start Date	End Date	Course times
Building Control Course -Part E - Sound CSE 1 CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	BCC 2921	10th October Tuesday	10th October Tuesday	09.00am-13.00pm
Building Control Course -Part G & Part H - Hygiene and Drainage CSE 1 CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	BCC 2921	10th October Tuesday	10th October Tuesday	14.00pm-17.00pm
IOSH Project Supervisor Design Process ESB Training Centre In House Portlaoise – Room 3 NTC	PSDP 3092	10th. October Tuesday	11th. October Wednesday	09.00am – 17.00pm
Construction Contracts Act Maldron Hotel, Oranmore Road, Galway	CCA 3077	11th. October Half day	11th. October	09.00am - 12.00pm
Temporary Work One Day Programme CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	TW 3063	11th. October Wednesday	11th. October Wednesday	09.00am-17.00pm
PWC Employer Designed CIF Construction House, Little Island, Cork	PWCED 3078	12th. October Half day	12th. October	09.00am - 12.00pm
Radon Prevention Measures Radisson Blu, Galway	RPM 3099	12th. October Thursday	12th. October Thursday	04.00pm-6.15pm
CIF Site Supervisor Safety Programme CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	SSSP 2996	12th. October Thursday	13th. October Friday	09.00am - 17.00pm
Project Supervisor Construction Stage CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	PSCS 2998	12th. October Thursday	25th. October Wednesday	09.00am – 17.00pm
Project Supervisor Construction Stage CIF Construction House, Little Island, Cork	PSCS 2994	13th October Friday	27th October Friday	09.00am – 17.00pm
PWC Short Form Maldron Hotel, Oranmore Road, Galway	PWC 3079	17th. October Half day	17th. October	09.00am - 12.00pm
Pre Qualification Maldron Hotel, Oranmore Road, Galway	PQQ 3080	19th. October Half day	19th. October	09.00am - 12.00pm
CIF Core Safety Management Programme Renewal/CPD Radisson Hotel, Athlone	CSMP 2999	20th. October Friday	20th. October Friday	9.00am-13.00pm
CIF Core Safety Management Programme Renewal/CPD Roscommon Co. Co. Training Room 1&2, Aras an Chontae, Roscommon	CSMP 3061	23rd.October Monday	23rd.October Monday	9.00am-13.00pm
CIF Site Supervisor Safety Programme Radisson Blu Galway, Galway (c)	SSSP 3000	24th. October Wednesday	25th. October Thursday	09.00am - 17.00pm
CIF Site Supervisor Safety Programme J Sisk In-House Own Tutor, Dublin	SSSP 3103	24th. October Wednesday	25th. October Thursday	09.00am - 17.00pm
CIF QQI Building Control Course-Part F & Part L - Ventilation & Conservation [1] CSE 1 CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	BCC 2921	24th October Tuesday	24th October Tuesday	09.00am-17.00pm
CIF QQI Building Control Course - Part F & Part L - Ventilation & Conservation [2] CSE 1 CIF Construction House, Canal Road, Dublin 6	BCC 2921	25th October Wednesday	25th October Wednesday	09.00am-17.00pm
IOSH Project Supervisor Design Process CIF Offices, Canal Road, Dublin 6	PSDP 2997	26th October Thursday	27th October Friday	09.00am – 17.00pm
PWC Employer Designed Maldron Hotel, Oranmore Road, Galway	PWCED 3081	27th October Half day	27th October	09.00am - 12.00pm

INTRODUCING LAYHER'S NEW ALLROUND UNIVERSAL ALUMINIUM HD BEAM

The new addition to Layher's range connects directly with both our Allround scaffolding system and tube/fitting scaffolds alike. With the same high strength, reliability, versatility and availability you would expect from Layher, you and your customers can now explore even more possibilities.

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- A range of accessories to further extend user possibilities.



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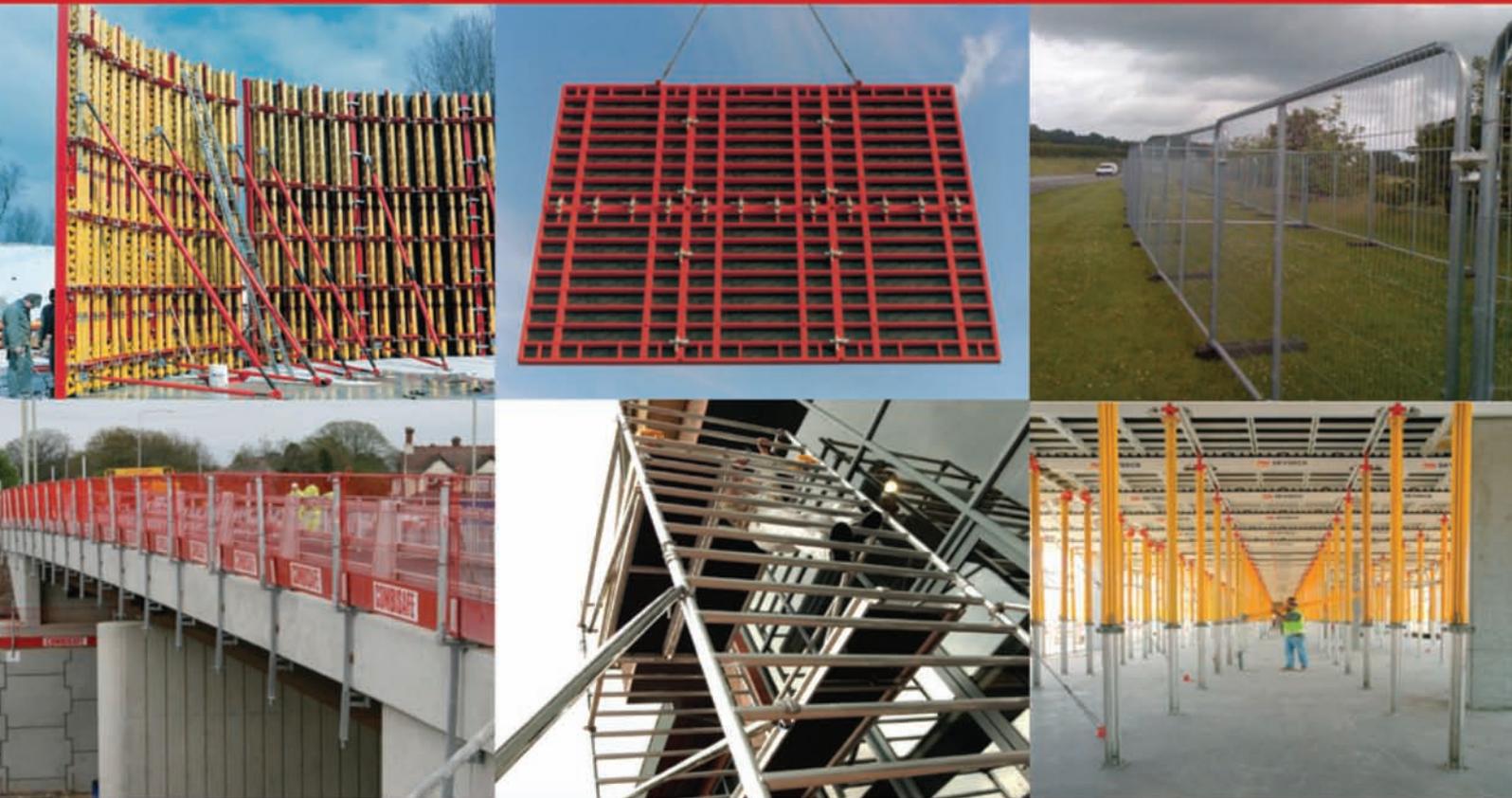


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