

CONSTRUCTION

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION

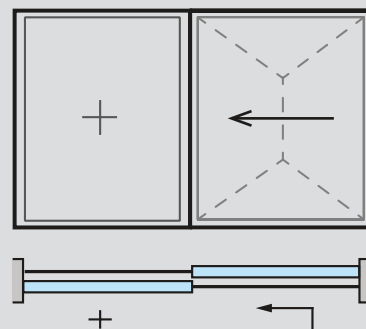
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020



2020: STILL STANDING



1 Fixed light + 1 Pull sliding sash



» WICSLIDE 150 PS Performance Slider

The new offset sliding system, WICONA's new WICSLIDE 150 PS, is the optimum hybrid solution for vertical living spaces, combining the benefits of a sliding door with the performances of a window. One highlight of the WICSLIDE 150 PS is that the profiles are made of Hydro CIRCAL 75R aluminium – a top quality aluminium alloy composed of at least 75% recycled end-of-life aluminium (postconsumer scrap).

WICONA®

By  Hydro

Find out more:
www.wicona.ie

E: wiconae@wicona.com
T: 01 410 57 66



EDITORIAL



Masures announced in Budget 2021, as well as the construction sector not being shut down as part of Level 5 of the 'Plan for Living With Covid-19', are indicators of the Government's confidence in the sector's ability to lead the way in the country's economic recovery in the coming 18 months.

October saw the launch of the CIF's long-awaited 'A Home For Everyone' competition for senior students. This competition will test students' creative and problem-solving skills, while also giving them a taste of what an exciting career construction can offer. It also provides a forum for CIF members to engage with local schools to show students the opportunities that await them if they choose to pursue careers in construction.

In this issue of *Construction*, we report from the CIF Annual Conference 2020, attended remotely by a record number of delegates, with presentations and fascinating insights provided by global speakers and panellists.

We cover the highlights of Construction Safety Week 2020, when sites across the country organised a broad range of socially-distanced and virtual activities to heighten awareness of the critical risks affecting workers.

We look at how leading contractors and utility companies address risks on their sites, with features on Jones Engineering, BAM Ireland, PJ Hegarty & Sons, Kirby Group Engineering, JJ Rhatigan & Company, ESB Networks and Gas Networks Ireland. Our Category Focus looks at how the work of the CIF Construction 4.0 sub-Committee will transform the construction sector in the coming years.

In Project Focus, we visit Central Plaza in Dublin city centre and learn how Hegarty Demolition carried out the necessary works to facilitate the iconic building's redevelopment. In Member Focus, we interview the CEO of Designer Group, and former CIF President, Michael Stone. He speaks about how his company has addressed Covid-19 challenges and its programmes to develop the engineering talent of tomorrow. The EY Entrepreneur of the Year-nominated founders of Kiernan Structural Steel, Frank and Dolores Kiernan, discuss the company's growth and how being immersed in their community is a big part of their success. We also bring you all the latest CIF and industry news as well as upcoming CIF events and courses. **C**



Robbie Cousins, Editor

YOUR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY FEDERATION TEAM - WWW.CIF.IE

Foundation Media Ltd

1 Northumberland Place,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co Dublin.
P: +353 1 677 3157
Twitter: @ConstructionCIF

Editor:

Robbie Cousins
Email: robbie@foundationmedia.ie

Commercial Manager:

Joe Connolly
Email: joe@foundationmedia.ie

Editorial Design:

Joanne Birmingham

Printing:

WG Baird

Publisher:

Foundation Media Ltd

Construction House,
Canal Road, Dublin 6.
D06 C6T2
Tel: 01 406 6000
Fax: 01 496 6953
Email: info@cif.ie
Twitter: @CIF_Ireland



Construction House,
8 Montpellier Terrace,
The Crescent, Galway. H91 AC96
Tel: 091 502680 Fax: 091 584575
Email: cifgalway@cif.ie

Construction House,
4 Eastgate Avenue,
Little Island, Cork. T45 YR13
Tel: 021 435 1410 Fax: 021 435 1416
Email: cifcork@cif.ie

PRESIDENT: Pat Lucey

DIRECTOR GENERAL: Tom Parlon

CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER:

Hubert Fitzpatrick

DIRECTOR/EXECUTIVE TEAM

HOUSING & PLANNING:

James Benson, Lorraine Hosty,
Lorcan Cooke

ECONOMIC AND POLICY RESEARCH:

Jeanette Mair

MAIN CONTRACTING AND CIVIL ENGINEERING:

Paul Sheridan, Alison Irving

SPECIALIST CONTRACTING:

Sean Downey, Gillian Ross

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS & EMPLOYMENT SERVICES:

Jean Winters, Cheryl Treanor,
Anthony Brady

EASTERN REGION:

James Benson

SOUTHERN REGION:

Conor O'Connell, Ronan O'Brien

WESTERN/MIDLAND REGION:

Justin Molloy

SAFETY & TRAINING:

Dermot Carey, John Egan

LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT:

Robert Butler

MEMBERSHIP:

Maude Foley

NEW MEMBERSHIP:

Bernardine Walsh

FINANCE/ACCOUNTS:

Gabriel MacGrath

COMMUNICATIONS:

Shane Dempsey

ICT SERVICES:

Denis Cadogan, Paul Brady

CIRI - www.ciri.ie

CIRI: Lorraine Hosty

CIRI CPD OFFICE: Robert Butler

CERS: Frances McNally

Tel: 01 407 1434

Email: info@cers.ie

MILESTONE ADVISORY:

Susan O'Mara

Tel: 01 406 8021

Email: info@milestoneadvisory.ie

CWPS:

Martin Bradley

Tel: 01 406 8025

Email: info@cwps.ie

QUINN



MANNOK

QUINN IS BECOMING MANNOK

**Your new brand for superior
building products.**

With our new brand, we renew our commitment to our customers to bring you more innovation, more quality products and a continued focus on environmental leadership; from the same people, with the same expertise and energy you have come to expect from us.

"With growth comes change"
- LIAM MCCAFFREY, MANNOK CEO

Go to mannokholdings.com
to find out more.





CONSTRUCTION

CONTENTS

October/November 2020

CIF NEWS 5 CIF NEWS

The latest news and views from CIF

9 CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK SHOWCASES SECTOR WORKING UNDER NEW NORMAL

COVER STORY

20 OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTION IS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMY – CIF ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2020

PROJECT FEATURE

24 HEGARTY DEMOLITION DELIVERS ON CHALLENGING CENTRAL PLAZA PROJECT

CATEGORY FOCUS

30 STARS ALIGN FOR THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

MEMBER FOCUS

34 KIERNAN STEEL NOMINATED FOR EY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

39 DESIGNER GROUP – GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT CONSTRUCTION IS INTEGRAL TO A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

45 PENSIONS – HOW SAFE IS YOUR FUTURE?

47 CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS SKILLNET – ARE YOU READY FOR 2021?

51 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BOLSTERED BY APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVISATION SCHEME

CORPORATE PARTNER

55 CONFUSED ABOUT SELF-ASSESSED TAX EXPENSES? – TAXBACK.COM

56 SOME SAFETY RISKS CAN BE DESIGNED OUT AT PLANNING STAGE – ASHVIEW CONSULTANTS

SAFETY FOCUS

58 THERE IS NO FINISH LINE FOR SAFETY AT THE END OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK – PJ HEGARTY & SONS

59 ADDRESSING COVID AS PART OF AN OVERALL SAFETY PLAN – KIRBY GROUP ENGINEERING

61 BREAKING NEW GROUND IN SAFETY – GAS NETWORKS IRELAND

62 BAM IRELAND'S 'YOUR SAFETY IS MY SAFETY' PROGRAMME

63 RECOGNISING ELECTRICITY WIRES AND CABLES AS A MAIN HAZARD ON CONSTRUCTION SITES – ESB NETWORKS

64 'NOBODY GETS HURT' – JONES ENGINEERING

65 A SAFE SITE IS AN EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE SITE – JJ RHATIGAN & COMPANY

66 WHAT CAN CONSTRUCTION LEARN FROM CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PPE IN HEALTHCARE?

INDUSTRY NEWS

68 NEWS OF DEVELOPMENTS FROM THE WIDER INDUSTRY

DIARY

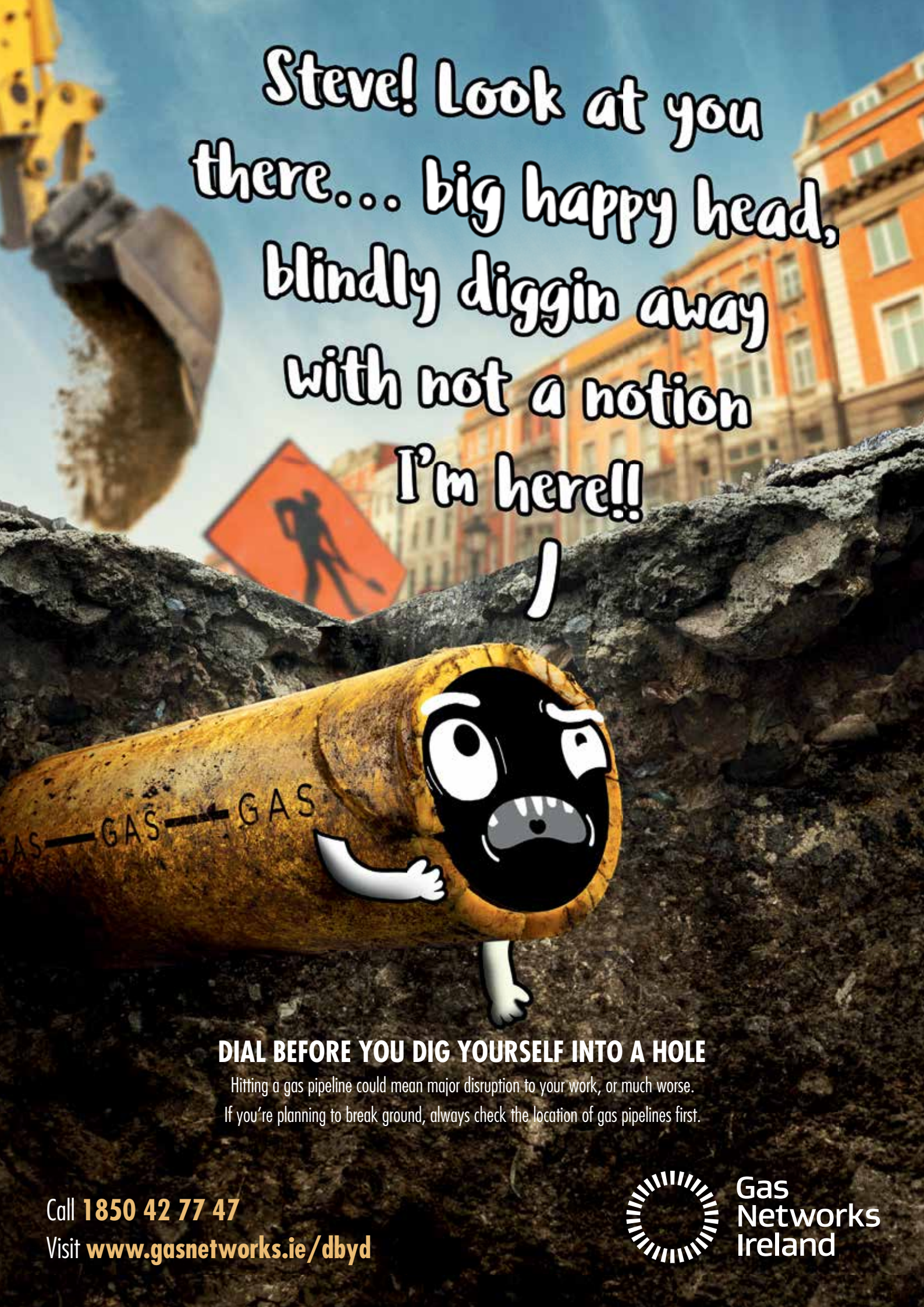
71 DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Don't miss a thing

TRAINING

72 TRAINING

A look at the CIF training schedule





Steve! Look at you
there... big happy head,
blindly diggin away
with not a notion
I'm here!!



DIAL BEFORE YOU DIG YOURSELF INTO A HOLE

Hitting a gas pipeline could mean major disruption to your work, or much worse.
If you're planning to break ground, always check the location of gas pipelines first.

Call **1850 42 77 47**

Visit **www.gasnetworks.ie/dbyd**



**Gas
Networks
Ireland**

CIF NEWS

A GOOD BUDGET NEEDS A PROCUREMENT SYSTEM THAT IS FIT FOR PURPOSE

A message from CIF Director General Tom Parlon

I welcome many of the measures outlined in Budget 2021. The Government appears to get the connection between infrastructure and housing, with many measures designed to put the enabling infrastructure in place to allow housing development across the country. Its commitment to increase the ambition in the National Development Plan is welcome. Its undertaking to accelerate strategic projects across the regions is a strong statement about redressing our regional development imbalance. I would hope that this will, at last, see urban centres like Waterford, Cork and Limerick lead strong regional economies that provide opportunities for people to live and work in their local area.

The Government has heeded the IMF's advice and increased investment into public infrastructure by €1.6bn, to over €10bn for next year. Analysis shows that every €1bn invested this year in infrastructure will generate another €1.85bn in output, support 1,200 jobs and circulate €680m in wages and profits around the economy.

The €10bn in capital investment and approximately €5bn in the Department of Housing's budget for housing could insulate the economy from the worst of the cost of living with Covid-19. With many sectors shut down, the State needs the construction industry to translate these figures into much-needed housing and productive infrastructure.

In the longer-term, the investment will see housing output increase towards 35,000 per annum and the delivery of hundreds of thousands of retrofits, and generate the balanced regional development envisaged in 'Project Ireland 2040'. Adopting this pro-investment approach means we will hand over a fully functioning, competitive and climate-friendly economy to the next generation, rather than simply a large debt arising from Covid-19.

This is why it is critical that our industry,




Tom Parlon,
Director General, CIF.

which has a proven track record in terms of containing Covid-19 over the past eight months, remains operational throughout Covid-19 restrictions.

Underpinning all this potential is the need for Government to streamline the bureaucracies and processes that very often delay delivery and increase costs. If we can do this, I believe we can bring the economy back to pre-Covid economic levels in 2021, months ahead of estimates, whilst transforming our society and solving the housing crisis.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible work of CIF members and their teams in adapting their operations over the past few months so that the sector can remain open.

I thank all of the sponsors whose support made this year's Construction Safety Week possible and all the companies and individuals who participated in it.

In closing, I am delighted that our 'A Home For Everyone' programme has been launched. I call on members from all construction and engineering disciplines to take this opportunity to be part of the programme and engage with young people in your local schools and communities to share with them the excitement of being a part of an industry that is shaping and building the Ireland of the future. 


Stay safe,
Tom Parlon



Our people, engineering the future, building a legacy.

The provider of choice for innovative building services and sustainable energy solutions.

Setting the highest safety and quality benchmarks; providing our worldwide clients value tailored to their needs.

+353 (0) 1 860 0520
www.designergrp.com
 @designer-group

CIF WELCOMES BUDGET 2021 BUT WARNS PLANNING INEFFICIENCIES NEED TO BE TACKLED

The CIF has welcomed housing and infrastructure measures included in the Government's Budget 2021.

While welcoming measures set out in Budget 2021, the CIF has warned that embedded inefficiencies in the State's planning and procurement systems could dampen positive economic benefits and delay delivery. The increased investment in infrastructure to €10.1bn is a hugely positive step. The Government's commitment to delivering affordable housing through a range of measures is also welcomed, and a mooted shared equity scheme could lead to thousands of additional homes if deployed correctly.

INCREASED INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

Giving his response to Budget 2021, Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF, pointed out that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has recently advised countries to increase investment in infrastructure to drive economic recovery.

"Our Government has heeded the IMF advice and increased investment into public infrastructure by €1.6bn to over €10bn," he said. "This will have huge positive impacts in the short term and the long term. Every €1bn invested in infrastructure this year will generate another €1.85bn in output, support 1,200 jobs and circulate €680m in wages and profits around the economy. In the longer-term, this investment will see housing input increase towards 35,000 per annum, the delivery of hundreds of thousands of retrofits, and generate the balanced regional development envisaged in 'Project Ireland 2040'. Adopting this pro-investment approach means we will hand over a fully functioning, competitive and climate-friendly economy to the next generation, rather than simply a large debt arising from Covid-19."

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The CIF Director General welcomed the Government's commitment to an affordable homes scheme, and he hopes to see a shared equity scheme in place in the coming months.

"The details of how this scheme will be implemented will be critical," he added. "It will mean thousands of houses that cannot be constructed currently will now be built, taking thousands of couples out of the affordability trap."

The CIF's Irish Homebuilders Association (IHBA) identified the fact that a couple needed to have a joint income of over €94,000 to secure a mortgage for an averagely priced home.

James Benson, Director, Housing, Planning and Development, CIF, said, "A shared equity scheme, in conjunction with the 'Help to Buy' (HTB) Scheme, will ensure that couples with joint incomes of €70,000 can secure mortgages. This should increase the level of development finance banks are willing to lend to homebuilders. The CIF believes that the 'Shared Equity Scheme' needs to see the Government take at least a 30% stake in new homes to ensure housing output meets our population's requirements."

The CIF also welcomed the extension of the HTB scheme out to December 2021.

"The HBT has proven to be a critical component of increasing the supply of new homes," James Benson added. "Without the HTB scheme, the positive impact of any shared equity scheme will be greatly reduced. So, we believe it should be extended out to 2025, or until output meets the recommended level of 35,000 per annum.



Paschal Donohoe TD, Minister for Finance.

This will encourage investment by the sector and the banking system into homebuilding and increase supply in the medium term. In addition, the increase in the Rebuilding Ireland home loan will benefit supply."

The CIF welcomed the State's commitment to housing by providing a budget of €5.2bn to the Department of Housing in 2021. The CIF and its members are ready to deliver social, affordable and private residential. Real engagement between the industry and the Land Development Agency will be essential to ensure the correct mix of housing over the next two decades.

BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Paul Sheridan, Director, Main Contracting and Civil Engineering, CIF, warned that Government investment must focus on developing strong regional economies that complement Dublin as a global economic engine.

"The CIF welcomes the commitment to increase the ambition of the National Development Plan," Paul Sheridan commented. "This Government has a unique opportunity to finally address regional imbalances in our economy. We have seen how a lack of opportunity for people to live and work in their own region has fomented political upheaval in the US, UK and across the EU. Ireland's economy overall will benefit from strong, dynamic regional economies that support FDI-led sectors outside the capital. We have called on the Government to divert at least an additional €3bn of this year's public sector investment into the acceleration of strategic projects across the regions and welcome their commitment to invest €10bn in this regard," Paul Sheridan concludes. **C**

THANK YOU

CIF would like to thank all of the sponsors of Construction Safety Week 2020 whose financial support ensured that we could have in place all the resources required to make the week successful.

Given the current pandemic, it is vital that we don't lose sight of the "normal" hazards of working in construction – CSW20 allowed us to refocus – Thanks to all!



Kirby Group Engineering welcomed CIF Health & Safety Ambassador Rory O'Connor to one of its sites for a talk on mental wellbeing.



CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK SHOWCASES SECTOR WORKING UNDER THE NEW NORMAL

While Covid-19 restrictions meant virtual presentations and socially-distanced tool box talks were the means by which messages were delivered during Construction Safety Week 2020, the key campaign message focused on the importance of addressing traditional site risks.

Construction Safety Week 2020 was held across the week commencing Monday 19th October, coinciding with European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2020. The CIF Safety, Health & Welfare sub-Committee and the CIF Executive Body recommended five key topics for construction companies to focus on during Construction Safety Week 2020. These were:

- Mental Health, Welfare and Wellbeing in Construction
- Plant and Pedestrian Safety
- Occupational Health in Construction
- Working Safely at Height
- Emergency Preparedness.

Speaking about the importance of Construction Safety Week and critical messages to get across this year, Frank Kelly, Senior Vice President, CIF, and Chairman, CIF's Safety, Health & Welfare

sub-Committee said, "While Covid-19 has immeasurably changed how we live and work, we are reminded that other health and safety hazards and welfare considerations still necessitate focus. The topics chosen for Construction Safety Week 2020 reflect key areas for continued focus. So far this year, there have been 11 fatalities in construction sites to date."

Construction site fatalities so far this year have been attributed to:

- Falls from height (5)
- Plant and machinery (2)
- Struck by a moving object (1)
- Drowning (3).

Every fatality is one too many; hence, the CIF recognised Construction Safety Week 2020 as a necessity to ensure that everyone remains vigilant for their own, and others' safety and wellbeing at work. This year's programme was undertaken in adherence

to Covid-19 restrictions and public health guidance.

MONDAY, 19TH OCTOBER – MENTAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND WELLBEING IN CONSTRUCTION

Mental health covers a wide range of issues, including mild or moderate anxiety and stress, drug and alcohol abuse and disorders such as severe depression and schizophrenia. However, workers' mental health and wellbeing also relates to their general mental and emotional health and their ability to cope with the everyday stresses of life. This year, we must acknowledge the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on society in general. All of our lives and routines have been affected by measures introduced to contain the virus and to protect the population. Many construction workers were unable to work,



John Sisk and Son workers mark Construction Safety Week 2020 on its Cherrywood site in Dublin.

and this brought its own challenges.

According to Dermot Carey, Director Safety & Training, CIF, “Mental health and wellbeing is now a critical part of the construction industry’s safety culture. To protect our employees and sustain productivity as the industry rebuilds Ireland in 2020 and shapes Ireland for

2040, we must build strong and resilient organisational cultures that support them. I’m confident that the dynamic, adaptable companies in construction and our industry can achieve as proud a record in mental wellness as we have achieved collectively in safety.”

In August 2020, the CIF launched

a Report on ‘Mental Health in the Construction Sector’, which outlines recommendations from a detailed survey of members; this report represents a benchmark for measurement of progress made towards an industry culture that protects, supports and nurtures employee wellbeing. The resultant recommendations for companies are as follows:

1. Prioritise the project management and supervision of each job to establish and maintain
 - A. Realistic deadlines
 - B. Clear communication between management and staff
 - C. Healthy work hours and work periods
2. Develop a collaborative company culture where teamwork and support are encouraged and rewarded. Senior management need to “demonstrate and not just articulate that teamwork matters”.
3. Assign a senior person within the company with the responsibility for mental health. The assigned individual to be provided with the support and resources to deliver support structure.
4. Engage staff in a frank discussion on mental health to develop appropriate policies and procedures.
5. Develop concise and jargon-free mental health policies and procedures and clearly communicate to all staff.
6. Introduce an open and confidential process, whereby employees can report a mental health issue.
7. Consider and invest in a range of educational initiatives (eg, talks, workshops, activities) to inform and promote good mental health in the workplace.
8. Consider formal training for staff, selecting an accredited course that matches your company’s needs.

TUESDAY, 20TH OCTOBER – PLANT AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

According to the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), the greatest risk to pedestrians is from vehicles and mobile plant. It is highlighted that there are substantial blind spots on dozers, wheeled loading shovels and excavators, with workers at risk of being run over if they are in the operator’s blind spot.

The law requires that pedestrians and vehicles must co-exist safely both in indoor and outdoor places of work. Where vehicles are operating, the vulnerable group may be co-workers, visitors, or members of the public. To protect pedestrians, vehicle travel routes should be



Crane stretcher rescue drill being carried out at BAM Ireland’s Brewery Quarter site, Cork.



Plant and people segregation on a JJ Rhatigan & Company site.

clearly delineated, with enough clearance space between persons and vehicles considering the number of users and the work activities.

WEDNESDAY, 21ST OCTOBER – OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH IN CONSTRUCTION

Mindful that the theme of European Week for Safety and Health at Work 2020 was 'Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load, by tackling work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)', this was one of the focus areas for this day of Construction Safety Week.

Ergonomics is the term assigned to the assessment of physical risks to the human body, such as excessive force, awkward posture, and repetition of tasks. The goal is to develop better ways of carrying out work, to ensure that workers do not pose a risk to their musculoskeletal health by acting outside of their physical capabilities (eg, lifting excessively heavy materials or lifting repeatedly).

For Construction Safety Week 2020, the CIF collaborated with the HSA to provide two live webinars on 'Practical Ergonomic Risk Assessment in Construction Webinar'. The focus was on practical ergonomic risk assessment tools (such as the Mac Tool), which can be used to identify and manage risks of musculoskeletal disorders in the construction sector.

THURSDAY, 22ND OCTOBER – WORKING SAFELY AT HEIGHT

Working at height continues to be the most significant causal factor for fatalities and serious injury in construction. Many falls occur at relatively low heights, for example, two or three metres above ground level. The CIF is calling for all those engaged in construction activity to undertake risk assessments for work at height activities and to make sure the work is adequately planned and organised to avoid, or at least reduce risks as low as reasonably practicable.

According to the HSA, working at height is defined as: "Work in any place, including a place at, above or below ground level, where a person could be injured if they fell from that place. Access and egress to a place of work can also be work at height".

The key messaging from the HSA to ensure safe working at height is as follows:

- Carry out risk assessments for work-at-height activities and make sure that all work is planned, organised, and carried out by a competent person.
- Follow the 'General Principles of Prevention' for managing risks from work at height, taking steps to avoid, prevent or reduce risks.
- Choose appropriate work equipment and prioritise collective measures to prevent falls (such as guard rails and working platforms) before other

measures, which may only reduce the distance and consequences of a fall (such as nets or airbags), or may only provide fall-arrest through personal protection equipment.

FRIDAY, 23RD OCTOBER – EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In an emergency, people may react differently, and sometimes irrationally. There is a risk of poor judgement, panic, or confusion. It is for such reasons that situational training is to be encouraged. In an emergency, it can be challenging to think clearly. Time is precious, and prior preparation is strongly advised through contingency planning.

Pre-planning is essential to ensure that appropriate resources are allocated, and to identify any potential deficiencies in procedures or plans. Plans should outline clear roles and responsibilities, be subject to regular reviews and shared with appropriate persons. Recommendations include:

- Learn the emergency numbers 112 and 999
- Know your full address, including Eircode and be able to provide clear directions to your premises/site
- Retain useful phone numbers to hand and make visible to relevant others
- Undertake training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and First Aid Response
- Have a first aid app on your phone
- Maintain site drawings
- Undertake evacuation drills
- Provide appropriate training to appropriate persons. **C**

CIF would like to thank to following sponsors of Construction Safety Week, without their support this week would not be possible, Irish Water, Collen, Gas Networks Ireland, Kirby Group Engineering, BAM Contractors, ESB Networks, Jones Engineering, Bennetts, Walls, John Paul Construction, PJ Hegarty, John Sisk & Sons, JJ Rhatigan & Company, Hilti Ireland, Chadwicks, and Designer Group.



Walls Construction workers mark Construction Safety Week 2020.



IRELAND'S PREMIER FIRE DOOR
MANUFACTURER SINCE 1981 IS CHANGING
ITS NAME FROM CASEY DOORS TO:

 **Architectural Doorsets**
Design Certified

Architectural Doorsets will continue to be a design-led manufacturer of the finest bespoke fire resisting doorsets. Our internally framed fire doors are manufactured to meet your specific design; certified by our WarringtonFire primary fire test evidence.

T: +353 (1) 839 0325 / E: info@architecturaldoorsets.ie / W: www.architecturaldoorsets.ie

WE'RE OPEN...

PIPELIFE 

PIPELIFE IRELAND'S New Dublin Distribution Depot

**Fast and Reliable Delivery to suit you
Another game changer from Pipelife!**

Full product range in stock and ready to go -

- Underfloor Heating Systems
- Air to Water Heat Pumps
- Qual-Pex Plus+ 'Easy-Lay' Pipe
- Qual-Pex Plus+ 'Easy-Crimp' Fittings
- PVC Fittings
- M.D.P.E, Low Density Polyethylene Pipe, Ducting
- And much more

**Our New Distribution
Centre Address –**
1B Damastown Way
Mulhuddart
Dublin 15



36,000 HOMES A YEAR NEEDED FOR NEXT TWO DECADES

A new analysis of the home building market carried out by EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services on behalf of the Irish Home Builders Association (IHBA) estimates that up to 36,000 new homes per annum will be needed to meet demand over the next two decades.

The report calls for a number of initiatives to be established to lower the cost of construction and improve supply.

According to the 'Putting Affordability at the Heart of the Housing System' report, the core of the problem is a decade of under-investment in private and social house building, and related infrastructure. This has resulted in the demand for accommodation consistently exceeding supply, and it has given rise to several adverse consequences that have created challenges for Irish policymakers, notably, an escalating homelessness problem. Close to 70,000 households are on the social housing waiting list, and house prices/rents are at levels in some areas of the country which are challenging for many potential



James Benson, Director, Housing, Planning and Development, CIF.

buyers and renters.

James Benson, Director, Housing, Planning and Development, CIF, and Director, IHBA, said, "With a new political landscape after the election, we felt it was time to get an in-depth analysis of

housing affordability and supply. This report comprehensively examines the root causes of our current shortfalls in supply and affordability and identifies a range of solutions to tackle the issues in the short- to medium-term."

The report points out that there is a structural issue in the market when rented accommodation costs more per month than mortgage repayments, but many borrowers cannot access a mortgage. This is also a strong signal that due to the lack of supply, potential first-time buyers are having to compete with local authorities who have been acquiring second-hand properties. In addition, local authorities have been incentivising property owners and home builders to make vacant properties available for social housing. Meanwhile, the economy and jobs market have experienced remarkable growth (pre-Covid-19) since 2013. **C**

The full 'Putting Affordability at the Heart of the Housing System' report can be accessed at www.ey.com/en_ie

CIF LAUNCHES 'A HOME FOR EVERYONE' STUDENT INITIATIVE

CIF has launched a national competition for senior students called 'A Home for Everyone'. This team-based project competition is designed to get students working together to design a home that helps 'solve' climate change, the housing crisis, and addresses inclusivity. In other words, the house design should be eco-friendly, affordable and be suitable for elderly people or people with disabilities.

The competition is open to second-level schools, community training centres, and Youthreach Centres.

Speaking about the competition Dermot Carey, Director, Safety and Training, CIF, said, "The nature of the competition promotes teamwork, the application of maths, knowledge of the local communities, awareness of issues such as climate change, homelessness, and inclusivity." Pat Lucey explained. "The competition aims to show the creativity, purpose and impact involved in design, engineering, and construction."



Dermot Carey, Director, Safety and Training, CIF.

The winning team will:

- Join construction professionals for a VR masterclass to develop their winning entry into an industry-standard 3D,

virtual reality model

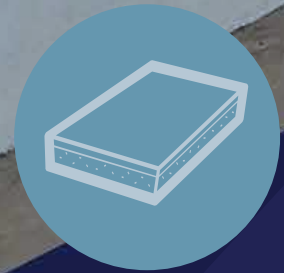
- Present their design to the Minister for Housing, Technological University Dublin and the Construction Industry Federation
- Receive €5,000 worth of installed Wi-Fi equipment, sponsored by Kedington Group, installed in their school or centre.
- Be eligible for the CIF Scholarship/Apprenticeship Placement initiative (T&Cs apply).

In developing this competition, CIF has worked with TUI, the Techno Teachers Association Ireland, the Engineering Technology Teachers Association, and the Institute of Guidance Counsellors. In addition to this, Alison Watson MBE, CEO of A Class of Your Own, has been engaged to create the competition.

CIF members will also be on hand to assist local schools in preparing for the competition. **C**

To learn more, visit <https://cif.ie/cifchallenge>

Kilsaran Enters Precast Market



Entry into
Precast Market



Full Structural
Design and
Management
Capability



Automated
Large Scale
Production
Capacity

Kilsaran

For more information and to learn more about current
vacancies visit **careers** at **www.kilsaran.ie**

CIF HEALTH & SAFETY SUMMIT 2020 SET TO BE MOST IMPORTANT TO DATE

The CIF Health & Safety Summit takes place on 26th November, and it will be broadcast as a virtual event through an online conference platform. The theme for 2020 is 'How to be resilient in a time of crisis and face the challenges of working in a post-pandemic world', and the summit aims to address the health and safety challenges facing the construction sector in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Health & Safety Summit will be an interactive event. Throughout the conference, delegates will have the opportunity to log into the unique virtual summit environment, which includes access to the main virtual conference stage for the full day, live speakers and panel Q&A sessions, a virtual exhibition hall, copies of presentations and content post-event, as well as the opportunity to network virtually, connecting with other online attendees, speakers and sponsors in real time.

A number of sessions are scheduled to include:

- Health and safety in a new landscape
- Enhancing safety through clear communications
- Best practices on-site during the Covid-19 era
- Emerging technologies and tech trends.

Expert speakers have been engaged, from a broad range of backgrounds, nationally and internationally, to ensure an exciting and insightful event. Those confirmed include representatives from Imperial College London, Solas, HSA, Balfour Beatty plc, Lighthouse Construction Industry Charity, Designer Group, ESRI, and Walls Construction, with more to be confirmed.

Frank Kelly, Senior Vice President, CIF, and Chairperson, CIF's Safety, Health & Welfare sub-Committee, says, "While it is unfortunate, we cannot come together in the same space for this



year's summit, running these events virtually offers new ways to connect with colleagues across the sector to discuss and learn about issues of mutual concern. It also means that delegates can meet up virtually with friends and fellow safety officers who have been impossible to meet personally this year."

The CIF's annual Health & Safety Summit is the industry's foremost annual safety event to focus on the most critical safety, health and risk issues impacting your construction business. **C**

For more information or to book tickets, visit www.cifsafety.ie

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TRAINING FOR THE COVID-19 ERA

As we move into the last quarter of 2020, we see much uncertainty within the construction sector around delivering projects under Covid-19 restrictions and the challenges this presents. CIF has been supporting our members in the delivery of the C-19 induction online, and the Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedure (SOP). The SOP has been recognised as an exemplar in providing a clear strategy in returning to work safely, and other sectors have been using it for guidance.

The ciftraining.ie website also provides a significant amount of free CPD content to support members, along with structured programme content, which is accredited via IOSH, City & Guilds and QQI. Retention of skilled management, supervision and skilled trade staff has never been more essential. This can be achieved by investing in your people by providing upskilling



Robert Butler, Head of Learning & Development, CIF.

opportunities, which can have a real impact on how your business operates in these challenging times.

"Programme content is available online,

which reduces your costs as your employees can now attend the training virtually at home or on site," says Robert Butler, Head of Learning & Development, CIF. "So, no need to travel, resulting in a further reduction in lost time. Programme content is delivered to the highest standard and working with CIF accreditation partners, your staff can receive their qualification digitally."

CIF Learning & Development has a schedule of courses running from November to December, and it is currently working on finishing its programme schedule for 2021. It envisions all of this being delivered online for the foreseeable future. **C**

For details about planned programme content for 2020/2021, contact Robert Butler, Head of Learning & Development, CIF, directly by phone at 01 406 6071, email rbutler@cif.ie, or visit www.ciftraining.ie

CIVIL ENGINEERING AND BUILDING CONTRACT CLAIMS CONSULTANTS

The breadth of our experience and weighted knowledge over the past two decades across commercial, contractual, technical and legal matters gives our clients that vital edge they need to succeed

MAIN CONTRACTORS | SUB-CONTRACTORS | SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS

MEDIATION

CONCILIATION

ARBITRATION

ADJUDICATION

REACH OUT NOW TO HAVE YOUR CLAIM OBJECTIVELY REVIEWED FOR ENTITLEMENT



John Farage O'Brien

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CLAIMS CONSULTANTS

Glenair Stables, Priory Road, Delgany, Co Wicklow

Tel: +353 1 254 4045 Email: info@johnfarageobrien.ie



RICS



CIArb



SOCIETY OF
**CHARTERED
SURVEYORS**
IRELAND

johnfarageobrien.ie



Dispute Resolution Award
2017/2018/2020/2021
Excellence in Business Awards
The Public Sector Magazine

Bonds

Construction Guarantee is the leading specialist provider of Bonds in Ireland

Have you been requested to take out a bond on the contract you have recently been awarded?

Nowadays, the construction Industry has specialists in every area and it makes sense to talk to the experts in Contract Bonds.

With over 500 clients in all areas of the industry, we understand your business. For an unrivalled service and a competitive quotation, contact Kevin O'Brien or Mark Hogan

Tel: 01-668 7240

info@constructionguarantee.ie

72 Northumberland Road, Dublin 4

www.bonds.ie



Construction Guarantee
Performance Bonds for the Construction Industry

LONG-AWAITED NEW PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRACT LAUNCHED

ROBBIE COUSINS reports on the launch of the long-awaited new private sector contract, a standard contract based on the public works contract that is designed to ensure fair allocation of risk.

A new form of contract is now available for use by Ireland's construction industry under the title 'Private Sector Contract: Conditions of Contract for Building and Engineering Works Designed by the Employer' (PSC).

The PSC was jointly launched online on 15th September by its three sponsoring organisations, the Construction Industry Federation (CIF), Engineers Ireland, and the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland (SCSI). This new form of contract is intended to be suitable for all medium- to large-scale building or civil-engineering works in Ireland, where the employer provides the design of the project.

The PSC identifies that the object of the conditions of contract is to achieve a fair and balanced allocation of risk between the parties, with the risk generally allocated to the party best able to manage it.

Members of the standing committee charged with overseeing the PSC caution against any attempt to rebalance the risk or re-instate the PWC risks, as this may cause costs to increase for clients, or may discourage contractors from tendering.

ONLINE LAUNCH

Speaking at the online launch of the PSC, Paul Sheridan, Director, Main Contracting and Civil Engineering, CIF, who is a member of the PSC Steering Committee, said, "The publication of the PSC is a demonstration of collaboration between contractors, engineers and surveyors to create better value for our clients."

Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF, welcomed the publication of the PSC and particularly acknowledged the work of retired CIF director Martin Lang in progressing the contract.

Maurice Buckley, President, Engineers Ireland, expressed his delight at the collaboration between the different industry bodies that went into developing the PSC, saying, "The contract is so important to the success of a project. The new PSC will help get that right balance between risk and engagement between the different parties, and SCSI is particularly happy to see that the contract is largely standardised, with little need for adaptation from project to project."

Shirley Coulter, CEO, SCSI, acknowledged the hard work of all involved in bringing the PSC to completion for the benefit of members and clients. She said, "While this is a new contract, we are confident there will be a high level of familiarity with it, because of its close links with the public works contract. Notably, the contract includes prime costs sums, which mirrors other private sector contracts. But it is a significant change from the public works contract on which it is based. This will provide clients with an enhanced level of cost certainty, and it is a most valuable and timely addition to the construction sector."

Ciaran Fahy, Chairperson, PSC Standing Committee, said, "The intention is that the PSC will be available to anybody who needs it for medium- to large-scale building and civil engineering projects."

Solicitor Anthony Hussey said that the contract intends to have a fair allocation of risk to both parties rather than a re-balance with a swing of what was in one contract in the opposite direction. "Our intention is to be fair to both parties."

John Curtin, Director, PJ Hegarty & Son, was part of the team



Paul Sheridan, Director, Main Contracting and Civil Engineering, CIF.

that drafted the new contract. He said, "Contractors have been overburdened with the endurance of an increasingly complex web of amendments to standard forms. These amendments have been invariably difficult to understand and interpret and can conflict with each other, causing confusion on sites. The PSC will help to redress the balance by allowing staff to get to grips with the contract very quickly, and easily identify their obligations."

A standard CIF subcontract is available. This operates back to back with the new PSC. For further details on this, please contact Alison Irving, Executive, Main Contracting, CIF, at airving@cif.ie. **C**

The PSC documents and the webinar launching it can be accessed at www.scsi.ie/insight/private_sector_contract

PSC STANDING COMMITTEE

The new private sector contract (PSC) is being managed on behalf of the three sponsoring bodies – the Construction Industry Federation, Engineers Ireland and the Society of Chartered Surveyors Ireland – by a standing committee comprising the following persons:

John Curtin
Ciaran Fahy (Chair)
Conor Hogan
Anthony Hussey

Tony McCauley
Gerard Monaghan
Paul Sheridan.



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.

BALLINLUSKA ELECTRICAL LTD T/A BALLINLUSKA SERVICES

Unit Z, Carrigaline Industrial Estate
Carrigaline
Co Cork
www.ballinluska.com

CASTLESTONE CONSTRUCTION BV LIMITED

66 Middle Abbey Street
Dublin 1
www.castlestoneconstruction.com

CLANFORCE LIMITED

12a Parnell Cottages
Malahide
Co Dublin
www.clanforce.ie

COSTELLO MASONRY CONSERVATION LTD

Ard Na Greine
Railway Road
Kilmallock
Co Limerick

CUSTY CONSTRUCTION LTD

Block G, Riverside
Quin Road Business Park
Ennis
Co Clare
www.custycon.ie

DMC MECHANICAL AND CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

Cashel
Foxford
Co Mayo

EUROPLAN ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED

2 Beechhill Office Campus
Clonskeagh
Dublin 4
www.europlanservices.com

FITZPATRICK DEVELOPMENT GROUP LTD

Unit 22, 20/21 St Patricks Road
Dalkey
Co Dublin
www.fitzpatrick-group.com

HAMKEL HOLDINGS LTD

27 Monkstown Farm
Dun Laoghaire
Co Dublin

HOWARD BUILDING CONTRACTORS LTD

17 Earlsfort Drive
Lucan
Co Dublin
www.howardbuilding.ie

IRISH ROOFING & MATERIALS LTD

1A Mount Temple Road
Stoneybatter
Dublin 7

KILLOWEN CONTRACTS LTD

13 Baggott Street Upper
2nd Floor
Dublin 4

LAWRANCE LYNCH BUILDERS & CO LTD

The New House
Tivoli Terrace South
Dun Laoghaire
Co Dublin

MARTELLO DEVELOPMENTS LTD

41 Kennedy Street
Carlow
Co Carlow

NEWFORM MAINTENANCE & SERVICES GROUP LTD

Unit 104A Porters Road
Coolmine Industrial Estate
Coolmine
Dublin 15

PRODOM CONSTRUCTION LTD

Unit G1, Block G
Calmount Park
Ballymount
Dublin 12

PROJECT SCS LTD

7A Orchard Road
Clonliffe Road
Dublin 3
www.projectscs.ie

QUINTAIN DEVELOPMENTS IRELAND LIMITED

6th Floor, Fitzwilliam Court
Leeson Close
Dublin 2
www.quintain.ie

RIDGE LINE SERVICES

44 St Anthony's Crescent
Greenhills
Dublin 12

SHADETECH LTD T/A CASTLEBLINDS

Unit 1
Stonehall Business Park
Newmarket-On-Fergus
Co Clare
www.castleblinds.ie

T&A PLANT HIRE LIMITED

Main Street
Conna
Co Cork
www.tabuildingandcivilengineering.com

VERTEX ROOFING SYSTEMS LTD

Moneen Industrial Estate
Castlebar
Co Mayo
www.vertexroofing.ie

WHITE KNIGHT

Cowleys Lane
Ballinigar
Tullamore
Co Offaly

WOULINS LTD T/A COSYFILL INSULATION

Mill Farm
Dromtrasna Hartnett
Abbeyfeale
Co Limerick

NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS



The Construction Industry Federation welcomes the following new Corporate Partners:



Decipher Consulting (UK) Ltd

Sunrise House, Hulley Road, Macclesfield
Cheshire, United Kingdom

Construction Professionals Skillnet,

Training and development solutions for the Construction Industry



Enhancing Skills in the Construction Industry.

www.cpskillnet.ie



Time to Upskill

It is now more important than ever to be looking for improved productivity and higher efficiencies.

The Construction Professionals Skillnet is offering a number of training courses to help you improve how you do business ensuring that you can remain profitable.

Courses on offer include:

- CIOB Certificate/Diploma in Construction Site Management
- SME Owner Manager Development Programme
- Implementing Lean and the Last Planner System

For details of all training available please go to www.cpskillnet.ie

If there is training that you would like to do but we don't currently have on offer, please contact Liz at cpskillnet@cif.ie or 087 9323749.

Construction Professionals Skillnet is co-funded by Skillnet Ireland and member companies. Skillnet Ireland is funded from the National Training Fund through the Department of Education and Skills.



An Roinn Oideachais
agus Scileanna
Department of
Education and Skills

Skillnet
IRELAND



Pat Lucey, President, CIF; Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; and Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTION IS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMY

ROBBIE COUSINS reports from the CIF Annual Conference 2020, an event that set out some real solutions for the challenges that the industry will face in the coming year working under what was termed the 'next normal'. *Images courtesy of Sunday Business Post.*

In a year when the Irish construction industry moved its communications and project management systems to the virtual space, and offsite construction moved centre stage in the construction agenda, the CIF Conference 2020, with the theme "How can the industry improve, better prepare and prosper in a changed world?", had its biggest attendance ever, with just under 700 delegates. The virtual event brought delegates presentations from across the globe, with opportunities to connect directly in the virtual space with other delegates who shared common interests and concerns with them.

The key take-aways from this year's conference were that Irish construction is agile and quickly adapts to address emerging challenges. It is ready to innovate to maintain the momentum that has been achieved despite the impact of Covid-19 on the industry.

While Covid-19 has had a huge human and economic impact on the country, the CIF Annual Conference 2020 showed that the construction sector, having designed a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to protect its workers and their families, has moved on to the next stage of working and succeeding in the Covid-19 era.

Once again, this year's CIF Annual Conference was organised

and run by iQuest, and ably hosted by Ivan Yates, whose sharp intercessions and questioning kept presenters and panellists on their toes across the eight-hour event.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Opening the conference, Pat Lucey President, CIF, said that despite all that had happened in 2020, he was, now more than ever, optimistic about the industry and its future as it looks to deliver the infrastructure set out in the 'Project Ireland 2020' programme.

"The Government's Covid-19 response demonstrated that fundamental change in how we operate as a society and as an industry is possible," he said. "If we embrace effective collaboration, the vision of Project Ireland 2040 will be realised. But, we will not achieve that vision if we slip back to 'business as usual'. In the months ahead, we need to see urgency in changing policy, regulation and legislation to unlock housing and infrastructure."

Making the economic case for the construction industry, the CIF President said that there were opportunities for construction companies in the work that needs to be done throughout the



Pat Lucey, President, CIF, opening the CIF Annual Conference 2020.

country.

“Where there is opportunity for construction, there is opportunity for the wider economy. A recent EY-DKM analysis shows that for every €1m invested in construction, €1.85m of total output is generated, supporting 1,200 full-time jobs. The case for increased public investment accompanied by swifter decision making is compelling.”

Looking to the immediate future, he said that it is for the construction sector to create the ‘next normal’.

“Building the next normal will require letting go of ‘the way it was always done’ attitudes. We need to remove barriers through reimagining the planning system, the regulatory system and public sector procurement systems.”

He also focused on equality and diversity as being critical to attracting the next generation into the industry. This has been a central issue of Pat Lucey’s CIF presidency.

“Millennials will gravitate towards industries with purpose, creativity and that are diverse. To deliver the vision in Project Ireland 2040, we will need hundreds of thousands of people over the next 20 years. Our industry’s image doesn’t portray diversity, inclusion, creativity and purpose. To combat this, the CIF is launching a schools competition into every school in Ireland as part of its national careers in construction campaign.

“This competition will help ignite the creative spark amongst senior-level students on the cusp of making career choices. By engaging them in a project to build ‘A Home for Everyone’ we want to inspire the next generation and show the levels of creativity, purpose, teamwork, technology and positive social impact construction involves.”

In closing, Pat Lucey commented, “Our industry will be the mainspring of recovery for other sectors and the wider economy if we adopt Covid-response-type decision-making for construction activity. If we do that, we will return to pre-Covid levels of jobs, output and growth far earlier than forecast.”

VIRTUAL NETWORKING

While the virtual nature of the conference removed the capacity for face-to-face networking, the Brella platform on which the conference was run facilitated virtual networking, where delegates were able to easily identify other delegates with similar interests and goals as them, and could set up private side meetings. Over



An Taoiseach Micheál Martin addressing the CIF Annual Conference via Zoom.



Audrey Tang, Digital Minister of Taiwan.



Maria João Ribeirinho, Partner, Global Leader of Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice, McKinsey & Company.

the day, 540 virtual side meetings took place.

TAOISEACH'S ADDRESS

Speaking via Zoom from his offices, An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin said a robust construction sector is fundamental to getting the Irish economy back on track and creating more sustainable communities.

He said, “I would like to acknowledge the Federation’s willingness to work with the Government in its response to the pandemic and the effort that the federation has put in with the introduction of protocols that have allowed the industry to return to work safely.

I would urge that everyone re-double their efforts to implement Covid-19 protocols across the construction sector. We must remain vigilant and avoid any complacency that might creep in.”

He also commended the CIF for focusing on how to revive the sector during these challenging times and to plan for a dynamic and sustainable construction sector for the future.

The Taoiseach said that the Government would establish a Recovery Fund as envisaged in the Programme for Government and would publish a National Economic Plan in November, which would set out its longer-term priorities and objectives to move the



Donal McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ireland & Europe, MD Ireland East, John Sisk & Son; and Marian Finnegan, Managing Director-Residential & Advisory, Sherry Fitzgerald, during one of the panel discussions.

country towards a resilient, balanced, sustainable economy.

“To ensure continued momentum of public infrastructure delivery, we have committed an extra €500m of capital expenditure as part of the July Stimulus Package, and Budget 2021 will prioritise delivering the increased resources for capital investment set out in the NDP. We will spend more than €9bn in public capital investment next year. As such, public investment in construction in Ireland in 2020 and 2021 will be among the highest per capita in the EU.”

He stated that housing is a crucial priority for him and his Government.

“We are working hard to make sure processes are fit for purpose and that we are delivering new housing as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are also working to make sure we have an effective and strategic approach to planning and land assembly. The Land Development Agency (LDA), once properly legislated for, will play a crucial role in this regard. It will ensure that State-owned land is optimally used, with regeneration of under-utilised sites, and an immediate focus on the provision of sustainable, climate-resilient, low-carbon housing.”

He added that the Government would publish a National Retrofitting Plan to improve the BER ratings on half-a-million homes by 2030 and that this plan would build on the funding from the July Stimulus Package, which was earmarked for retrofitting.

In closing, the Taoiseach said, “As one of the most important parts of our economy, the ability of the construction industry to adapt to the challenges it faces will be key to our economic recovery. It is clear that the industry is willing to embrace innovation, and explore new ways of working.”

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

International keynote speakers and panellists joined the conference virtually from Portugal, Taiwan, California and the UK.

Maria João Ribeirinho, Partner, Global Leader of Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice, McKinsey & Company, speaking from Portugal, gave a presentation entitled ‘The next normal in construction: How disruption is shaping the world’s largest ecosystem’.

She highlighted the growth of Modern Methods of Construction and the role that offsite will have to play in the future of the construction industry. She said that according to McKinsey, “Modular construction can compress schedules by 20% to 50%, and while savings are currently low, it could eventually see costs reduced by 20% to 40% once greater efficiencies are achieved.”

Audrey Tang, the Digital Minister of Taiwan, gave a presentation on how digital technology can fight pandemics and strengthen democracies.

Taiwan, although close to China, had a comprehensive pandemic management plan in place before the outbreak and moved quickly once news started to break about a mysterious virus in China on 31st December 2019. This, Audrey Tang said,

included having temperature checks in place at its airport from New Year’s Day. Using social media to monitor events in China, the Covid management team responded quickly, using amongst other tools humorous memes to counter fear and misinformation spreading in what Audrey Tang described as “Humour over rumour”.

Timber frame manufacturing entrepreneur and CEO of California-based Entekra Off-Site Construction, Gerry McCaughey, gave a presentation entitled ‘Could the Covid-19 crisis provide the impetus for the shift to offsite construction?’

He said that he has been observing a massive migration to offsite from housebuilders in the US this year and noted that there is a construction productivity problem that needs to be addressed. “Other sectors have addressed their productivity problems through the adaption of technology. Construction needs to follow suit and move to a more automated way of producing buildings.”

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Throughout the day panel discussions broke up the presentations, and many heavyweights of the industry and other sectors were present at the venue, or joined virtually. These included Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services; Dr Martina Lawless; Research Professor, the ESRI and member of the Fiscal Advisory Council; John Moran, Chairperson, Land Development Agency and Chair, SME Recovery Ireland; Stephen McCarthy, Managing Director, Astra Construction Services Ltd; Donal McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ireland & Europe, MD Ireland East, John Sisk & Son; Marian Finnegan, Managing Director-Residential & Advisory, Sherry Fitzgerald; and Niamh Moore-Cherry, Associate Professor of Urban Governance and Development, School of Geography, UCD.

MINISTER’S ADDRESS

In the afternoon, Darragh O’Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, gave a presentation in which he acknowledged the resilience of the CIF and its outstanding work in responding to the Covid-19 challenges.

He said, “In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of the Construction Sector Group (CSG). The regular dialogue and partnership between industry and Government, facilitated by the CSG under the Project Ireland banner, and the LEEF (Labour Employer Economic Forum) has been instrumental in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on the sector to date and will continue to be important as we face an uncertain future.”

Adding to the Taoiseach’s earlier comments about housing, the Minister said that housing is a priority for him.

“In terms of population projections, the Department is of the view that housing need over the short to medium term is at around 30-35,000 homes per annum, reducing to 25,000-30,000 per year in the long term to 2040, as the backlog from the last decade is cleared. There is broad agreement at a high level that the solution to the problem is more supply across the board. However, the question of how to solve the issues arising in the market is not as clear cut with many policy approaches being suggested.

“Within the supply issue, the correct balance of supply across all market segments is important. In keeping with most commentators, I fully agree that continuing a comprehensive drive to build more social housing is very important. The State must continue to invest in this space, providing jobs, boosting the economy, and providing homes.”

He said that there will always be people who require social housing, and this is likely to rise if the Government is unable to stimulate the supply of affordable homes in tandem with social housing.



Martina Lawless, Research Professor, the Economic and Social Research Institute; Pat Lucey, President, CIF; Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services; and Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF.

"I intend to stimulate supply. We will build more social housing, and we will bring forward proposals regarding affordability to allow more people to buy a home, as many will be best served by affordable solutions as opposed to social housing solutions, giving them short- to medium-term housing assistance, while promoting the ability of the household to be self-sufficient in the long term. Creating a new system whereby the market is not just social and private, but consists of social, affordable purchase, cost rental and private housing, will provide options for all levels of society."

Minister O'Brien said that balanced regional development is a firm objective of the Programme for Government and an NDP review in 2021 will be an opportunity to strengthen the link between regional development and investment.

"It has long been recognised internationally, that when a country such as Ireland reaches a certain threshold of national development, there is a need to ensure a better distribution of growth throughout the country, to ensure continued prosperity."

In closing, the Minister said, "The construction sector is core to meeting the fundamental needs of our economy and our society, as we work to provide good quality homes and much-needed infrastructure that will support sustainable communities where people can live and work and thrive, and that will support investment and businesses to flourish. The Covid-19 pandemic has only served to heighten the importance of place and quality of life, and how best we can manage this while adhering to the necessary public health guidance. I believe that good planning, in tandem with appropriate construction in the right place, is key to achieving these aims, as we refocus our efforts on positive, transformational change and innovation, that will improve the places where we live and work."

"Together, Government and industry stakeholders working together, can deliver the best outcomes for our country and come through it stronger and better."

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

During the final panel discussion of the day, Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, gave this reassurance about the Government's ability to fund projects in the year ahead.

"We are in a good position in terms of our ability to fund. Our bond yields are low. As long as the ECB continues to support us, issues that arose the last time hopefully will not arise on this occasion. A key issue in terms of the sustainability of our debt is the funding of the debt. While debt to GNI and GNP will be elevated after this crisis is over, when we get to 2022/23, the cost

of servicing our national debt is very, very low because interest rates are low. We anticipate that we will have this low interest rate environment for a while to come. So, in the short term, the cost of servicing the debt will actually fall, and the State can meet the costs of this elevated debt."

He added that there is no need for the Government to cut back on capital spending.

"We need to invest in infrastructure and housing. There is now an opportunity for the State to step in and use some of the capacity of construction workers and project managers freed up by projects stalling in the private sector. But the sector needs to show the State that it is driving change and productivity and that value for money is being delivered. If this can be achieved, then there will be more of a political appetite to build more public infrastructure."

Other speakers and panellists on the day included Frank Kelly, Senior Vice President, CIF; Niall Gleeson, CEO, Irish Water; Frank Crowley, Economist and Lecturer, Cork University Business School (CUBS), and Director, Spatial and Regional Economics Centre, CUBS, UCC; David Purdon, Senior Technical Consultant, Diatec/C-CAD; Simon Crowhen, Sales Manager, Geomatics, Topcon Positioning Ireland; PJ Rudden, Chairman, Innovation and Digital Adoption, CSG/DPER, and Managing Director, Aengus Consulting Ltd; Stephen Creaner, Executive Director, Enterprise Ireland; Niall O'Higgins, Partner and Head of Construction and Engineering Group, Arthur Cox; Maura Winston, Chief People Officer, Cairn Homes plc; and John Downey, Director, Downey Planning & Architecture.

CLOSING REMARKS

Closing the conference Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF, thanked delegates for attending.

"It is a testament to our industry that we have held such a successful conference. As is always the case with our industry, we adapt and overcome the obstacles that are there. I want to thank all of our members and everyone in our industry for their efforts earlier this year for the important role we played in our nation's response to Covid 19. I was particularly proud of the efforts made to generate the SOP that enabled us to return to work so quickly."

SPONSORS

Topcon Positioning and EY were the Gold Sponsors of this year's conference. Silver sponsors included Diatec Group, Downey Planning and Architecture, Kilsaran International, Enterprise Ireland, and Arthur Cox. **C**



Pat Lucey, President, CIF; Darragh O'Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; and Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSTRUCTION IS OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ECONOMY

ROBBIE COUSINS reports from the CIF Annual Conference 2020, an event that set out some real solutions for the challenges that the industry will face in the coming year working under what was termed the 'next normal'. *Images courtesy of The Business Post.*

In a year when the Irish construction industry moved its communications and project management systems to the virtual space, and offsite construction moved centre stage in the construction agenda, the CIF Conference 2020, with the theme "How can the industry improve, better prepare and prosper in a changed world?", had its biggest attendance ever, with just under 700 delegates. The virtual event brought delegates presentations from across the globe, with opportunities to connect directly in the virtual space with other delegates who shared common interests and concerns with them.

The key take-aways from this year's conference were that Irish construction is agile and quickly adapts to address emerging challenges. It is ready to innovate to maintain the momentum that has been achieved despite the impact of Covid-19 on the industry.

While Covid-19 has had a huge human and economic impact on the country, the CIF Annual Conference 2020 showed that the construction sector, having designed a new Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to protect its workers and their families, has moved on to the next stage of working and succeeding in the Covid-19 era.

Once again, this year's CIF Annual Conference was organised

and run by iQuest, and ably hosted by Ivan Yates, whose sharp intercessions and questioning kept presenters and panellists on their toes across the eight-hour event.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Opening the conference, Pat Lucey President, CIF, said that despite all that had happened in 2020, he was, now more than ever, optimistic about the industry and its future as it looks to deliver the infrastructure set out in the 'Project Ireland 2020' programme.

"The Government's Covid-19 response demonstrated that fundamental change in how we operate as a society and as an industry is possible," he said. "If we embrace effective collaboration, the vision of Project Ireland 2040 will be realised. But, we will not achieve that vision if we slip back to 'business as usual'. In the months ahead, we need to see urgency in changing policy, regulation and legislation to unlock housing and infrastructure."

Making the economic case for the construction industry, the CIF President said that there were opportunities for construction companies in the work that needs to be done throughout the



Pat Lucey, President, CIF, opening the CIF Annual Conference 2020.

country.

“Where there is opportunity for construction, there is opportunity for the wider economy. A recent EY-DKM analysis shows that for every €1m invested in construction, €1.85m of total output is generated, supporting 1,200 full-time jobs. The case for increased public investment accompanied by swifter decision making is compelling.”

Looking to the immediate future, he said that it is for the construction sector to create the ‘next normal’.

“Building the next normal will require letting go of ‘the way it was always done’ attitudes. We need to remove barriers through reimagining the planning system, the regulatory system and public sector procurement systems.”

He also focused on equality and diversity as being critical to attracting the next generation into the industry. This has been a central issue of Pat Lucey’s CIF presidency.

“Millennials will gravitate towards industries with purpose, creativity and that are diverse. To deliver the vision in Project Ireland 2040, we will need hundreds of thousands of people over the next 20 years. Our industry’s image doesn’t portray diversity, inclusion, creativity and purpose. To combat this, the CIF is launching a schools competition into every school in Ireland as part of its national careers in construction campaign.

“This competition will help ignite the creative spark amongst senior-level students on the cusp of making career choices. By engaging them in a project to build ‘A Home for Everyone’ we want to inspire the next generation and show the levels of creativity, purpose, teamwork, technology and positive social impact construction involves.”

In closing, Pat Lucey commented, “Our industry will be the mainspring of recovery for other sectors and the wider economy if we adopt Covid-response-type decision-making for construction activity. If we do that, we will return to pre-Covid levels of jobs, output and growth far earlier than forecast.”

VIRTUAL NETWORKING

While the virtual nature of the conference removed the capacity for face-to-face networking, the Brella platform on which the conference was run facilitated virtual networking, where delegates were able to easily identify other delegates with similar interests and goals as them, and could set up private side meetings. Over



An Taoiseach Micheál Martin addressing the CIF Annual Conference via Zoom.



Audrey Tang, Digital Minister of Taiwan.



Maria João Ribeirinho, Partner, Global Leader of Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice, McKinsey & Company.

the day, 540 virtual side meetings took place.

TAOISEACH'S ADDRESS

Speaking via Zoom from his offices, An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin said a robust construction sector is fundamental to getting the Irish economy back on track and creating more sustainable communities.

He said, “I would like to acknowledge the Federation’s willingness to work with the Government in its response to the pandemic and the effort that the federation has put in with the introduction of protocols that have allowed the industry to return to work safely.

I would urge that everyone re-double their efforts to implement Covid-19 protocols across the construction sector. We must remain vigilant and avoid any complacency that might creep in.”

He also commended the CIF for focusing on how to revive the sector during these challenging times and to plan for a dynamic and sustainable construction sector for the future.

The Taoiseach said that the Government would establish a Recovery Fund as envisaged in the Programme for Government and would publish a National Economic Plan in November, which would set out its longer-term priorities and objectives to move the



Donal McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ireland & Europe, MD Ireland East, John Sisk & Son; and Marian Finnegan, Managing Director-Residential & Advisory, Sherry Fitzgerald, during one of the panel discussions.

country towards a resilient, balanced, sustainable economy.

“To ensure continued momentum of public infrastructure delivery, we have committed an extra €500m of capital expenditure as part of the July Stimulus Package, and Budget 2021 will prioritise delivering the increased resources for capital investment set out in the NDP. We will spend more than €9bn in public capital investment next year. As such, public investment in construction in Ireland in 2020 and 2021 will be among the highest per capita in the EU.”

He stated that housing is a crucial priority for him and his Government.

“We are working hard to make sure processes are fit for purpose and that we are delivering new housing as quickly and efficiently as possible. We are also working to make sure we have an effective and strategic approach to planning and land assembly. The Land Development Agency (LDA), once properly legislated for, will play a crucial role in this regard. It will ensure that State-owned land is optimally used, with regeneration of under-utilised sites, and an immediate focus on the provision of sustainable, climate-resilient, low-carbon housing.”

He added that the Government would publish a National Retrofitting Plan to improve the BER ratings on half-a-million homes by 2030 and that this plan would build on the funding from the July Stimulus Package, which was earmarked for retrofitting.

In closing, the Taoiseach said, “As one of the most important parts of our economy, the ability of the construction industry to adapt to the challenges it faces will be key to our economic recovery. It is clear that the industry is willing to embrace innovation, and explore new ways of working.”

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

International keynote speakers and panellists joined the conference virtually from Portugal, Taiwan, California and the UK.

Maria João Ribeirinho, Partner, Global Leader of Engineering, Construction and Building Materials Practice, McKinsey & Company, speaking from Portugal, gave a presentation entitled ‘The next normal in construction: How disruption is shaping the world’s largest ecosystem’.

She highlighted the growth of Modern Methods of Construction and the role that offsite will have to play in the future of the construction industry. She said that according to McKinsey, “Modular construction can compress schedules by 20% to 50%, and while savings are currently low, it could eventually see costs reduced by 20% to 40% once greater efficiencies are achieved.”

Audrey Tang, the Digital Minister of Taiwan, gave a presentation on how digital technology can fight pandemics and strengthen democracies.

Taiwan, although close to China, had a comprehensive pandemic management plan in place before the outbreak and moved quickly once news started to break about a mysterious virus in China on 31st December 2019. This, Audrey Tang said,

included having temperature checks in place at its airport from New Year’s Day. Using social media to monitor events in China, the Covid management team responded quickly, using amongst other tools humorous memes to counter fear and misinformation spreading in what Audrey Tang described as “Humour over rumour”.

Timber frame manufacturing entrepreneur and CEO of California-based Entekra Off-Site Construction, Gerry McCaughey, gave a presentation entitled ‘Could the Covid-19 crisis provide the impetus for the shift to offsite construction?’

He said that he has been observing a massive migration to offsite from housebuilders in the US this year and noted that there is a construction productivity problem that needs to be addressed. “Other sectors have addressed their productivity problems through the adaption of technology. Construction needs to follow suit and move to a more automated way of producing buildings.”

PANEL DISCUSSIONS

Throughout the day panel discussions broke up the presentations, and many heavyweights of the industry and other sectors were present at the venue, or joined virtually. These included Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services; Dr Martina Lawless; Research Professor, the ESRI and member of the Fiscal Advisory Council; John Moran, Chairperson, Land Development Agency and Chair, SME Recovery Ireland; Stephen McCarthy, Managing Director, Astra Construction Services Ltd; Donal McCarthy, Chief Operating Officer (COO) Ireland & Europe, MD Ireland East, John Sisk & Son; Marian Finnegan, Managing Director-Residential & Advisory, Sherry Fitzgerald; and Niamh Moore-Cherry, Associate Professor of Urban Governance and Development, School of Geography, UCD.

MINISTER’S ADDRESS

In the afternoon, Darragh O’Brien TD, Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, gave a presentation in which he acknowledged the resilience of the CIF and its outstanding work in responding to the Covid-19 challenges.

He said, “In particular, I want to acknowledge the work of the Construction Sector Group (CSG). The regular dialogue and partnership between industry and Government, facilitated by the CSG under the Project Ireland banner, and the LEEF (Labour Employer Economic Forum) has been instrumental in mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on the sector to date and will continue to be important as we face an uncertain future.”

Adding to the Taoiseach’s earlier comments about housing, the Minister said that housing is a priority for him.

“In terms of population projections, the Department is of the view that housing need over the short to medium term is at around 30-35,000 homes per annum, reducing to 25,000-30,000 per year in the long term to 2040, as the backlog from the last decade is cleared. There is broad agreement at a high level that the solution to the problem is more supply across the board. However, the question of how to solve the issues arising in the market is not as clear cut with many policy approaches being suggested.

“Within the supply issue, the correct balance of supply across all market segments is important. In keeping with most commentators, I fully agree that continuing a comprehensive drive to build more social housing is very important. The State must continue to invest in this space, providing jobs, boosting the economy, and providing homes.”

He said that there will always be people who require social housing, and this is likely to rise if the Government is unable to stimulate the supply of affordable homes in tandem with social housing.



Martina Lawless, Research Professor, the Economic and Social Research Institute; Pat Lucey, President, CIF; Annette Hughes, Director, EY-DKM Economic Advisory Services; and Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF.

"I intend to stimulate supply. We will build more social housing, and we will bring forward proposals regarding affordability to allow more people to buy a home, as many will be best served by affordable solutions as opposed to social housing solutions, giving them short- to medium-term housing assistance, while promoting the ability of the household to be self-sufficient in the long term. Creating a new system whereby the market is not just social and private, but consists of social, affordable purchase, cost rental and private housing, will provide options for all levels of society."

Minister O'Brien said that balanced regional development is a firm objective of the Programme for Government and an NDP review in 2021 will be an opportunity to strengthen the link between regional development and investment.

"It has long been recognised internationally, that when a country such as Ireland reaches a certain threshold of national development, there is a need to ensure a better distribution of growth throughout the country, to ensure continued prosperity."

In closing, the Minister said, "The construction sector is core to meeting the fundamental needs of our economy and our society, as we work to provide good quality homes and much-needed infrastructure that will support sustainable communities where people can live and work and thrive, and that will support investment and businesses to flourish. The Covid-19 pandemic has only served to heighten the importance of place and quality of life, and how best we can manage this while adhering to the necessary public health guidance. I believe that good planning, in tandem with appropriate construction in the right place, is key to achieving these aims, as we refocus our efforts on positive, transformational change and innovation, that will improve the places where we live and work."

"Together, Government and industry stakeholders working together, can deliver the best outcomes for our country and come through it stronger and better."

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

During the final panel discussion of the day, Robert Watt, Secretary General of the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform, gave this reassurance about the Government's ability to fund projects in the year ahead.

"We are in a good position in terms of our ability to fund. Our bond yields are low. As long as the ECB continues to support us, issues that arose the last time hopefully will not arise on this occasion. A key issue in terms of the sustainability of our debt is the funding of the debt. While debt to GNI and GNP will be elevated after this crisis is over, when we get to 2022/23, the cost

of servicing our national debt is very, very low because interest rates are low. We anticipate that we will have this low interest rate environment for a while to come. So, in the short term, the cost of servicing the debt will actually fall, and the State can meet the costs of this elevated debt."

He added that there is no need for the Government to cut back on capital spending.

"We need to invest in infrastructure and housing. There is now an opportunity for the State to step in and use some of the capacity of construction workers and project managers freed up by projects stalling in the private sector. But the sector needs to show the State that it is driving change and productivity and that value for money is being delivered. If this can be achieved, then there will be more of a political appetite to build more public infrastructure."

Other speakers and panellists on the day included Frank Kelly, Senior Vice President, CIF; Niall Gleeson, CEO, Irish Water; Frank Crowley, Economist and Lecturer, Cork University Business School (CUBS), and Director, Spatial and Regional Economics Centre, CUBS, UCC; David Purdon, Senior Technical Consultant, Diatec/C-CAD; Simon Crowhen, Sales Manager, Geomatics, Topcon Positioning Ireland; PJ Rudden, Chairman, Innovation and Digital Adoption, CSG/DPER, and Managing Director, Aengus Consulting Ltd; Stephen Creaner, Executive Director, Enterprise Ireland; Niav O'Higgins, Partner and Head of Construction and Engineering Group, Arthur Cox; Maura Winston, Chief People Officer, Cairn Homes plc; and John Downey, Director, Downey Planning & Architecture.

CLOSING REMARKS

Closing the conference Tom Parlon, Director General, CIF, thanked delegates for attending.

"It is a testament to our industry that we have held such a successful conference. As is always the case with our industry, we adapt and overcome the obstacles that are there. I want to thank all of our members and everyone in our industry for their efforts earlier this year for the important role we played in our nation's response to Covid 19. I was particularly proud of the efforts made to generate the SOP that enabled us to return to work so quickly."

SPONSORS

Topcon Positioning and EY were the Gold Sponsors of this year's conference. Silver sponsors included Diatec Group, Downey Planning and Architecture, Kilsaran International, Enterprise Ireland, and Arthur Cox. **C**

The roof section of the tower building at Central Plaza, Dublin.



HEGARTY DEMOLITION DELIVERS ON CHALLENGING CENTRAL PLAZA PROJECT

Before works could begin on the new Central Plaza development on Dublin's Dame Street, a range of complex demolition and engineering works were carried out by Hegarty Demolition. **ROBBIE COUSINS** reports on how these works were completed safely.

The redevelopment of the old Central Bank site on Dame Street into Central Plaza is one of the largest and most prestigious construction projects being carried out in Dublin city centre.

When completed, the Central Plaza development on the old Central Bank site is intended to be the landmark retail, restaurant and office space in Dublin's south city centre.

Before the current development works could be carried out, a unique and comprehensive range of demolition and engineering works had to be completed in and around the listed building.

The original office building, designed by architect Sam Stephenson and built between 1974 and 1978, is a listed protected structure. It is a freestanding multi-bay seven-floor over basement structure, which is supported by the two lift cores with the floors 'hanging' from external steel hangers that run over the lift cores transferring the loads down through them.

In addition, there is an annexe and commercial building to the east of the plaza.

These two buildings also form part of the redevelopment works at Central Plaza. The commercial building is a three-storey over single-basement construction, while the annexe building is a two-storey over double-basement construction.

THE BRIEF

Hegarty Demolition was contracted on behalf of the developer Hines to carry out enabling, alteration and extensive construction work. The main areas where works were carried out comprised:

- The tower building east and west core
- The roof of the tower building
- The plaza and basement
- The annexe and commercial buildings, and
- Open spaces around the buildings.

Works carried out by Hegarty Demolition and its subcontractors included:

- Structural demolition and alteration work
- Extensive temporary works design and installation
- Secant piling and capping beam
- Excavation and rock removal
- Mechanical and hydraulic flat-jacking to alleviate loads during alteration works
- Complex underpinning



Structural investigations being carried out.



Sunken plaza under construction.



- Structural steel and reinforced concrete (RC) construction
- Installation of 11 stairs, from large main access to internal stair core (both RC and structural steel (SS))
- Lift-shaft extension and construction
- Stair-core construction
- Installation of numerous RC slabs, including the use of lightweight concrete on the top level
- Installation of new foul and stormwater systems around the ground level perimeter
- All plaza civils works, including waterproofing, podium build up and services installation
- Construction of a double ESB substation housing unit and water-tight sprinkler tank in the basement using self-compacting concrete.

TOWER BUILDING – EAST AND WEST CORES

The majority of works on the tower building were carried out within the two main RC access cores. The original design of the floor plates meant they were open plan and did not require much structural intervention. The works to the east and west cores consisted of structural demolition and alterations, remediation and repair of existing concrete, followed by new construction using structural steel and composite floors.

Mechanical and hydraulic jacking was used in many places within the two cores to permanently de-stress existing RC walls and allow for demolition and alteration.

“As a concept, this was relatively new to us and one which we wouldn’t have used in demolition projects too often,” comments Kieran McKeown, Director, Hegarty Demolition. “The use of jacking was a nice variation to traditional temporary and permanent works solutions. Our on-site team, who worked closely with our experienced subcontractors, developed

invaluable knowledge and experience of various jacking techniques which can be applied to demolition, enabling and structural engineering projects in the future.

“While jacking isn’t required in most situations, it is particularly useful in large projects when making changes on structural sections carrying huge loads.”

METHODOLOGY

“Effectively we were working on two RC towers within the building,” Kieran McKeown continues. “Each one had a footprint of 100 sq metres and was 12 storeys high. When carrying out selective demolition, starting at roof level, 12 storeys was going to take some time to get through to ground level, only then constructing new load-bearing elements and working back up to roof level.”

“Our temporary works engineers, Barrett Mahony Civil Engineering, devised innovative temporary works that enabled us to both demolish and construct top down. This allowed us to start at the top, and when demolition was complete, on say level 8 east core, the crew moved to the level 8 west core and commenced demolition there. This allowed the steel and concrete crew to follow and complete construction in the east, ensuring separation was maintained between the demolition and construction works.”

Hegarty Demolition was able to improve on programme significantly, by installing heavy crash decks in opes and shafts at level 2. This completely sealed everything in the cores below level 2 from everything above level 2. This allowed a demolition and construction team to work top down from roof to level 2 (seven storeys). It also allowed a second crew of demolition and construction operatives to work safely top down from level 1 to B-2 (five storeys).

The cores were confined areas, which suited small mechanical demolition using

a remote control Brokk 100 and 180 demolition robot, fitted with muncher and breaker attachments. In other instances, the saw, cut and lift method was more suitable. Demolition rubble was transported to lift shafts, which were used as chutes to remove rubble and glass from the upper floors.

Larger concrete sections, which were saw cut, had to be transported across temporarily propped floor plates to external loading bays for lifting with a tower crane.

TOWER ROOF

When completed, the top two floors are intended to house a restaurant.

Construction for these new floors required the installation of a complex structural steel frame and composite lightweight slabs.

The introduction of the structural steel frame and slabs to facilitate the new two-level rooftop structure meant that additional weight was being added to the main structure. To keep this additional weight to a minimum, the new slabs were constructed using lightweight concrete.

“On the tenth floor of the building, we poured lightweight concrete to create the new floor slabs,” explains Kieran McKeown. “A relatively new concept, lightweight concrete is designed to flow easily and create structural concrete sections, while keeping weight at a minimum.

“The use of this concrete provided a new challenge for our on-site team as it was the first time they had experienced using it on this scale. Lightweight concrete has to be absolutely right when pumping at high pressure over a long distance. The main pour on the roof required pumping vertically 50 metres, followed by 50 metres of horizontal lines across the roof. Our experienced on-site team, with the help of the technical guys in Kilsaran, got it right on the day.”

While there wasn’t much demolition work carried out on the roof of the tower, Hegarty Demolition carried out the majority of structural works. These included:

- Fabrication and erection of structural steel members

PROJECT FEATURE: CENTRAL PLAZA DEMOLITION WORKS



Brokk demolition robot in action.



Installing back props.

- Installation of structural concrete floor slabs
- Extension of RC lift shafts
- Installation of steel stair over multiple levels, and
- Precision-welding to strengthen supernodes.

"As part of the works on the roof, we also carried out extensive temporary works for other contractors. The roofing contractor required floor slabs to be back-propped and robust loading decks to land roof members and glass stillages" Kieran McKeown continues. "The scaffolding contractor required pairs of cantilever steel needles overhanging the perimeter roof nodes by four metres. This enabled them to suspend multilevel hanging scaffolds around the supernodes. The needles were anchored off the new structure on the roof.

"When the scaffolds were in place, we carried out investigatory works to the supernodes, and we also carried out precision-welding to strengthen them. This is an example of the many non-demolition works we carried out."

PLAZA AND BASEMENT RECONFIGURATION

The plaza area will be a focal point of the new Central Plaza development and

probably the most eye-catching section of the new development. To create this space, extensive demolition and reconstruction work was carried out. This involved demolition of upper precast plaza slab, lower RC podium slab and existing tree-pit structures. Many new supporting columns and beams, both RC and

steel were installed to create the structure for the new sunken and upper plazas.

"When completed, the sunken plaza will be at below ground level and be occupied by a range of retail and restaurants," Kieran McKeown adds. "We carried out the installation of RC and steel stairs from ground level to minus-one level, and another at level -2 to provide access to these levels."

To the west of the new plaza, a new double-level stair and lift access were constructed outside the existing basement. To enable its construction, the area was secant piled, to provide earthwork support along Fownes Street and to seal against water ingress. A capping beam was constructed over the piles, which had to be raker-propped back to the existing basement.

"There were significant temporary works involved," explains Kieran McKeown, "to enable an 80-ton piling rig to set up on the podium slab of an existing double basement and carry out piling works."

In addition to the demolition and construction works for the plaza, Hegarty Demolition also managed and carried out the following other works:

- Screeds to create falls on existing podium slab
- Waterproofing podium slab and

drainage board

- Insulation layer and void former build-up
- RC cover slab to receive new paving
- Construction of new sprinkler tank in the basement, and
- Construction of a new three-storey double car lift.

The construction of an RC sprinkler tank in the basement required the use of self-compacting concrete, as the tank was being constructed between an existing floor and ceiling.

"The shape of the tank was shuttered, and the self-compacting concrete poured in sections. Once set, a waterproofing layer was applied to the interior of the tank to ensure water tightness. The water fittings to be used to take water from the tank were fitted before the concrete pour," Kieran McKeown adds.

ANNEXE AND COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

As with the main tower building, both the annexe and commercial buildings required extensive demolition and construction works. Demolition was mainly done with Brokk 100s and small hand-held breakers.

"As part of the new layout for the commercial building, a new six-storey RC lift shaft and stair-core were constructed between the annexe and commercial building," Kieran McKeown says. "This glass structure gives the building a contemporary look, and it works well against the original granite stone façade."

Other works carried out by Hegarty Demolition in the annexe and commercial buildings included:

- Structural alterations
- Screeds
- Structural steel and metal decking
- RC slabs and walls
- In-situ concrete stairs
- Basement internal waterproofing
- Roof plant structures to annexe and commercial buildings
- New fourth floor to commercial building.

DRAINAGE AND OTHER SERVICES

New primary foul and stormwater perimeter drainage lines and manholes were installed. Basement drainage was upgraded, including the installation of two new pump chambers and one petrol interceptor. In addition, exiting gullies and manhole covers were changed for modern high-spec products. Above podium level, Hegarty Demolition installed all ducting and chambers for new services to the plaza. To the north along Cope Street, a new double ESB substation on the ground floor of the tower building completed the service works. **C**



We know... Bonds

Surety Bonds

Our team of experienced specialist Bond underwriters, based in Kill, Co. Kildare, can manage your queries, quotes and paperwork, giving you more time to build your business.

So, for all of your Bond needs, whether in Ireland or the UK, please contact us on **+353 (0)45 886993** or **irelandbonds@tmhcc.com**

Tokio Marine HCC is rated **A+ (Strong)** by Standard & Poor's, ensuring your clients have peace of mind and strong financial security.

- **Performance Bonds**
- **Advance Payment Bonds**
- **Bid Bonds**
- **PPP Bonds**
- **Maintenance Bonds**
- **Retention Bonds**



**TOKIO MARINE
HCC**

tmhcc.com irelandbonds@tmhcc.com

Tokio Marine HCC is a trading name of Tokio Marine Europe S.A., which is a member of the Tokio Marine HCC Group of Companies. Tokio Marine Europe S.A. is authorised by the Luxembourg Minister of Finance and regulated by the Commissariat aux Assurances (CAA). Registered with the "Registre de commerce et des sociétés, Luxembourg" under No. B221975 and with registered office at 33, Rue Sainte Zithe, L-2763 Luxembourg. Operating through its Irish branch, registered as Tokio Marine Europe S.A. Irish branch with the Irish Companies Registration Office under the number 909016 with its registered office at Summit House, Embassy Office Park, Kill, County Kildare. Tokio Marine Europe S.A. Irish branch is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland for conduct of business rules.

A member of Tokio Marine Group of Companies

Pipe Insulation and Pipe Insert Supports?



Think TIDL ... manufactured in Ireland

Dual Temperature Solutions

TIDL Tarecphen

Phenolic pipe supports
-50°C to +120°C

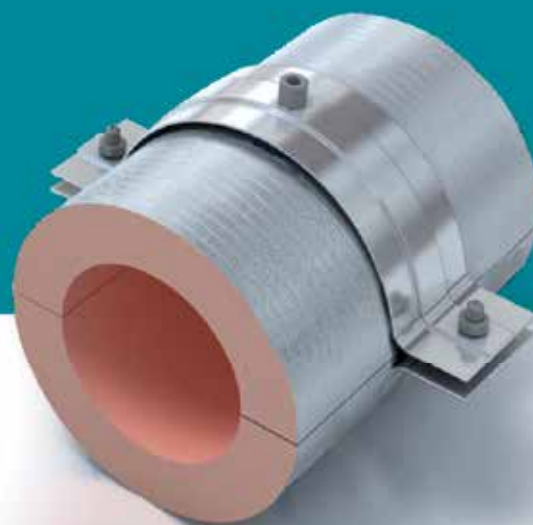
TIDL Tarec PIR

Polyisocyanurate supports
-100°C to +120°C

High Temperature Solutions

Promasil 1000

Calcium silicate support
+5°C to +1000°C



The TIDL pipe insulation solutions package comprises pipe insulation and insulated pipe support inserts that achieve a BL-s 1, d0 classification to EN 13501-1 when tested under the European Fire Classification System (Euroclass) for "reaction to fire". Designed for use across all insulation applications in pipe supports, hangar baskets and clamps, they will support the compressive loads imposed by horizontal pipework carrying water or all other liquids.

Technical Back-up and Design Support

TIDL's Technical Support Team offers comprehensive guidance on product selection, in addition to detailed design advice. This includes all calculations for the carrying capabilities of the supports so that a bespoke solution is arrived at for each specific projects.

Different Support Mechanisms

TIDL pipe support systems are also available in different lengths to suit different support mechanisms, from clamping through to rollers, to allow for contraction and expansion. Support inserts provide optimum load-bearing capacity while offering protection against insulation compression.

Thermal Insulation Distributors Ltd

Units 1-4 Keypoint, Rosemount Business Park,
Ballycoolin, Dublin 11, D11 XP70
Tel: 01-882 9990 email: sales@tidl.ie

www.tidl.ie



Robert O'Neill, Production Manager, TIDL, and Shaun Gillen, Sales Manager OEM/HTI, TIDL, photographed with one of the Phenolic Pipe Supports, which is 1.9 metres in width and capable of supporting a pipe with a weight of 3.2 tonnes.

TIDL MANUFACTURES ONE OF THE LARGEST EVER PHENOLIC PIPE SUPPORTS FOR IRISH PROJECT

Thermal Insulation Distributors Ltd (TIDL) has manufactured one of the largest Phenolic Pipe Supports ever made in Ireland, which is being manufactured for a large Irish project.

A range of Phenolic Pipe Supports are being manufactured by TIDL at their manufacturing facility in Ballycoolin, Dublin, for a major Irish construction project. The largest of these supports, at over 4 metres in diameter, will be capable of supporting a pipe with a weight of 15 tonnes. A product of this scale is not something that would be available off the shelf and has been designed and engineered by TIDL with their partners to provide a safe, workable, and appropriate product to meet the requirements of the project.

Commenting on the production of pipe supports of these sizes for use in Ireland, Shaun Gillen, Sales Manager, Original Equipment Manufacturers/High-Temperature Insulation (OEM/HTI), said, "TIDL is proud to be the first in Ireland to produce pipe supports on this scale and to work with our customers to provide solutions to their engineering requirements."

"The process of designing and producing the supports continued throughout the pandemic, with many virtual design meetings and later production works to complete the support. TIDL also has worked in the past with other customers to create unique solutions for their insulation requirements."

NEW TECHNOLOGY AND MACHINERY

TIDL has invested heavily in new technology and machinery which has allowed more solutions to be provided to complex requirements, such as chamfering each support to allow for heat tracing cables or other bespoke requirements.

Employing more than 60 people in Ireland, TIDL offers a wide range of solutions for insulation requirements in areas such as H&V, Fire Protection, High-Temperature Insulation (HTI) applications, Noise Control, bespoke solutions for Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and bespoke removable insulated jackets within their Thermal Covers Division. As part of the Ipcom Group, TIDL has access to a wide range of expertise and products

throughout Europe to provide solutions to individual insulation requirements.

LEADING MANUFACTURER

TIDL is Ireland's leading manufacturer and distributor of thermal and fire-stopping products for commercial and industrial applications. Led by Chief Executive Officer, Paudie Gillen, with over 30 years' experience in the Insulation industry, TIDL has an experienced team of product specialists who can provide solutions for individual insulation requirements.

EXTENSIVE PORTFOLIO

The TIDL portfolio is extensive and comprises a mix of own-manufactured ranges, along with market-leading brands such as Rockwool, Armacell, Paroc, Lamatherm, Isover, Foamglas, Knauf, Kingspan, Sager and Tarecphen.

TIDL is synonymous with many of these world-renowned brands, their pedigrees perfectly dovetailing with and reinforcing TIDL's core philosophy of providing quality product solutions supported by technical excellence and advice.

These attributes and strengths are continually independently assessed by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) who have certified TIDL's Quality Management System to IS EN ISO 9001:2015. This is a significant mark of approval for TIDL, as it covers its entire operation, from the manufacture, sale and distribution of thermal insulation, fire-stopping and noise control products through to specialist building products and cut insulation products for OEMs.

Not surprisingly, TIDL's customer list includes all the leading blue-chip, web, electronic, pharmaceutical, food and beverage companies, along with energy providers, universities, hospitals, schools and commercial and industrial companies. **C**



STARS ALIGN FOR THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

Real progress is now being made on the journey to digitising the Irish construction sector. **BARRY MCCALL** reports.

The central role that digitisation will play in the future of the Irish construction industry was highlighted in the recent KPMG Ireland/Future Analytics and TU Dublin report on productivity in the sector, 'Economic analysis of productivity in the Irish Construction Sector'.

Commissioned by the Department of Public Enterprise, the report identified three priority action areas for the years ahead:

- The need for investment in innovation and technology;
- A requirement for ongoing regulatory reform to support competitiveness and sustainability; and,
- Increased certainty in the pipeline of projects to be delivered under Project Ireland 2040.

The last area was addressed in the Department's 2020 'Construction Sector Group Building Innovation' report which stated, "The Government remains committed to investing public capital expenditure into the development of new social, economic and climate infrastructure. Grasping these opportunities in the face of Covid-19 requires overcoming challenges around capacity."

That reference to capacity challenges is directly connected to the innovation agenda. The Department of Public Expenditure Construction Sector Group Sub-Group on Innovation and Digital

Adoption, chaired by PJ Rudden, has identified a number of critical actions on innovation and digital adoption that are aimed at addressing the capacity question. These include:

- Establish a new Digital Build Centre of Excellence (Build: Digital Project) to operate under the aegis of the Department of Public Enterprise;
- Create a new Construction Technology Centre to be run by Enterprise Ireland; and,
- Develop a new Construction Research Forum, to be set up by the CIF.

Among the other urgent actions identified was the need for the digitisation of the planning system, to streamline and expedite the process.

Perhaps the most encouraging aspect of all of this is the fact that after years of debate and discussion, there are now signs of real progress towards meeting the innovation needs of the industry.

CONSTRUCTION 4.0 SUB-COMMITTEE

Much of the progress made to date can be put down to the work of the CIF Construction 4.0 sub-Committee, chaired by Tim Ferris, Managing Director, O'Shea's Electrical. The sub-committee



**Tim Ferris, Chairperson, CIF,
Construction 4.0 sub-Committee.**

comprises 18 representatives from across the industry, including civil engineering, general construction, housing, specialist contracting, and mechanical and electrical engineering (M&E). Of critical importance is the wide regional spread of companies represented, as well as the mix of scale.

The primary focus for the Construction 4.0 sub-Committee in 2020 has been:

- Supporting the establishment of the Build: Digital Project;
- Working with Enterprise Ireland to develop the Research, Development & Innovation Technology Centre for the construction industry; and,
- The development of a coherent policy for modular, modern methods of construction (MMOC) and off-site fabrication.

“There have been two step changes in the recent past,” says Tim Ferris. “The first was the agreement with Enterprise Ireland in 2019 to develop a technology centre for construction research, development and innovation. The second was the establishment of the Construction Sector Group, which managed to align a number of key actors that had been identified in the Economic Analysis of Productivity in the Irish Construction Sector report. That led to the establishment of the Department of Public Expenditure Construction Sector Group Sub-Group on Innovation and Digital Adoption. That sub-group is chaired by PJ Rudden, a former president of Engineers Ireland and founder of Aengus Consulting, who has wide experience of bringing diverse stakeholders together in national initiatives.”

That has allowed for the alignment of the key actions identified by the CIF Construction 4.0 sub-Committee.

“Our focus has been on getting the right people involved and ensuring the outputs from the process are what the industry and country requires,” adds Tim Ferris.

BUILD: DIGITAL PROJECT

The aim of the Build: Digital Project is to facilitate the sector’s transition to digital construction. It will begin with a one- or two-year pilot project and work is currently in progress to put together a consortium to lead that project.



**Sean Downey Director,
Specialist Contracting, CIF.**

Sean Downey, Director, Specialist Contracting, CIF, says that the process is currently at the stage where the Department of Public Expenditure is ready to put out a call for proposals from consortiums.

“The key deliverable is to bring the entire industry together with the Department and other stakeholders,” explains Sean Downey. “We want to streamline the approach to engagement between the State and the private sector and how the process works. We also want to see greater alignment with the education sector in order to deliver more industry-led programmes and courses. We want to make sure all the stakeholders are focused on collaboration.”

While the Department of Public Enterprise is ready to start the call for proposals, it has been asked to press the pause button for a short time.

“We asked them to hold back for a short period until we have defined the other needs of the sector and how they are going to be met by the Enterprise Ireland Technology Centre and our own Modern Methods of Construction Working Group,” Sean Downey explains.

He notes that there will be considerable overlap among stakeholders who are going to be involved in the Digital Build Centre of Excellence, the Enterprise Ireland Technology Centre and the Construction Research Forum. Support and funding will be sought from those stakeholders for each of the initiatives, and it is therefore vitally important to have clarity on what each will do and how it will work. The purpose of the pause is to allow time to consult with stakeholders in order to achieve that clarity.

“We have to make sure the Build: Digital Project will line up with the others and the Department of Public Enterprise is holding back until we can ensure that all the key areas are fully aligned,” Sean Downey adds. “The different projects are intricately interlinked. What’s going to happen is that the other actors will input over the next few weeks and there will be a call for proposals by year-end. We hope to see an appointment in the first quarter of next year.”

This is all in line with the policy published by the Enterprise Ireland National BIM Council in 2017. That first digital strategy for Ireland’s construction industry – ‘Roadmap to Digital Transition’ – offered a vision and direction for the sector that looks to achieve a



**Cillian Kelly, CIF Digital
Ambassador for Construction.**

20% reduction in costs, a 20% reduction in programme duration, and a 20% increase in construction exports to 2021.

CONSTRUCTION TECHNOLOGY CENTRE

The Enterprise Ireland Research Development and Innovation Technology Centre is a good example of an industry defining its own needs, according to Sean Downey.

"Enterprise Ireland has eight technology centres operating at the moment. Some of them already support advanced construction techniques in areas such as robotics and artificial intelligence (AI)."

The CIF Research Steering Group has been trying to identify the unmet needs of the industry over the past few years. This saw companies meeting at a workshop in Tullamore in 2018 to assess and discuss needs and more recently taking part in a webinar to discuss to results of a survey carried out by the steering group.

"The CIF Research Steering Group was charged with the collation and analysis of the high-level R&D needs of the sector," Sean Downey continues. "That has been an iterative process. The needs analysis of what the industry wants to see in a research centre is now being completed. We want to find out what companies are prepared to put people and resources into. The steering group report has just been finalised and will now be handed over to Enterprise Ireland."

For its part, Enterprise Ireland is tasked with developing a detailed plan for the Construction Technology Centre to provide a unique ecosystem for collaboration in areas identified by the construction industry as being strategically important.

"Enterprise Ireland is now in the process of developing a scope for the centre," says Sean Downey. "They will take our needs analysis and appoint a consultant to look at that and develop a detailed description of needs. This will give an independent viewpoint and benchmark Ireland against other jurisdictions. The consultant will look at the construction industry here and abroad and define the scale and scope of the technology centre."

It is hoped that Enterprise Ireland will put out calls for a consultant before the end of November with an appointment following in January. The consultant will determine the shape of

the centre and use international benchmarks to decide where the research effort needs to be focused in order to maximise results. It will also look at where the sector needs to focus to meet future societal needs.

"By mid-2021 we will have an outline of the technology centre and its constituent parts. Enterprise Ireland will then look for a centre director. The first job of the director will be to develop a five-year plan for the centre. They will also establish a board and get partners in to work with the centre. We will work with the director on the five-year plan. The State is coming in with seed funding for the centre. The model will see funding coming from the State, industry and Europe in equal parts, while the centre will also earn income from research activities."

While the Enterprise Ireland Construction Technology Centre is close to becoming a reality, Sean Downey says it is not too late for companies to have an input to the process.

"There will be a stage when the consultant takes a deeper dive into the needs of the industry. The industry will be able to feed into that. A critical test will be in relation to the value drivers underpinning the centre. The consultant will ask if the proposed research activities are things that the industry would invest in for their businesses. That's the best way to reflect the overall needs of the industry."

Sean Downey is encouraged by the progress to date.

"I would hope that the technology centre will have a director at work and the bones of a five-year plan in place by this time next year. Enterprise Ireland says it will be 12 to 18 months until it gets to a point where it is starting research projects. That is quite a short timeline and very positive from our point of view."

Construction 4.0 sub-Committee Chairperson Tim Ferris adds, "We have been involved in advanced R&D in our company for quite some time. Now that Enterprise Ireland is backing the establishment of the new technology centre, there will be a formal structure for the industry to be able to access R&D and move our businesses into the digital space. The biggest win for us will be the digitisation of the whole sector, which we will benefit from through improvements in our supply chain, which is becoming more specialised all the time."

MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION

Sean Downey says that the Construction 4.0 sub-Committee's Modern Methods of Construction Working Group should not be left behind in all of this.

"The MMOC Working Group is also working on a present state analysis of the industry and is hoping that will become part of the technology centre as well. It all needs to fit together. A lot of partners have put resources and time into the MMOC Working Group, and it should not have to vie with other areas for finance and support."

Cillian Kelly, Deputy Chairman of the Construction 4.0 sub-Committee and BIM Leader for Ireland and Europe, John Sisk and Son, is also CIF's Digital Ambassador for Construction. He sees the latest developments as very positive.

"I have been part of the group that has taken the lead on the Build: Digital Project for a number of years," he says. "We have effectively been working in isolation, trying to bring construction companies along the digital path for the past four years. A formal structure and framework are now being put together for the Build: Digital Project. That will be a very positive step and will give us one central leadership group to help the industry on the digital journey."

Any CIF members who wish to join the Construction 4.0 sub-Committee may do so by seeking a nomination from their association. **C**



A leading **global** engineering contractor

Working in 14 countries worldwide, we deliver diverse, cutting edge projects for blue chip clients while taking care of our people. Enrich your work-life balance with a progressive employer and experience more than just your work every day.



Jones
Engineering

Mechanical | Electrical | Fire Protection

joneseng.com



Kiernan Structural Steel's manufacturing plant in Kiltyreher, Co Longford.

KIERNAN STEEL NOMINATED FOR EY ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

ROBBIE COUSINS meets the husband and wife team heading up Kiernan Structural Steel Ltd, nominated by clients for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Awards, and one of Ireland's best-known structural steel manufacturers.

Longford-based Kiernan Structural Steel Ltd (KSSL) provides a wide range of services, which include design, value engineering and steel fabrication, steel erection, cladding, roof and floor metal decking, shear studding, welding, and castellated beam steel truss manufacture, as well as its unique in-house fire protection painting service and newest SIN Beam manufacturing service.

The company, founded by Frank and Dolores Kiernan in 1989, employs over 210 people directly and through sub-contractors. The business has a comprehensive CSR programme, which was recognised at the Energia Family Awards 2019 (Family Business CSR Award), where KSSL received a silver award. The company supports charities such as the Simon Community and Mary's Meals, as well as Longford GAA and Longford rugby club. Frank was chairman of Emmet Óg GFC for seven years. He has served on the GAA county board as development officer, as well as being a GAA Central Council delegate.

Frank Kiernan started his career as an apprentice steel fabricator in 1972. In the late 80's, as recession gripped the country, Frank and Dolores, with a young family, took the bold step of establishing a small business that operated from a building at the back of their home.

KSSL started out making small buildings for local farmers and quickly moved on to industrial units. In 1996, the couple made an insightful move by investing in CNC machines and computerising much of their operations. This significantly increased the capacity of the business with quality and consistency in its work.



Frank and Dolores Kiernan.

In 2001, the company was awarded a major project with Elan in Athlone. This project had almost 3,500 tonnes of structural steel. It put KSSL on the national map, subsequently successfully tendering for large projects across the country.

SHREWD INVESTMENTS

Speaking about the business's gradual development over the years, Frank Kiernan says that they have always invested wisely in the best plant and equipment, as well as ensuring that staff are encouraged to expand their skills and developed careers within KSSL.

"As a result of focussing on our staff and equipment, we have sustained strong customer relations, with many repeat orders from



SIN Beams in situ.



SIN Beams being manufactured.

clients. Our overall goal is always to produce quality work, on time and budget.”

Today, Frank and Dolores’ three daughters and three sons all work in the business, making it a real family-owned and managed business.

ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR NOMINATION

This year, Frank and Dolores have been nominated as one of the 24 finalists in the ‘EY Entrepreneur of the Year’ competition.

Frank says it was a great honour to be nominated for the EY Entrepreneur of the Year awards.

“This nomination is special because it comes from clients. We are truly grateful to our clients for the recognition they have given us with the nomination.”

ADDRESSING COVID-19

Dolores says that while the Covid shutdown resulted in the suspension of several contracts for a few weeks, it gave the company time to introduce and refine measures to keep their staff safe.

“Like other companies, we invested heavily to have the right measures in place to protect our staff, and by extension their families,” she explains. “At the end of the shutdown, we were well set up to meet the needs of our clients seamlessly.”

DIGITAL CONSTRUCTION

Digital construction has, for many years, played an essential role in the steel construction industry. BIM-related modelling software has widely been used since the mid-1990s.

“KSSL began using the drafting software StruCAD in 1996,” Frank explains. “This greatly increased our drafting capacity and


ability to generate 3D models and drawings. By providing a 3D view, we assisted engineers and designers in providing better scope and clarity on project requirements from a very early stage.”

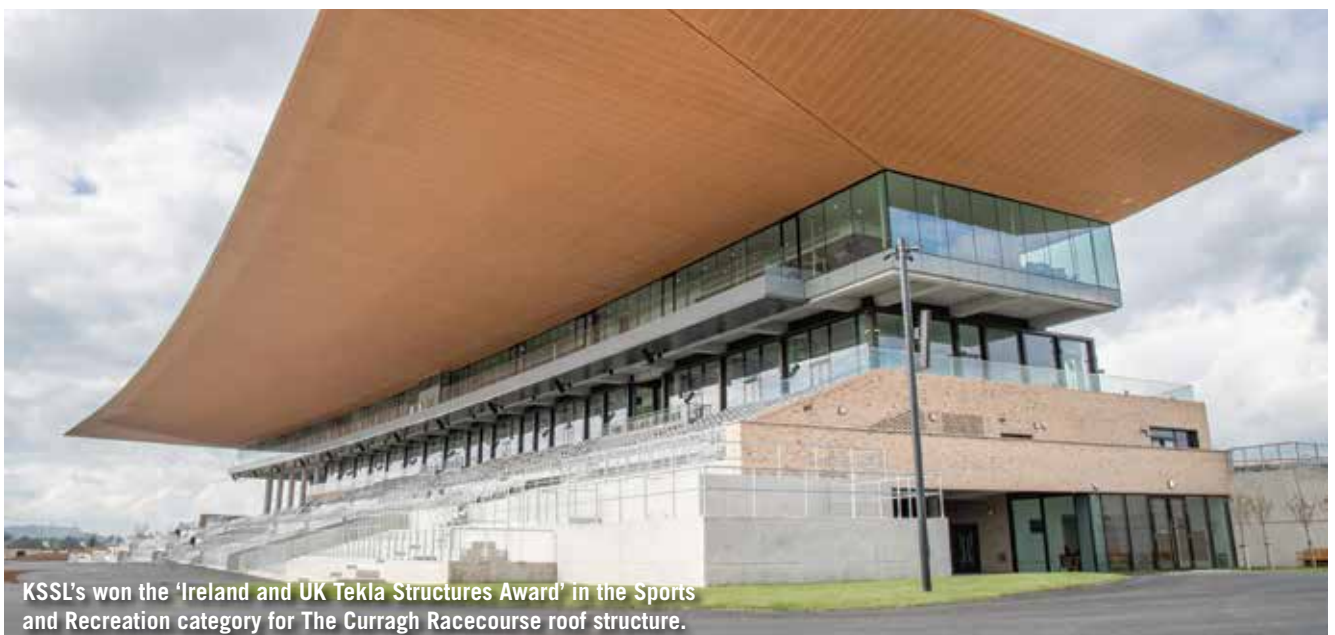
In 2019, KSSL won the ‘Ireland and UK Tekla Structures Award’ in the Sports and Recreation category for The Curragh Racecourse roof structure. As a result, it was automatically nominated for the 2020 Tekla structures worldwide competition. In 2020, it also won the ‘Structural Steel Design Award’ (SSDA) in the Sports and Recreation category.

SIN BEAMS

In recent years, KSSL invested in an automated robotic machine to manufacture a lightweight SIN Beam. SIN Beams are lightweight plate girders with thin sinusoidal corrugated webs, with thicknesses varying from 1.5mm to 3mm. KSSL has secured exclusive rights from the machine manufacturers for SIN Beam manufacture and distribution for Ireland and the UK.

SIN Beams are perfect for long-span roof structures. They easily give open spans of up to 60 metres. This is ideal for structures such as warehouses, industrial buildings, shopping centres, sports halls and pedestrian footbridges. SIN Beams are particularly efficient when compared to traditional roof truss structures. SIN Beams can provide significant savings for clients, with weight savings of 20 to 35% compared to traditional design methods.

KSSL has also recently ordered a Zeman SBA Compact fabrication and welding robot machine, which will increase its factory output significantly. Frank concludes by saying, “The steel industry is no different to any other industry, it must fully utilise new technology to ensure competitiveness, and that is what we pride ourselves on being able to do at KSSL.” 



KSSL's won the 'Ireland and UK Tekla Structures Award' in the Sports and Recreation category for The Curragh Racecourse roof structure.

EXCITING KIT EXPANSION FOR LAOIS HIRE GROUP



New 13 Ton Hitachi Diggers added to the Laois Hire Fleet



Bomag 213 Roller



Mobile & Sustainable X-Eco Lighting towers

The 13 Ton Hitachi ZX130-6, with more than 200 redesigned features, is one of many new pieces of equipment that has been introduced to the extensive product range of Laois Hire in recent months.

Laois Hire Group Managing Director Michael Killeen says that feedback from customers has been very positive. "This new 13 ton digger has a multitude of hi-tech features which improve safety and efficiency on site. Multi Vision cameras give the operator a 360 degree view, and the double

locking quick hitch and Seat Belt Beacon provide a higher level of Health & Safety than the average excavator."

Other features include:

- ✓ Vandal Guards
- ✓ Multiple Mirrors
- ✓ Easy access to the engine compartment
- ✓ User-friendly fuel filter
- ✓ Eco-option

Also recently added to the fleet were

new Hamm 8 Rollers, 30 Ton Bomag Rollers, 6 & 9 Ton Dumpers, Generators and smaller equipment such as Jumping Jacks, Wacker Plates and Roadsaws. Michael outlines the strategy Laois Hire take when purchasing new items for hire. "We only buy from quality brands, and

believe that continual investment is essential. We consistently have new kit, large and small, flowing into our branches in order to maintain our excellent stock, ready to hire. An up-to-date fleet combined with nationwide service is essential to ensuring our customers receive excellent service throughout all stages of the hire process."

"Going forwards, a major area of focus for us is reducing emissions and emphasizing product innovation and safety. We are continually introducing lower emission products to our portfolio such as electric, solar charging and hybrid equipment. We regularly top up our range of Hilti equipment which has Anti Vibration Reduction (AVR) helping to avoid the risk of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome."

Coming into the winter, investment will be focused on areas such as lighting, pumping and power generation. "Our X-Eco Lighting Towers are the most innovative and sustainable lighting towers around," Michael says. "These towable diesel lights allow contractors to benefit from major fuel savings and an increased run time of 400% whilst also reducing their CO2 emissions." **C**

For more information, or any queries:

Laois Hire: 1800 20 40 40 / laoshire.com

Laois Hire Group Managing Director Michael Killeen and National Hunt Jockey Ruby Walsh with a new Laois Hire Hamm 8 Roller at Ruby's farm in Co. Kildare.



LAOIS HIRE

PLANT & TOOL

Your Local Hire Specialists

An operator from our Traffic Management Division directing traffic on site



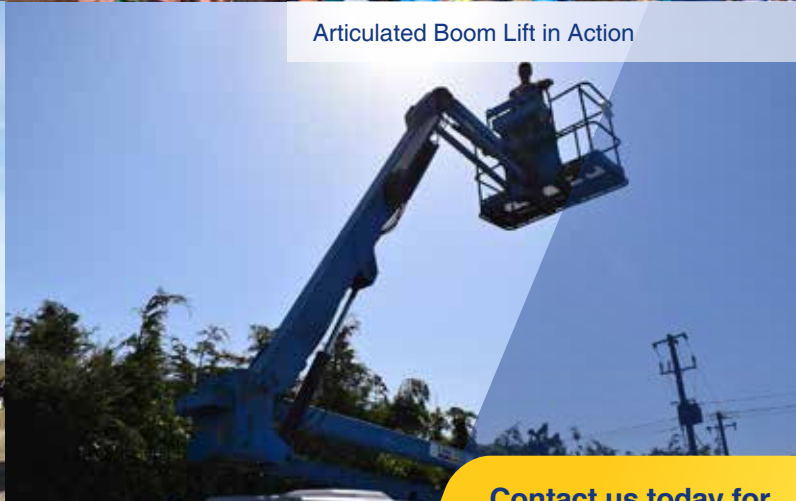
A Variable Message Sign (VMS) directing pedestrians at an Ireland Final in Croke Park



A lorry from our Renewables Division delivering kit to a windfarm



Articulated Boom Lift in Action



At Laois Hire, we have nine

Specialist Divisions

providing a huge variety of equipment and services to an extensive customer base at a great **Value** price, in a **Safe & Fast** way, all supported by our **Nationwide** Branch Network.

Contact us today for a **Competitive Quote**.



- Traffic Management
- Variable Message Signs (VMS)
- Accommodation Solutions
- Renewables
- Pumping
- Powered Access
- Plant
- Portaloo's
- Power Generation

**New 2020-21
Hire & Sales Guide**

Available in your local branch
or by email / post.



Portlaoise | Portarlington | Athy | Dublin | 1800 20 40 40 | laoishire.com



CERS

BUILDING FOR YOUR FUTURE

Deadline Extended Reduce your 2019 Income Tax Bill!

Set aside extra money towards your retirement by saving Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs).



Contact us and start saving today:

t: (01) 407 1430 | e: avc@cers.ie | w: www.cers.ie

As a member of a pension scheme you can set aside extra money towards your retirement by saving Additional Voluntary Contributions (AVCs).

- There are no set-up charges or commission fees applied to AVCs made to CERS.
- Generous tax relief received on the AVC amounts you save.
- Any AVCs made before the deadline can be offset against your 2019 tax liability.
- Your AVCs are invested and the interest gained is tax free.

*Deadline is extended until 10th Dec 2020 if you pay via ROS.



Designer Group's electronic visualisation lab at its Blanchardstown headquarters.

GOVERNMENT KNOWS THAT CONSTRUCTION IS INTEGRAL TO A SUCCESSFUL ECONOMY

Michael Stone, CEO, Designer Group, speaks with **MIMI MURRAY** about why 2020 has been a landmark year in the digital transition of the Irish construction sector.

Having started with a confident mindset at the beginning of 2020, leading engineering contractor, Designer Group, anticipated continued growth into the new decade, with a strong order book of tier-one clients and a great range of projects in the pipeline. Given the impact of Covid-19 so early in the year, the contractor has had to adapt at pace to the new environment but remains confident about the medium-term outlook for the next two years.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Designer Group CEO and former CIF President Michael Stone, who founded Designer Group in 1992, says that the company has adjusted its operations well to meet the challenges presented by the pandemic.

"All our projects are progressing, and we have a strong pipeline of work. We have adapted quickly to the new way of working. Designer Group's teams have all been fantastic in the way they have responded to all of the challenges that have arisen. Most

“COVID HAS RESULTED IN US LOOKING HARD AT THE WAY WE WORK AND HOW WE CAN DO THINGS BETTER, FASTER AND MORE COST-EFFECTIVELY.”

importantly, they are all safe and well, and they have bought into our new safe ways of working and gone the extra mile to support Designer Group and our clients at this challenging time. I am very proud of what our people have achieved,” he says.

Michael Stone cites an example of the first phase of a data centre project in Norway that the group has just completed, on time and budget, despite the pandemic.

“Our success in this instance has been down to the efforts of the team who worked tirelessly throughout lockdown to deliver this critical infrastructure for our client,” he says.

CRITICAL ISSUES

While Covid-19 has deflected attention from critical issues within the industry, such as Brexit, recruitment, and the sector's digital transition, these are still problems that need to be addressed.

“We have tried to keep our eyes on the big picture,” he continues. “We are watching Brexit developments with interest and looking to make sure our supply chain



Michael Stone, CEO, Designer Group.

can fully support us no matter what the outcome.

"We have made a number of important appointments in our senior management team recently, including several internal promotions, which is always very satisfying to see. We are also active in recruiting new apprentices for the business and bringing in new graduate engineers and surveyors to support our growth plans. It is worth mentioning that our Training Academy, which we got back up and running in July, is an essential part of who we are as Designer Group," he says.

"Covid has resulted in us looking hard at the way we work and how we can do things better, faster and more cost-effectively, and we use technology wherever possible to support this. I know we have more to do in this space, but I am pleased with our progress to date," he adds.

INNOVATION

Irish engineering companies have been to the forefront worldwide for more than

20 years. Designer Group is one of several Irish M&E contractors making significant inroads in the UK, Europe and around the world on the development of data centres, energy and other types of projects. Michael Stone says this is down to Ireland producing exceptional entrepreneurs who are supported by highly talented professionals.

"Enterprise Ireland has been a great supporter of these contractors. With their ongoing support, I see continued significant opportunities for us, particularly in the data centre and energy/sustainability sectors, such as solar and wind energy," he says.

While Covid-19 has thrown up many risks to the industry, some opportunities to make the sector safer and more efficient have arisen, and Michael Stone hails Designer Group's health and safety team, led by Shane Blaney, as being "outstanding" during Covid.

"They have played an important role in supporting the initiatives introduced by the CIF to promote safe working in a Covid world."

TAKE YOUR PLACE WITH THE DESIGNER GROUP GRADUATE TEAM

Designer Group is looking for dynamic graduates to join its team, where they can expect to be mentored every step of the way along their career. Designer Group invests heavily in staff development, placing it at the leading edge of a rapidly changing industry.

Designer Group wants to recruit, train, and retain the smartest young minds, and it is committed to building sustainable and rewarding careers for its staff. Its two-year rotational programme gives hands-on experience with a diverse range of professionals, new challenges, and exposure to the full construction life cycle on world-class client projects.

If you are an ambitious, high-calibre graduate who is keen to establish yourself within the building services industry, get in touch by sending your CV with a covering letter to irlcareers@designergrp.com or scan the QR code to apply.



DIGITAL TRANSITION

In terms of the Irish construction sector's transition to digital technologies, Covid-19 has really brought the industry's transition into clear focus and expedited the push towards this. Michel Stone believes that the momentum must be maintained, and this will lead to greater project cooperation and efficiencies.

"The construction sector traditionally has communicated in person. Wanting to collaborate in person has become a barrier in recent years. Covid has firmly removed this barrier. It has challenged professionals within our sector to communicate and



participate in using digital technologies. The removal of such barriers in recent months has enabled our teams to use their time more efficiently, collaborate more, and push engineering advancements. To maintain momentum, we need to continue to promote the use of technology within our workplace, continue to upskill our employees and commit to resourcing technological advancements. By doing this, we will have better project cooperation, compliance, teamwork, and workplace efficiencies, and continue to improve our service offering to our clients.”

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The importance of diversity has come to the fore in the sector in recent years. Michael Stone recognises that the industry is coming from “a low base”, but progress is being made.

“Designer Group is supporting CIF initiatives on diversity, and all of our senior management team are participating in programmes to raise awareness on diversity and to see how we can improve. But it will take time.”

In terms of career development and advancement within Designer Group, Michael Stone is proud of the Designer Group Training Academy.

“We are an accredited employer with Engineering Ireland and have just been accredited again for a further three years after a very thorough review. We are delighted with that, and ultimately this shows through in us promoting people from within our business. A number of our senior management team have come up through the business, which is an achievement I am delighted about.”



Biomass powerplant in Georgia, USA.

SUSTAINABILITY

Designer Group is developing its teams’ skill sets to ensure that they bring a high level of sustainability to all of their projects and to support their clients’ initiatives in this area, as well as bring their own sharp thinking on sustainable development.

“We have several projects that have given us opportunities to display our knowledge and expertise in this area and be at the forefront of this business opportunity, showing clients that we are serious about sustainable development. For instance, we are involved in a major biomass project in Africa, and we have been involved in several other similar cutting-edge projects in other parts of the world in recent years.”

OUTLOOK

Michael Stone’s key objectives for the year ahead are being able to ensure his company

maintains a safe working environment while staying focused and confident when undertaking new business opportunities.

“From an industry perspective, the sector needs continued Government support to re-establish the growth and momentum of the past few years. The Government has been doing well and has introduced several initiatives during Covid-19. But more definitely needs to be done through supports to help us grow. The Government knows that construction is an integral part of the success of the Irish economy. It recognises that the sector is an outstanding employer, with talented, well-educated people doing exciting and sustainable jobs. We generate substantial tax revenues for the Government. So, it is essential that they take this opportunity to ensure we continue to be able to do this,” he concludes. **C**

A DECADE OF UK LEADERSHIP

Nick Baish, UK Managing Director, Designer Group, celebrated his tenth anniversary with Designer Group in August 2020.

Group CEO, Michael Stone says: “For the past 10 years, I have been overwhelmed by the pride Nick has taken in working for Designer Group. So much has changed this year, but the celebration of this milestone remains significant. Nick has done an outstanding job at building and shaping Designer Group UK into the business it is today and has set an extraordinary example of leadership to all our colleagues.”

Designer Group UK’s significant achievements across the last decade include the International Broadcast Centre for the London 2012 Olympics; One Blackfriars Road, a magnificent addition to the London skyline; and One Nine Elms, the tallest residential towers in Europe.

Michael Stone adds, “Nick has brought innovative ideas, strategic thinking and, most valuably, his tireless efforts to increase our visibility in the industry. It is a great pleasure to lead with him, and I look forward to continuing our partnership into the next decade.”



Nick Baish, UK Managing Director, Designer Group.

COMMERCIAL PARTNERS

Clf Commercial Partners are suppliers of equipment/services for your construction business



SAFETYSIGNS.IE

PRODUCTS: PPE safety signs, construction site safety signs, site notice boards
CONTACT: Sales team,
 Tel: 066 717 4077,
 Email: info@safetysigns.ie



CLEANTECH MEDICARE

PRODUCTS: Suppliers of high quality CE-certified Covid-19 PPE & thermal scanners
CONTACT: Barry O'Brien,
 Tel: 01 436 2910,
 Email: info@cleantechmedicare.com



MURPHY SURVEYS

SERVICES: BIM, laser scanning, verification, setting out and more
CONTACT: Michael Durnin,
 Tel: 045 484040,
 Email: mdurnin@murphysurveys.ie



ADVANCE ACCESS

PRODUCTS: Site access control systems, handsfree turnstiles, Bluetooth access control, temperature screening
CONTACT: Eoghan Connolly,
 Tel: 087 905 6764,
 Email: eoghan@advanceaccess.ie



TEC SECURITY

PRODUCTS: Fever detection face recognition solutions
CONTACT: Stephen Tyrrell,
 Tel: 01 404 5124,
 Email: tecsecurity@eircom.net



BLOCWORX

PRODUCTS: Software platform to digitise and manage processes and track business activity
CONTACT: Mark O'Sullivan
 Tel: 086 385 0363,
 Email: mark.osullivan@blocworx.com



CGA TECHNOLOGY

PRODUCTS: Solutions to manage compliance and health and safety. Compliance, safety, asset, training, contractor software
CONTACT: Steven Battersby,
 Tel: 087 335 5979,
 Email: sales@cgatechnology.com



PPENOW.ie

PRODUCTS: Quality, certified PPE products. Prompt delivery-Ireland. Fair price guarantee
CONTACT: Laurence Gavin,
 Email: info@ppenow.ie
 Web: www.ppenow.ie



RMIS ENGINEERING LTD

PRODUCTS: Mechanical Contracting services across all sectors
CONTACT: John Raleigh,
 Tel: 086 021 2111,
 Email: john@rmis.ie
 Web: www.rmis.ie



FORESIGHTHUB TECHNOLOGIES

PRODUCTS: Cloud-based safety software for smart devices, Manages Covid-19 compliance
CONTACT: Tel: 086 177 6572,
 Email: info@foresighthub.com
 Web: www.foresighthub.com



TYCO DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCTS: PPE, face masks, face visors, sanitizers, gloves
CONTACT: Barry Thornton/Hugh Hunt, Tel: 083 036 7197 /087 826 2544,
 Email: ciftyco@gmail.com
 Web: www.tycodistribution.com



BOYNESIDER OFFICE FURNITURE

PRODUCTS: Office furniture, PPE, and sanitizers
CONTACT: Simon O'Dea,
 Tel: 086 408 3012,
 Email: info@boynesider.com
 Web: www.boynesider.com



iSUPPLY PRINTING & SIGNAGE

SERVICES: Design, Print & signage, video experts with specialised Covid-19 products
CONTACT: Eddie Redmond,
 Tel: 085 864 0059,
 Email: eddie@isupply.ie
 Web: www.isupply.ie



VISION BUILT

PRODUCTS: Covid-19 WC Eco Pod mobile toilet facility in line with WHO guidelines
CONTACT: Julie Regan,
 Tel: 091 795505,
 Email: j.regan@vision-built.com
 Web: www.vision-built.com



HILTI IRELAND

PRODUCTS: Tool & software solutions for productive social-distancing compliance
CONTACT: Micheál Molloy,
 Tel: 087 989 2326,
 Email: Micheal.Molloy@hilti.com
 Web: www.hilti.ie

CIF Commercial Partners are suppliers of equipment/services for your construction business



BEWISE

PRODUCTS: A full range of PPE and social distancing materials

CONTACT:

Lee McCreery,
Tel: 087 410 5947,
Email: lee@jlmgifts.ie
Web: www.bewise.ie



TOPCON

PRODUCTS: Sale, Hire & service of construction tools. (Lasers, BIM, UAV, Survey)

CONTACT: Joe Glennon,
Tel: 01 897 5900.

Email: jglennon@topcon.com
Web: www.topconpositioning.com



LOUGHCREW ENTERPRISES

PRODUCTS: Hand sanitising stations

CONTACT: Tel: 086 775 5779

/049 854 1819,
Email:
padraig@houseofcorrigan.com
Web: www.loughcrew-ent.com

Work Permits Ireland

WORKPERMITS IRELAND

SERVICES: Consultation, Critical/General/All other skills permit, visa, immigration

CONTACT: Colm Hilliard,

Tel: 086 469 7939,
Email: info@workpermits.ie
Web: www.workpermits.ie



THE BELVEDERE HOTEL

SERVICES: Dublin city centre newly refurbished hotel. Special construction worker rate from €60

CONTACT: Agata Hajduk,

Tel: 01 873 7700,
Email:
revenue@belvederehotel.ie
Web: www.belvederehoteldublin.com



PROLIFT HANDLING

PRODUCTS: Supply & service of lifting, material handling and height safety gear

CONTACT: Darragh Hickey,

Tel: 086 780 9679,
Email: darragh@prolift.ie
Web: www.prolift.ie



XENON FEVER DEFENCE

PRODUCTS: Non-contact temperature-screening device

CONTACT: Sales Team,

Tel: 086 842 6092.
Email: sales@feverdefence.com
Web: www.feverdefence.com



MIDLAND STEEL REINFORCEMENT SUPPLIES

PRODUCTS: Bespoke BIM rebar solutions, Modular rebar solutions

CONTACT: Michael O'Brien,

Tel: 087 116 3201,
Email:
mobrien@midlandsteelsupplies.ie
Web: www.midlandsteelsupplies.ie



SL DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCTS: Face masks, PPE equipment

CONTACT: Simon Linscheid.

Tel: 086 997 2507,
Email: simon@sldistribution.ie
Web: www.sldistribution.ie



SHOOT CUT GRADE LTD

PRODUCTS: Construction sector video production & E-Learning specialists.

CONTACT: James Galvin,

Tel: 01 437 8321,
Email: sales@shootcutgrade.com
Web: www.shootcutgrade.com



REACH GROUP

PRODUCTS: A diverse range of personal protective equipment and hygiene products

CONTACT: Aoife Ryan,

Tel: 01 499 3562,
Email: sales@reachgroup.ie
Web: www.reachretailservices.ie



SAFETYFREELANCER

SERVICES: Outsource all your SHEQ on to our online bid website; 1,000 experts online.

CONTACT: Gavin Coyle,

Tel: 086 220 0018,
Email: gavin@safetyfreelancer.com
Web: www.safetyfreelancer.com



FITZERS CATERING LTD

SERVICES: Catering specialists who can provide solutions to your venue or site

CONTACT: Sharon Fitzpatrick,

Tel: 086 255 5651, Email:
sharonfitzpatrick@fitzerscatering.ie
Web: www.fitzerscatering.ie



ETAG FIXINGS IRELAND

PRODUCTS: Building materials, fixings, PPE, site consumables, social distancing solutions.

CONTACT: Damien Lynch/Dave O'Reilly,

Tel: 086 389 4995/086 829 1010,
Email: sales@etagfixings.com
Web: www.etag.ie



HORIZON DIGITAL PRINT SOLUTIONS

PRODUCTS: Print & PPE, Safety signage, Site Hoardings, Building Mesh, Hat & Face Visors

CONTACT: Jeff Maguire,

Tel: 087 234 2349,
Email: jeff@horizondigitalprint.com
Web: www.horizondigitalprint.com



AZZURRI SPORT

PRODUCTS: SWIFT-19 and AFNOR specification reusable barrier masks

CONTACT: Jack Molloy,

Tel: 051-850055,
Email: jackmolloy@azzurri.ie
Web: www.azzurri.ie



**MILESTONE
ADVISORY**

PROTECTION AGAINST THE UNEXPECTED

How would you or your family cope financially in the event of a long-term illness or unexpected death? At Milestone Advisory, we ensure you have the right levels of protection cover in place. As your circumstances change, we are there to review and restructure your cover, ensuring you and your family are protected.

www.milestoneadvisory.ie



To learn more about your options,
contact a member of our team

01-4068020
info@milestoneadvisory.ie

Protecting your Investment

Whether you need to protect your business, income or dependants, we can help. There are various protection cover options available to people in Ireland. We work with our clients to help them select the best cover, ensuring they are protected against the unexpected.



INCOME PROTECTION



LIFE INSURANCE



BUSINESS PROTECTION

Milestone Advisory DAC t/a Milestone Advisory is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.
Milestone Advisory is an operating division of CPAS.

HOW SAFE IS YOUR FUTURE?

SUSAN O'MARA applies the mission statement of Construction Safety Week 2020 to planning your future personal finances.

With this year's Construction Safety Week wrapped up, I reflected on the mission statement and considered how it could apply to personal finance. I have applied some of the logic to the key points and encourage you to consider the safety of your financial future.

The collective mission of this year's Construction Safety Week was to:

- Work together to eliminate accidents and incidents on construction sites in Ireland;
- Promote a healthy culture of sharing lessons learned and best practice in safety, health and wellbeing; and,
- Reflect on the positive initiatives taken and celebrate achievements in good safety performance, whilst appreciating the potential consequences of failing to act responsibly in terms of safety and health.

Financial advice can't eliminate accidents, but if I can offer some advice to people involved in construction, it's to consider what safety net they have in place in the event of accident or illness.

ACCIDENT PROTECTION

I have written about the importance of Income Protection many times in *Construction* before, and it bears repeating. The World Health Organisation (WHO), stated that globally, life expectancy increased by five years between 2000 and 2015. You can expect to live well into your retirement years (passed 65), but for up to one in four people, it is not all plain sailing. Illness and injury are unforeseen life events. You should have a well thought out financial plan in place to see you through any unforeseen events in your working life, and Income Protection is an important part of that financial plan.

Income Protection is a policy that insures a portion of your income, so that in the event of a loss of earnings due to illness or injury, you can make a claim against this policy, to replace some of these lost earnings.

Why is it important?

Most of us would struggle financially if we were out of work. One in three is certain they would not manage, and only one in five has the necessary savings to get them by.

The reason I write about Income Protection so much is because I genuinely believe Income Protection is the most important cover that you need. In 2018, an Irish Life survey by Coyne Research highlighted that only 13% of the working population is covered. This is based on a nationally representative sample of 1,000 adults over 18. Based on the statistics above, this leaves many workers exposed to the dangers of financial uncertainty should they fall ill.

LESSONS LEARNED

There are many lessons to be learned when it comes to safety, health and wellbeing. The best and most timely lesson I will share is that people underestimate the value of tax relief on pension savings. I hear many people disparage pensions as boring and old fashioned and that they will save for retirement in their own way. Consider this, if you save €100 per month over 20 years in a bank account with no interest, you will have €24,000, and it will have cost you €24,000.



Susan O'Mara, Milestone Advisory.

“ IF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK 2020 TEACHES US ANYTHING, IT IS THAT TAKING SOME TIME ONCE A YEAR TO REFLECT ON THINGS CAN MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE TO OUR SAFETY AND THE SAME IS TRUE FOR YOUR FINANCES. ”

If you save the same in a pension scheme, with tax relief at the higher rate of 40%, and 4% growth pa, you will save €37,163, and it will have cost you €14,400. There are many different assumptions and figures you could use here, but ultimately, saving for your future in a pension arrangement means that you will end up with more for less. It's a no brainer.

A TIME FOR REFLECTION

Needless to say, “appreciating the potential consequences of failing to act responsibly” is the key takeaway for me here. Failing to plan for your financial future has consequences.

Ask yourself; “Can I live on my savings if I can't work during a short illness?” Ask yourself if you can live comfortably on the State pension of €12,911 per annum and at the same time afford any unexpected medical expenses?

If Construction Safety Week 2020 teaches us anything, it is that taking some time once a year to reflect on things can make a big difference to our safety, and the same is true for your finances. Take some time, make a plan, revisit it every year, the rest will take care of itself. **C**

Susan O'Mara is a financial services consultant with Milestone Advisory DAC t/a Milestone Advisory, which is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. For more information, visit www.milestoneadvisory.ie

A CHRISTMAS LIKE NO OTHER FOR DUBLIN SIMON COMMUNITY

Covid-19 has greatly impeded Dublin Simon Community's Christmas 2020 campaign. However, several exciting online programmes mean that CIF members and their staff can still give much-needed this year.



Christmas always comes early for the Dublin Simon Community fundraising team. The bulk of the charity's fundraising income is raised from public events held in November and December each year. But, the difference in 2020 is stark. For Dublin Simon Community Covid-19 has meant the cancellation of iconic and dependable fundraisers like the Christmas Eve busk on Grafton Street, the 24-hour Carolathon, Sing for Simon fundraisers and the House of Light event at Powerscourt Townhouse.

But after more than 50 years of operation, Dublin Simon Community has a reputation for resilience, and this came to the fore immediately. The fundraising team took the challenges of Covid-19 as an opportunity to devise a series of engaging and creative fundraisers that will facilitate raising much-needed funds to support their work in tackling homelessness in Dublin and the six neighbouring counties where it operates.

While Dublin Simon's frontline workers, healthcare staff and support staff focused on keeping clients and residents safe during the pandemic, the fundraising team worked in the background to come up with innovative ways to ensure that vital funds didn't dry up.

A survey by the Charities Institute of Ireland found that some organisations in the sector could lose up to 87% of their income, and almost 90% of all charity events for 2020 have had to be cancelled or taken online.

With this in mind, Dublin Simon Community's Fundraising team adapted existing events. It came up with a series of innovative programmes to engage the business community and allow them to continue to show their support for the charity in this Christmas period while getting something meaningful in return.

Emma Kilkenny, Head of Fundraising, Dublin Simon Community, outlines why offering engagement has been so important in these innovative offerings. "Christmas is going to be different for everyone, in many cases, people will not have seen their colleagues or customers through anything other than a small screen since March, and we all have video-call fatigue at this stage. We wanted to try to give people the sense of connection at Christmas, and we wanted to create the feeling of togetherness and fun for staff engagement programmes like 'Christmas Craic' and 'Gaming for Good' and deliver a way to show gratitude toward customers and stakeholders through our 'House of Cards' initiative."



CHRISTMAS CRAIC

Christmas Craic is a Christmas party with a difference. Personalised to your business team, Christmas Craic allows you to come together virtually to set fundraising challenges, play interactive games, and all the while checking the impact that your fundraising input is having at Dublin Simon Community.

Watch the promo video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCCS1Lup3yc and contact Dublin Simon Community's Corporate Partnerships Team to sign up or for further details partnerships@dubsimon.ie or call 01 671 5551.

GAMING FOR GOOD

If your team is finding it hard to satisfy their competitive edge, then Gaming for Good is just the thing to boost you through the winter. Teams of four employees can pit their online gaming skills against teams from across Dublin and beyond to find out which company will walk away with the coveted Gaming for Good trophy for 2020. Your team's entry fee will help keep vital Dublin Simon services running throughout the pandemic.

Crack your knuckles, get practising on your console and get in touch with stevenshort@dubsimon.ie to register your interest.

HOUSE OF CARDS NATIONAL CAMPAIGN

The whole world is gone virtual, and this year sending cards or corporate gifts will be more challenging than ever. Each year House of Cards asks the business community to donate to House of Cards and send a personalised e-card from your business to show you've supported those who are vulnerable and homeless. House of Cards is a national campaign, suitable for businesses throughout Ireland and delivers support to all Simon Communities. As well as receiving bespoke Christmas themed e-cards, banners and email signatures, participants will be honoured with a mention in Dublin Simon's takeover of 'The Irish Times' online business pages in December. It has a range of donation points for all sizes of business, from corporate to sole trader. **C**

Contact the Dublin Simon House of Cards team at hoc@dubsimon.ie or call 01 472 2129.

ARE YOU READY FOR 2021?

SEAN MURPHY speaks with several owners/managers of small construction businesses about how completing a Construction Professionals Skillnet programme has helped them define precisely what they want from their business and know how to go after it.

Now is the time for businesses to be planning for 2021, and beyond. With so much uncertainty abounding, planning can seem irrelevant to many. But, without a strategy or a plan, you could end up adrift on rough seas.

You need only look at how Sara Feeney and Ellen Glynn survived on their paddleboards in August due to their ability to come up with a strategy to help them survive what seemed to many to be a lost cause. For many small construction business owners, good planning is essential to survival, but where do you start?

ACS CONSTRUCTION

David O'Sullivan of ACS Construction in Limerick, took a Construction Professionals Skillnet course to help him get to a place where he can have a successful business that doesn't depend on him solely.

"One of the first questions that came up on the course was 'Do you want a lifestyle business or to build a larger company?'" David O'Sullivan comments. "I now have a structure in place in my business that enables me to examine various avenues and then make educated decisions.

"One area that I worked on as part of the course was health and safety," he adds, "This proved to be a low hanging fruit and easy to address. Another was tendering and the tender process. I was doing jobs rather than giving tenders the attention they needed. This has now changed. I am getting to the table, and I am more in the position of deciding what contracts I want and at what price.

"The most tangible result though is the plan of what I would ideally like to have as an organisational structure. I have the plan ready to go when cashflow improves. One of the most interesting things I found was that, big or small, all the issues are the same. Completing the course gave me confidence that I know the industry and can compete with anyone."

LITCHFORD

Eddie O'Connor and Leona Melia of contractor Litchford Ltd wanted to plan long term for an exit strategy and keep everyone informed about how the business is performing.

"We have principals who have a shareholding," Leona Melia explains. "They



Liz Carroll, Network Manager,
Construction Professionals Skillnet.

are excellent tradesmen and very hard working, but they need to be brought up to speed regularly on other aspects of the business. We as a group had been poor at communication. But, we started having virtual weekly management meetings to keep everyone in the loop." Leona Melia explains.

"The management meetings 'put a glass head on you,'" Eddie O'Connor adds. "It helps you share what is in your head and you know that it has been shared. This probably wouldn't have happened without Covid-19. But it has proven to be the most useful initiative in the business for a long time."

CORE AIR CONDITIONING IRELAND

Dave Clarke of Core Air Conditioning Ireland Ltd also participated in a programme.

"We currently employ 15 people. I managed the service and maintenance departments until recently, when I was appointed general manager," Dave Clarke

explains. "The training has helped me define the roles and systems that we have in place, to review them, and to see if they are what we need for us to achieve what we want as a business down the line. It is a work in progress that we are taking slowly. But it has really helped us.

"The course also provided an insight into other small businesses and how different sectors have the same business issues, independent of the sector they are operating in," he continues. "Even if I had to pay for this training, the cost and effort would be far outweighed by the benefit of learning from the experience of the instructors and other participants."

The Construction Professionals Skillnet offers a number of remotely delivered courses for owner/managers of small construction businesses. **C**

To learn more about this and other Construction Professionals Skillnet courses, visit www.cpskillnet.ie or contact Liz Carroll at cpskillnet@cif.ie or 087 932 3749.



BENEFITS OF SIN BEAM

This Technology provides the following advantages:

- ✓ Perfect for long spans
- ✓ Eurocode Compliant
- ✓ Substantial weight savings in comparison to hot rolled sections
- ✓ Capable of bespoke beam dimensions to suit project requirements
- ✓ Robotic welder means continuous quality in both the welding and assembling of beams
- ✓ Variety of beams/configurations can be achieved using the SIN Beam.



The SIN System allows order volumes of additional several thousand tons of structural steel fabrication due to increased efficiency in production.

This technology combines not only the large span and reduced weight capability of lattice girders, but also the reduced depths and high load capacity of standard beams into one single structural member - the SIN Beam.

Dimensions, material thicknesses and indeed the material quality can be altered/changed to suit the projects requirements.



The SIN Beam system has a range of applications including:

- ✓ Industrial Buildings
- ✓ Shopping Centres
- ✓ Pedestrian Bridges
- ✓ Roof Constructions
- ✓ Sports Centres
- ✓ Industrial Plants
- ✓ Car Parks
- ✓ Piperacks
- ✓ External applications etc.



EDUCATION SECTOR LOOKS TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME IN 2020

TOM MOLONEY, Managing Director, Construction Information Services (CIS) analyses planning and construction activity in the education sector on a national level from April to September.

The challenges presented by Covid-19 have resulted in many projects being delayed or cancelled in the education sector, in addition to the disruptions caused in the supply chain relating to materials, labour, equipment, etc. It is difficult to predict what activity levels are likely to be for Q3 and Q4. But the trajectory for both applications and decisions look positive. As the sector adapts to a new norm, and with the promised support from Government, the sector and the industry as a whole will hopefully bounce back to pre-Covid levels.

The following is a breakdown of the top education projects in the five months up to September this year.

COMMENCEMENTS

St Patrick's Junior & Senior Schools, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15 (Contract Value – €14m)

Glasgiven Contracts has commenced work as the main contractor on the development of a new conjoined school for the existing St Patrick's junior and senior primary schools. The building is two storeys and approximately 6,025 sq m in area. When completed, facilities will include 36 classrooms, two general-purpose halls, a breakfast club and ancillary facilities. Works also include landscaping, play areas, car parking and site works. This project is a phased construction on an operational school site. It is expected to take 24 months to complete.

Scoil Mhuire, Stranorlar, Co Donegal (Contract Value – €6.4m)

In Donegal, Boyle Construction has commenced work on a €6.4m



Tom Moloney, Managing Director, Construction Information Services (CIS).

school development at Scoil Mhuire in Stranorlar. Works on this are to include the construction of a new 24-classroom primary school of approximately 4,000 sq m, together with associated external works and site services on a greenfield site at Mill Brae, Stranorlar. Works on this are expected to take in the region of 16 months to complete.

PLANNING APPROVED

Educate Together School, Sandymount, Dublin 4 (Contract Value – €18m)

Dublin City Council issued a decision to grant planning permission on 25th August to Department of Education & Skills for a protected structure, the Roslyn College site in Sandymount, Dublin 4. The development will comprise a new educational campus that will be delivered on a phased basis. The works will include

the phased demolition/removal of the existing educational/institutional buildings on the site, including the two-storey Roslyn College, the link element between the two-storey rear extension to Roslyn Park House and Roslyn College, the two-storey Sandymount Park House, and the existing temporary accommodation to the rear of Sandymount Park House. The project will provide 24 classrooms.

PLANNING SUBMITTED

Post Primary School, Enfield, Co Meath (Contract Value – €12.8m)

The Department of Education and Skills submitted a planning application to Meath County Council on 4th September for a school development to comprise a three-storey and two-storey post-primary school, to include a PE hall, a four-classroom special educational needs unit and all ancillary site works. The proposed project also incorporates associated staff car parking, delivery access, drop-off areas, pedestrian access, bicycle lane, construction of six external ball courts, landscaping, connection to public services, an ESB sub-station and all associated siteworks.

Christian Brothers College, Sidney Hill, Co Cork (Contract Value – €12.5m)

In Cork City, An Bord Pleanála upheld Cork City Council's decision to grant planning permission to Christian Brothers College for a development on a site comprising Sidney Hill, Wellington Road and St Patrick's Hill. The development will consist of the construction of a new five-storey schoolhouse with eight classrooms, a library, digital suite, four offices, toilets, stores, plant accommodation, school hall and associated facilities. The building will be in a single structure measuring 2435 sq m, and it will have an overall height of 21.1m, with frontage onto St Patrick's Hill. **C**



CGI of Christian Brothers College, Sidney Hill, Co Cork, courtesy of O'Donnell + Tuomey.

Construction Information Services (CIS) provides comprehensive, researched, verified and real-time information on all building projects throughout Ireland – north and south. For more information call: +353 1 2999 200 or email sales@cisireland.com



**GENERATION
APPRENTICESHIP**
www.apprenticeship.ie



New drive to promote business growth through increased apprenticeship provision and recruitment.

LEAD

**€3,000
JOBS STIMULUS
SUPPORTS FOR
APPRENTICESHIP
EMPLOYERS**



Receive a grant of €3,000 per apprentice for employers who register new apprentices before the end of June 2021.

SHARE



ACT

Find out more about the benefits at
www.apprenticeship.ie



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

SOLAS
learning works

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BOLSTERED BY APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVISATION SCHEME

To date, 630 employers have registered 1,100 apprentices on the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme, putting themselves in line for a €3,000 payment for each apprentice who completes the process.

Budget 2021 saw an extension of the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme for employers of apprentices into 2021. The scheme, which was announced as part of the Government's July Jobs Stimulus Package provides a €3,000 payment for each new apprentice who is registered by eligible employers in acknowledgment of the financial difficulties faced by companies looking to recruit apprentices in the current economic environment. Solas is the statutory agency that oversees the apprenticeship system in Ireland, and it is administering the delivery of the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme.

Speaking about the response to the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme, Maria Walshe, Communications Director, Solas, says, "We have already seen a great response to the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme, with 630 employers and over 1,100 apprentices benefitting to date. The extension of the scheme into 2021 is most welcome and demonstrates the commitment of Government to continuing to support apprentices seeking apprenticeships and employers in providing apprenticeships."

WHAT IS THE APPRENTICESHIP INCENTIVISATION SCHEME?

The Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme provides financial support for employers who take on apprentices on all national apprenticeship programmes. The incentive support covers all national apprenticeship programmes – 58 programmes as of September 2020 – and will apply to any new apprenticeship programmes that are launched up to June 2021.

Apprenticeship employers are eligible for a €3,000 payment for each new apprentice who is registered between the period 1st March 2020 and 30th June 2021. Under the scheme, €2,000 per apprentice is payable at the point of registration, with €1,000 payable for each eligible apprentice retained on their apprenticeship completion.

HOW TO APPLY?

Step 1: Advertise apprenticeship jobs via www.apprenticeship.ie



Simon Harris TD, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, launching the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme.

Registered employers taking on apprentices as part of the scheme are requested to use the free jobs portal facility on www.apprenticeshipjobs.ie to advertise vacancies.

If you are not yet an apprenticeship employer, you can submit an expression of interest and complete the process online via <https://www.apprenticeshipjobs.ie/#/employer/register>. The apprenticeship office in your local Education and Training Board (ETB) can assist with this.

Step 2: Register your apprentice

Once an apprentice has been employed, you must register them as an apprentice with Solas. This is completed with an apprenticeship advisor in your local ETB.

Step 3: Apply for the incentive payment

Following successful registration of an apprentice, employers who are eligible for the incentive payment will be invited to submit a claim form, which includes tax clearance details and the provision of bank details to process payments. Subject to approval, the claim will be processed

promptly for payment.

For apprentices who have been registered to date since 1st March 2020, Solas will be in contact with all eligible employers to invite them to submit a claim form.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Apprentices must continue to be employed by the employer at the time of submission of a claim for the incentive payment.

Employers who have made an apprentice redundant between 1st March and 31st December 2020 are not eligible to make a claim under the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme.

Employers cannot claim for both the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme and JobsPlus for their apprentices.

Apprentice employers will be subject to monitoring visits, and contact in the usual way by the national network of Solas authorised officers. **C**

For further details, contact the apprenticeship advisor in your local Education and Training Board, or email apprenticeshipincentive@solas.ie



The Construction Law Experts

- **Contract Law support** for Sub Contractors and Main Contractors
- **Claim Preparation and Appraisal**
- **Specialists in Mediation, Conciliation, Adjudication and Arbitration**

With 25 years of experience in the construction industry, MCDR is supporting Sub-Contractors and Main Contractors of all sizes, on construction law matters; contract administration and correspondence; claims preparation, appraisal and defence. MCDR are also specialists in representing Contractors in Mediation, Conciliation, Adjudication and Arbitration.

MCDR has an impeccable record in providing Contractors with up to date construction law expertise that maximises their contractual entitlements.



CONTACT:

Peter McCarthy LL.M., BSc., MRICS, MSCSI, MCI Arb

Dublin: 50-56 Merrion Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 V4K3.

Phone – 01 639 2927 Email: dublin@mcdri.ie

Cork: Penrose Wharf Business Centre, 14 Penrose Wharf, Cork, T23 EK0E. Phone – 021 4555678 Email: cork@mcdri.ie

Web: www.mcdri.ie

ARACHAS

Protecting You & Yours

The Trusted Insurance Broker For Over 30 Years In The Construction Sector

- ✓ Public & Products Liability
- ✓ Design & Construct Professional Indemnity
- ✓ Employer's Liability
- ✓ Contractors All Risks
- ✓ Bond Facilities
- ✓ Personal Accident
- ✓ Plant, Machinery and Fleet insurance
- ✓ Inspection Cover for Lifting Plant

☎ 01 213 5000
@ insure@arachas.ie
🌐 www.arachas.ie



Arachas Corporate Brokers Limited t/a Arachas, Capital Insurance Markets, Capital IM, Covercentre is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland



LET US LOOK OUT FOR YOU

MARTIN ADAMS, Financial Lines Manager, Arachas, writes that there are tough times ahead for the construction industry and professional indemnity insurance, with a 'hard market' expected for the 2020/21 renewal period.

Last year saw the professional indemnity insurance (PII) market hardening for the first time in years, but there are still options available for well-managed businesses to act promptly to obtain cover.

The impact of Covid-19 has also brought significant change to the way every business operates and everyone is working hard to play their part in dealing with this pandemic.

Like many others, the construction industry has struggled with this unexpected set of circumstances, and has acted quickly by changing business operations, and complying with public health guidelines, while also establishing innovative techniques for longer-term success.

In recent years, the number of insurers in the PII market has significantly reduced. This is mainly because PII is linked with high-risks and low-profitability due to the increased claims, and the high defence costs associated with such claims. This has resulted in many insurers withdrawing from the PII market altogether – including Lloyd's syndicates.

Many industries are now faced with significant increases in premiums, a reduction in market capacity, and lower limits of indemnity cover.

A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT

General factors such as the Grenfell Towers disaster, Brexit, global natural disasters, solvency requirements, and internal market changes have impacted insurers, resulting in insurance providers seeking to reduce their liabilities and capacity. This led to a decrease in the number of insurers interested in writing PII in the market and an increase in base rates, causing higher PII premiums across the board.

OTHER FACTORS

For many years previously, overcapacity in the PI market resulted in a broad range of coverage and lower premiums. This was unsustainable due to the continuous rise in claims, where insurers had to battle it out to turn a profit.

Professional indemnity claims for construction have generally increased, with more large-scale and complex construction projects leading to higher risks and higher costs in defending claims.

Companies involved in higher-risk areas will find it more difficult to get professional indemnity insurance cover due to more restrictions.

Higher risk areas include:

- Cladding work
- Pharma and clean room
- Power and energy work
- And, anything to do with wind farms is almost uninsurable.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY

An 'Any One Claim' limit on design and construction is no longer available in the market, this is now generally accepted on all contracts, with the majority of contracts requesting "Any One Claim" if it is reasonably available.

It is unfortunate that with the reduction of capacity in the PII market, and with insurers reducing the level of cover they wish to write, obtaining excess layer professional indemnity cover is



Martin Adams, Financial Lines Manager, Arachas.

becoming increasingly difficult and, in some cases, the excess layer is just as expensive if not more expensive than the primary cover.

REMAINING POSITIVE

Despite these challenges, there are a number of measures companies can put in place to protect themselves. Good risk management and quality standards within organisations are essential to protect against claims and can provide strong defence in the event of a claim.

Organisations involved in high-risk activity may find this more difficult and will need to forward more information to support their presentation for insurance. Sadly, it is no longer possible to submit a proposal form and expect a quote, but providing positive additional information to support the application will always benefit the outcome.

Businesses who previously had claims or incidents will need to be able to demonstrate what measures they have put in place in order to prevent future occurrences and insurers will need a full narrative on the actions that the company has taken to mitigate future risks.

WHAT TO DO NEXT?

While the current market is challenging, it is important that every firm addresses the professional indemnity issue in good time and does not leave it until the 'last minute' to obtain terms.

Contact Arachas If you are concerned that your current PI cover is no longer appropriate for your needs, because our team would love to help you – particularly if you're facing a significant rise in your premium or even struggling to find an insurer.

The more positive information that a firm can provide, the better the outcome will be. **C**

For more details contact Martin Adams (ACII CFIRM), by Phone: 021 427 0505, Mob: 087 279 6677 or Email: martinadams@arachas.ie



Ashview Consultants are leading providers of Health & Safety Consultancy services to the construction industry in ROI and UK.



Ashview Consultants are leading providers of Health & Safety consultancy services to the construction industry both in the UK and the Republic of Ireland. All our Health & Safety Consultants have vast experience and a wealth of knowledge of Construction Projects and are 3rd Party accredited by IOSH, IIRSM & APS to ensure that our Customers are fully compliant and in keeping with Best Practice and the current Health & Safety Legislation.

Ashview Consultants are not the average health and safety firm, as our expertise ranges from assessing a project from initial a concept design right through to completion and future maintenance, but also from the beginning of construction stage through to the handover of the Safety File. We achieve this by building a close relationship with the client and design or construction team for the duration of the project and have a 'hand's on' approach to all of our contracts.

Our team have vast experience on the various stages of a construction project, and have completed numerous projects of size, nature and complexity giving us a comprehensive knowledge of what is expected and will be required to deliver a project. We feel that we bring our young, energetic and enthusiastic approach that is required to look at any project in a manner in which a Client will expect and ensure that their interests are protected and maintained for the duration of a project and future maintenance.

At Ashview, we believe we are a valuable asset to any design or construction project. We offer a comprehensive approach to any job, and ensure that our clients' interests are always at the forefront of our work.

- **Design Risk Management**
- **Project Planning/2D/3D/4D**
- **Temporary Works Co-ordination**
- **Safety Management Systems**
- **Project Supervision – PSDP/PSCS**
- **Health & Safety Auditing**
- **Accident Investigation**
- **Enviromental**

Construction – Workplace - Compliance

Offices: Dublin – ROI: Basement Level, 115 Baggot Street Lower, Dublin D02 FN88

Newry – NI: Norwegian Building, Abbey Yard Studios, Newry, Northern Ireland, BT34 2AE

Contacts: E: office@ashviewconsultants.com P: +353 1 619 0247 / +44 28 308 98126

W: ashviewconsultants.com

CONFUSED ABOUT SELF-ASSESSED TAX EXPENSES?

MARIAN RYAN, Consumer Tax Manager, Taxback.com, offers a guide to what you can claim in self-assessed tax expenses.

If you work for yourself, you will no doubt be familiar with the seemingly endless business expenses that stack up on a daily basis. However, countless Irish self-employed workers are not aware that many of these expenses can be claimed as deductions come tax time.

The Result

Thousands of euro worth of tax deductions go unclaimed every year. So, with this in mind, we've put together a handy guide on everything you need to know about claiming tax expenses as a self-employed worker in Ireland.

What expenses can I claim?

First things first. For an expense to be regarded as 'business-related' – and therefore eligible as a deduction from your tax bill – it must have occurred wholly and exclusively in relation to your business.

In other words, you can't claim for costs that don't relate to your work.

However, it's not unusual for an expense to relate to both business and private use. But it's important to keep in mind that, in such circumstances, only the proportion of the cost that relates to business activity can be expensed.

FOUR COMMON TAX EXPENSES CONSTRUCTION WORKERS CAN CLAIM

1. Equipment

You can claim any equipment used specifically for running your business. It's important to keep all related invoices and receipts in order to account for the costs.

2. Wear and Tear

There is an annual allowance of 12.5% on wear and tear, over a period of eight years. This can be claimed for capital expenditure incurred on plant and machinery costs.

However, you can only claim 'wear and tear' as a deduction if:

You incurred the expenditure for the purpose of the trade

The asset was in use at the end of the accounting period

The asset was used wholly and exclusively for the purpose of the trade.

3. Travel

If you own your vehicle, you are entitled to claim relief on costs that are related to business use. Examples of eligible expenses include fuel, repairs, and servicing.

4. Utility Bills

If you paid utility bills at your place of business – such as heating, lighting, telephone, internet, and the cost of insuring your premises and contents – you are entitled to claim tax relief on these costs.

You can also make similar deductions if you work from home.

HOW TO MINIMISE YOUR TAX BILL WHEN FILING YOUR ANNUAL RETURN

You can always file your tax return directly with Revenue before the 10th December deadline. The main advantage of choosing this option is that it is free. However, you will have to file on your own. The burden of ensuring that you have completed your return correctly will lie solely with you.

Alternatively, if you'd like to ensure that you minimise your tax bill and claim every tax relief you're entitled to, you should consider enlisting the service of a tax agent like Taxback.com.

When you file with Taxback.com, their tax team will handle all of your paperwork and ensure you are claiming every relief you're entitled to.

It's also important to note that, should you require the services of a tax agent to help you to file your tax return, you can include the associated costs on your list of allowable expenses.

Benefits of Taxback.com Self-Assessed Tax



Marian Ryan, Consumer Tax Manager, Taxback.com.

Filing Service

- Simple and stress-free online service – no complicated forms
- Taxback.com will manage all of the paperwork – compliance with Revenue guaranteed
- 24/7 tax guidance from a Personal Tax Advisor, Live Chat agents, email support and more
- Free, no-obligation quote

Self-employed individuals can now use 2020 losses against 2019 profits

Revenue has announced that self-employed individuals can claim to have their 2020 losses and certain unused capital allowances carried back and deducted from 2019 tax year profits – reducing the amount of income tax payable on those profits.

Typically, a loss could only be carried forward and set against the profits of the following tax year.

However, under the new scheme, losses of up to €25,000 (applies to both trading losses and capital allowances) from the 2020 tax year can be deducted from 2019 profits.

In order to qualify, taxpayers must be fully tax compliant with Revenue. Finally, claims to avail of this scheme cannot be made after 31st May 2021. **C**

For more information, contact Marian Ryan directly at mryan@taxback.com or visit www.taxback.com

SOME SAFETY RISKS CAN BE DESIGNED OUT AT PLANNING STAGE

Paul O'Shea, Managing Director, Ashview Consultants, speaks with **ROBBIE COUSINS** about his company's development, and how Covid-19 is resulting in more contractors looking to improve the mental wellbeing of their workers.

Ashview Consultants is a health and safety practice with main offices in Dublin and Newry. It was founded in 2006 by managing director Paul O'Shea.

"I have always had construction in my working life," explains Paul O'Shea. "I emigrated in the early 90s, worked on three continents, ending up in Australia where I started my career in safety. In that time, I was lucky to have worked with a tier 1 contractor on some of the most prestigious projects in the southern hemisphere.

"I returned to Ireland in the early noughties and took up a role as a safety officer with G&T Crampton. After a few years with Cramptons, I founded the consultancy, when I saw an opportunity to provide safety consultancy services on projects in the south-east of the country."

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Ashview Consultants specialises in construction safety management and has over 200 years of construction experience across its teams.

"We advise on all matters of construction health and safety, and assist clients in assessing the safety needs of their projects from initial concept through to design, construction and future maintenance," Paul O'Shea explains.

"We provide project supervisor design process (PSDP) and project supervisor construction stage (PSCS) services to the industry on a broad spectrum of projects. We operate across commercial, residential, student accommodation, data centres, logistics centres, retail, shopping centres, civils and infrastructure projects. We have provided health and safety support to some of the industry's most well-known clients, sometimes on the most challenging projects."

Paul O'Shea explains that the starting point for safety on any project is its constructability.

"Constructability is one of the most important factors in construction safety," he explains. "During the concept and design process of the project, clients and designers are generally concerned with maximising lettable space and let-ability or how appealing the building is to the market. At these early stages, the 'how' of the project is not generally considered. As in 'how will it be constructed' and 'how will it be maintained in the future'. We assess projects at this early stage, including an assessment of the design, construction and future maintenance, to complete our safety risk register to determine how the scheme can be developed more safely. This enables us to identify and address possible safety issues and determine practical solutions as to how the buildings should be constructed, which can also save costs and reduce risk over the duration of the project."

COVID-19

Ashview Consultants has used the Covid-19 disruption to re-evaluate how it operates, which resulted in it ripping up its blueprint and starting again.

"Working from home was the first thing to affect how we operated. As we are based across two offices, this became our biggest early challenge. But, we adapted quickly, installing home offices in everyone's home to ensure staff could work safely.



Paul O'Shea, Managing Director, Ashview Consultants.

"Simultaneously, we looked at our systems and how we could work smarter," he continues. "We have now moved to an integrated IT management system, which has allowed us to move everything to a central location so that we can deliver services of the highest standard from remote locations. We also looked at upskilling our staff across a number of areas to ensure we are ready for the next phase of economic development."

TRADITIONAL RISKS

"Covid-19 has shown how agile the construction industry is. The CIF's C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedure document and its quick integration into operations is one example of how quickly Irish construction firms can move. As the situation evolved and as more information became available, Covid-19 was managed in the same way that other on-site risks are managed. Furthermore, we must all ensure that in managing this risk, we do not lose sight of other risks, such as falls, slips and trips; falls from height, traffic management, excavations, and so on.

"Ashview Consultants brings an extra layer of safety to every project we work on. When clients are bringing in safety professionals/risk managers such as ourselves at concept stage on projects, this early attention to safety ensures that some risks can be designed out of the construction process. It's essential that early engagement of a safety professional is seen as a benefit to the overall project. We take pride in the fact that when a client sees an Ashview Consultants employee on a project, they know that our staff will



Redevelopment of Zurich House, Dublin, where Ashview Consultants provided PSDP services.



Refurbishment of Blackrock Shopping Centre, Dublin, where Ashview Consultants provided PSDP services.

deliver for the project from start to finish.”

WELLBEING

Wellbeing is putting the health back into health and safety, according to Paul O’Shea.

“All too often, we concentrate on the safety part of our role in the industry. But this has been changing. Workers are being encouraged to talk more, with a platform for discussion around mental wellbeing more readily available with most contractors,” he says. “There are some great charities in Ireland that support the construction industry on mental health and wellbeing, with contractors embracing the topic through the use of campaigns, initiatives and programmes,” Paul O’Shea says. “It’s good to talk, but, unfortunately, getting guys on construction sites to talk is hard. However, it is a process, and we are heading in the right direction. One thing that Covid-19 has put back on the agenda is having a good work-life balance, and how important this is to staff wellbeing. There is no silver bullet, but we have to start in small steps.”

SKILLS SHORTAGES

Paul O’Shea says that construction safety professionals are in high demand across the sector at the moment, and finding the right person is always a challenge.

“In our profession, competency is everything. Competency is a combination of knowledge, training and experience. The trick is finding someone with all three attributes.

“About six years ago, we changed our approach to taking

on staff that have the right attitude and are the right fit for our business. Once a professional has the right attitude with a mix of competencies, we can teach the rest. As skill sets improve, their responsibility and workload are increased, thus giving them greater ownership of their role and the jobs in their portfolio. In a world where everyone is looking for perfection, looking for ‘readymade’ staff is aspirational. Looking for people with the right attitude is critical. We also have a strong mentoring programme in Ashview, which has been very successful in helping our people expand their skill sets quickly.”

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

“Construction Safety Week has been a great CIF initiative,” Paul O’Shea comments. “Construction is continually changing and challenging us to perform at the highest level. Construction Safety Week has been embraced by the whole industry and is seen as a time to focus on the hazards and risks in our industry. In our role as client representatives/PSDP, we feel that it is vital for us to show support on site by getting involved and getting out on the ground and promoting the message that safety is critical across the whole development team.

“Over the past few years, we have been lucky enough to have been involved with some great initiatives in Construction Safety Week. This year, we moved online to show our support and give our experience on this year’s topics through several different media.”

OUTLOOK

Speaking about his business’s outlook, Paul O’Shea says that while he and his teams have been focused on surviving 2020, he is optimistic about the future.

“Surviving 2020 has been our immediate concern. In 2021, we will continue to improve the performance of Ashview Consultants; we are constantly looking to do what we do and do it better. This might sound clichéd, but we ask questions of ourselves every week; so that we don’t ever stand still. We will continue to upscale and upskill our staff. This is the key to moving forward in construction safety. We have been developing integrated IT systems to manage our workloads more effectively. Work-life balance is also very high on our agenda, with the introduction of flexi-days for all staff, to allow time off to recharge and be better at what they do,” he concludes. **C**

To learn more about Ashview Consultants, visit www.ashviewconsultants.com

THERE IS NO FINISH LINE FOR SAFETY AT THE END OF CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

SINEAD GAINES, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, PJ Hegarty & Sons, writes that while Construction Safety Week is an important platform to highlight key safety messages, everyone must play their part in keeping sites safe all year round.



Recognition Friday – PJ Hegarty taking some time to recognise workers' achievements at the WuXi Pharmaceutical project. Dundalk.



Sinead Gaines, EHS Manager, PJ Hegarty & Sons.

PJ Hegarty & Sons was delighted to be a sponsor of this year's CIF Construction Safety Week. We have participated in Construction Safety Week from its beginning in 2016, and it is great to see more and more organisations getting involved, which is also a testament to its growing success.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

Construction Safety Week is an opportunity for all organisations to promote and support each other by sharing lessons learned and key initiatives.

The five daily themes chosen for 2020 are relevant to what has been happening in our industry over the past year, an example being 'Working at Heights' and 'Plant and Pedestrian Safety' which are still the top causes of construction fatalities. This year 'Emergency Response' has been added as a topic. This will cover all emergency responses, including first aid, fire, work rescue from tower crane and confined space, and, most recently, our Covid-19 response.

MENTAL WELLBEING

During Construction Safety Week, we also took time to recognise our mental health and wellbeing. There has been so much work in recent years to break down the stigma around this subject. During Construction Safety Week, we welcomed guest speakers to our projects to talk about their personal struggles. We also had some of our colleagues on site sharing their

personal mental health journeys. This year one of our colleagues told his story of recovery after a serious accident.

Construction Safety Week is a great platform for discussing mental health and sharing the message that "It's ok not to be ok".

COVID-19 ACTION

This year our approach to Construction Safety Week was somewhat different as a result of Covid-19. But, we still welcomed all our suppliers, joining us online or in person, to mark each day with guest speakers, training, hand-outs, demonstrations, tools box talks and giveaways.

The Covid-19 pandemic has come as a shock to us all. The response in the construction industry has been excellent. Concern for the health of our families, friends, colleagues, and the public has been utmost in everyone's mind.

The CIF played a crucial role in developing plans and procedures to assist the industry getting back on its feet. There have been significant changes to our working environment and our standard operating procedures, but true to the industry, people have adapted. Our Covid-19 response changes on a weekly basis. Keeping the information simple and our workers informed is so important.

It is also essential in these difficult times that we do not lose focus on our traditional safety risks. All our projects remain busy, and it's vital that we continue to manage our

safety as well, or even better, than we did before, while adopting the new Covid-19 protocols into our operating procedures.

So, while Covid was not one of the five key topics of Construction Safety Week, it was embedded in each of our presentations and activities each day. We also had some Covid-19 specific presentations during the week. We invited Kate Stephens, ICU nurse from St James's Hospital to speak on some of our sites. Kate's presentation gave an account of her personal experience working during the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic in April and May. She also appealed to our workforce to follow the Covid-19 protocols, including the wearing of face coverings, which is mandatory on all PJH projects, to ensure that our hospital numbers are kept to a minimum.

OVERALL SAFETY CULTURE

As we move forward from Construction Safety Week, it is important that we take safety with us each day. There is no finish line for safety at the end of Construction Safety Week. Where there are people, processes and continual change, there is always a safety risk.

PJ Hegarty sees Construction Safety Week as an excellent opportunity to look at your safety culture and ask what improvements and changes can be made. Having safety conversations on site with workers, listening to their feedback and input, and working together to build a safety culture, will help us all go home safely each day. **C**

ADDRESSING COVID AS PART OF AN OVERALL SAFETY PLAN

During the early stages of the Covid-19 crisis, Kirby Group Engineering management moved swiftly and decisively to introduce controls, but treats the virus-risk the same as every other risk factor that needs to be managed.

Kirby Group Engineering has always prioritised the safety of its people. The engineering contractor, operating across a range of sectors, including data centres, life sciences, industrial, substations and renewables, now has 1,000 direct employees and over 2,000 people deployed across Ireland, UK and mainland Europe. Never before has safety been more critical than during an unprecedented global pandemic, which has generated significant challenges. The one constant has been that no matter what the level of concern and alarm is, essential services must be maintained.

ESSENTIAL WORKS

Due to the hard work and diligence of the construction industry, the infection levels have been well contained and we have been classified as an “Essential Industry”. This is, in the words of the Director General of the CIF, an “awesome responsibility”. Barry O’Brien, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager, Kirby, says, “It falls particularly to us as leaders within the construction industry to respect the privilege we have been given in being allowed to keep our businesses open during this lockdown. The challenge to us as leaders is to redouble our efforts and not to take this responsibility lightly.

“The teams are ready for the challenge of



Barry O'Brien, Environmental, Health and Safety Manager, Kirby Group Engineering.

implementing the best and most effective safety processes at sites where progress and targets still had to be maintained.”

CORE VALUES

“We stepped up to adapt rapidly to the evolving public health advice around Covid-19 to protect our employees and our supply chain, who kept essential projects running. The company’s five core values of People, Safety, Quality, Delivery and Value are at the centre of everything we do. In

this situation, people and their safety had to come first, as we figured out how we would evolve in this new environment.”

C-19 PANDEMIC SOP

Kirby worked closely with the CIF in developing the CIF Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and its associated processes, such as hygiene, travel, Covid compliance officers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) guidance, close contact work controls, distancing and emergency planning. This took guidance from industry players, and from local and international government advice, and it is still relevant as we approach the end of the year. Kirby and its partners within the CIF went on to adopt this SOP. Kirby implemented the measures in its Kirby Covid-19 management plans, which have in turn been applied at all company sites, both in Ireland and internationally. This required a significant effort from everyone, as staff and supply-chain personnel went beyond the normal call of duty.

MOVING FORWARD

Moving towards 2021, Kirby continues to adapt to ensure it meets highest standards of compliance with Government and medical guidance around Covid-19. Barry O’Brien says it is vital that the right approach is taken in the coming months.

“Covid-19 controls must become a normal part of the business, the same as every other risk factor we manage. There can be no room for complacency around Covid-19-related risk factors as well as other long-standing concerns. When Kirby staff and contractors are on duty, we must continue to focus energies on normal and high-risk activities. In particular, our concerns centre on work at heights, electricity, lifting, materials handling and control of hazardous energies. We invest heavily in providing the necessary resources and competence to protect our staff from all the risks they face at work, including possible exposure to Covid-19. We will continue to adapt, innovate and improve our safety so that we can protect our staff and send them home safely.” **C**



A Covid-19 sanitisation station on a Kirby Group Engineering site.



ORDER OF MALTA
IRELAND
TRAINING SERVICES

IN SAFE HANDS.

FIRST AID COURSES
SAFETY AWARENESS TRAINING
MANUAL HANDLING
FIRE SAFETY

FOR MORE INFORMATION
OR TO MAKE A BOOKING...

Order of Malta Training Services
32 Clyde Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
P: 01 614 0035
E: courses@orderofmalta.ie
W: www.orderofmaltaireland.org/courses

Open
Classes
& Onsite
Training

ONLINE FIRST AID RESPONSE COURSE COMING SOON



CE certification on
all products

- Aggregates EN 13242
- Blocks EN 771
- Concrete EN 206

Fully certified concrete, blocks & stone



- Low carbon concrete
- Keenest prices, professional service
- All material to NRA specifications
- All products NSAI approved



Coshla Quarries Ltd.
Cashla,
Athenry,
Co Galway

Tel: 091 389 020

Email: info@coshlaquarries.ie



G.K. Nets

HIGH QUALITY SAFETY NETS

MANUFACTURED
TO EN1263-1

At G.K. Nets we pride ourselves on being Ireland's market leader when it comes to the manufacturing of safety nets for the construction industry.

Our nets comply to the EN1263-1 standard. We manufacture all our safety nets using the highest quality netting. All nets come with border rope test patches and certificates of conformity. We can also arrange for annual testing of test patches and can provide a repair service for torn and damaged nets.



Please call and speak to a member of our team to discuss all your safety netting requirements:

ADDRESS: Foresters Hall Balglass Road, Howth, Co. Dublin, Ireland, D13 A363

PHONE: 01 839 1833 **MOBILE:** 087 6798866 **EMAIL:** gknets@outlook.com



BREAKING NEW GROUND IN SAFETY

Digital mapping solution for the gas network proves a massive success in its first year.

As part of Construction Safety Week 2019, Gas Networks Ireland launched a new online version of its 'Dial Before You Dig' mapping service. This add-on to the existing service made it easier than ever to check the location of underground gas pipes. One year on, the online Dial Before You Dig portal has over 2,000 regular users, and almost 15,000 maps have been downloaded.

Damaging a gas pipeline can cause major disruption, property damage, serious injury and even death. Therefore, it is imperative that underground gas pipes are located before groundworks take place. Dial Before You Dig Online allows you to access up-to-date network maps instantly.

Typically, Gas Networks Ireland receives 10,000+ requests for maps in a given year. With incidents of damage on the rise – 650 incidents on distribution pipelines, and nearly 40 instances of unauthorised excavation near the high-pressure transmission network in 2019 – this online service makes it easier when planning or undertaking groundworks, while ensuring safety remains paramount.

Vital drawings that would typically take 48 hours or longer to arrive are available in minutes or even seconds, day or night, without the hassle of having to email in a map of the location for which drawings are needed.

Owen Wilson, Networks Safety Manager, Gas Networks Ireland, says, "Any responsible contractor will want to make sure that they operate a safe site. Obtaining maps of underground services is a critical step when planning any excavation. Our online Dial Before You Dig service is providing these drawings far more quickly and easily than ever before."

SAFETY AS PART OF OUR CULTURE

As custodian of the national gas network, Gas Networks Ireland is responsible for the safe, reliable and efficient transportation of natural gas and connects 700,000 customers to the network on behalf of gas suppliers.

"We hold ourselves to the highest possible safety standards. Our safety, environmental, quality, energy and asset management systems, independently certified to ISO 45001, ISO 14001, ISO 9001, ISO 50001 and



ISO 55001, ensure our activities are in line with international best practice.

"In 2018, we were one of the first companies in Ireland to be certified to the new ISO 45001 standard for occupational health and safety management," Owen Wilson continues. "We were also accredited with the Ibec 'Keep Well Mark' in July 2019. The Mark, which recognises Irish employers for their workplace health and wellbeing programmes, has been awarded to only 50 companies to date."

Gas Networks Ireland is also one of only 34 companies in Ireland to have the 'Business Working Responsibly Mark'. The Mark is the only independently audited standard for CSR and Sustainability in Ireland and is audited by the NSAI based on ISO 26000.

PUBLIC AWARENESS SAFETY CAMPAIGNS

Gas Networks Ireland provides a best-in-class emergency response service, handling close to 17,000 callouts each year. It also promotes public safety awareness via a range of safety initiatives and advertising campaigns, including Gas Emergency Service, Dial Before You Dig, Meter Tampering, Registered Gas Installers and Carbon Monoxide. **C**

Visit the Gas Networks Ireland website, where you will find useful documents and videos to help you stay safe on site.

SIX SAFETY TIPS FOR EXCAVATING NEAR GAS PIPELINES

1. Whilst gas mains located in streets and verges are shown on maps, gas services which supply gas to individual properties are not normally shown. Their presence, however, should be assumed.
2. Mechanical excavators pose the biggest risk, in terms of pipe damage, and should not be used within 500mm of any gas main or three metres of a transmission pipeline.
3. Hand-held power tools should not be used within 1.5 metres of a gas transmission pipe. The use of power tools presents a high risk to the operatives involved in carrying out the groundwork.
4. Hand digging (using shovels and spades) should be used close to a known gas pipe or where the presence of gas pipes is suspected.
5. Never cover a damaged gas main or service, or attempt to carry out a repair.
6. Report any damage, no matter how minor it may appear, to 1850 20 50 50.

BAM IRELAND'S 'YOUR SAFETY IS MY SAFETY' PROGRAMME

TADHG LUCEY, Director Responsible for Safety, BAM Ireland, writes about the principles behind BAM Ireland's 'Your Safety is My Safety' programme, and how the programme has contributed to greater engagement around safety on all of its sites.



Conversation cards in action (pre-coronavirus).



Tadhg Lucey, Director Responsible for Safety, BAM Ireland.

on-site by project supervisors/managers. A plan is then developed to achieve the required YSIMS behaviours.

SAFETY CONVERSATIONS

A unique aspect of the YSIMS programme is the promotion of regular formal and informal safety conversations with all site teams and operatives.

An effective safety conversation includes listening for responses to all questions. We are seeking to learn about any potential influences on risk. People do what they do because it made sense to them at the time that they did it. Our challenge is to find out why it made sense to the employee to take an unnecessary risk. In the culture of YSIMS, a safety conversation concludes in a very different manner. Because the conversation proceeds in a spirit of learning and co-discovery, the actions are built on collaboration. When you start with the motive of trying to make sure everybody goes home unharmed after their day's work, the conversation that follows is more open. The real pay-off of having candid dialogue is discovering the hidden weaknesses in the process and in the organisation by building trust. It sets the stage for collaboration to improve the work processes and to eliminate sources of failures or errors.

BAM managers and supervisors are trained to facilitate effective safety conversations every day. **C**

Your Safety is My Safety (YSIMS) is a safety culture-changing programme. The aim is to improve safety performance on our projects as well as deliver greater adherence to the principle of 'Everyone Home Safe Every Day'. It focuses on the environment and the people operating and working within that environment.

Our work environment has changed completely this year as we are now operating within the constraints of Covid-19. The programme enables us to drive home the message of people, not only carrying out their work safely but also adhering to the public health behaviours to stop the spread of Covid-19.

SAFETY WORKSHOPS

The programme has a two-phase approach.

The first phase involves the delivery of workshops to all medium- to long-term operatives and BAM staff on our projects. These are supported by our BAM leadership

teams and our supply chain partners. It also includes YSIMS programme delivery by the BAM project manager/senior management team, comprising a specific YSIMS induction to all supervisors joining our projects.

BEHAVIOUR ANALYSIS

The second phase of the programme involves the monitoring of operatives' behaviours on site to observe 'At Risk' (AR) behaviours and 'Relative Risk' (RR) behaviours during site walks. BAM's site management team members then reassess what is observed and work to amend these behaviours as required into desirable behaviours. Our digital construction department developed an app to log the observations and provides a comprehensive analysis of data, which assists project management teams in identifying the areas where risky behaviour is happening.

The AR information obtained during the walks is utilised to develop improvements

RECOGNISING ELECTRICITY WIRES AND CABLES AS A MAIN HAZARD ON CONSTRUCTION SITES

There are no second chances with electricity, writes **ARTHUR BYRNE**, Public Safety Manager, ESB Networks.

Electricity is too powerful ever to be complacent about. Recognising electricity as a hazard that can be controlled and mitigated is an essential responsibility for everyone involved in construction. Be fully informed and know where there are overhead power lines and underground/concealed cables and put in place the correct and appropriate control measures.

Since 1994, there have been 23 electricity fatalities (32% of all electricity fatalities) involving construction work. In 2019, there were over 550 incidents involving cable strikes and accidental contact with overhead power lines. There were many hundreds more of near misses. In many of these cases, probably, the electrical hazard and the potential consequences had not been fully considered. Our electricity infrastructure is everywhere – overhead and underground – and it is operated at voltages ranging from low voltage (380/230 volts) to high voltage (400,000 volts).

The hazard is electricity, and danger arises when work is carried out that is either too close to wires and cables, or where actual damage is caused. The risks, which are very significant (unless proper control measures are fully and consistently implemented), are electrocution or explosion, with added risks of molten metals and falls from heights. Where these dangerous occurrences take place, apart from the injuries and possible loss of life, or life-changing outcomes, there are other consequences. These include an interruption in power supply to industry, community and hospitals; the involvement of the Health and Safety Authority; significant repair and other financial costs, with possible reputational damage. It makes sense to manage the risk to the required lowest possible level. As well as all the relevant health and safety legislation and regulations, crucial practical guidance for the control of the electricity risk is set down in these two Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Codes of Practice.

AVOIDING DANGER FROM OVERHEAD ELECTRICITY LINES

The 'Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines' provides detailed guidance on requirements. These include the requirement to know the voltage of the specific network by contacting ESB Networks, and the requirement to understand the significance of the increasing levels of risk associated with taller plant and safe working distances as the voltage levels increase.

Accidents may result in criminal prosecution, and compliance or non-compliance with the Code may be permitted as evidence. Individuals and companies must understand and implement the requirements in the Code of Practice.

Where ESB Networks becomes aware of site arrangements that appear to be in breach of this Code, we are required to issue a 'Stop Work Notification' to indicate a potentially serious breach of safety. In these circumstances, the notification is also forwarded to the HSA.

AVOIDING DANGER FROM UNDERGROUND SERVICES

The 'Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services' deals with underground services, including electricity, and



Arthur Byrne, Public Safety Manager, ESB Networks.

sets down the requirements for all excavations, as well as specifics for each type of underground service, including electricity. The safe system of work when carrying out excavations requires:

- The use of map records;
- The use of accurate cable locating equipment and safe digging practice, including hand digging; and,
- The implementation of company policies and procedures.

SAFETY RESOURCES

The 'Safe Construction and Electricity' educational video, which is part of the Solas Safe Pass programme is also an important source of information.

The 'Safe Construction and the Electricity Network' and 'How to Avoid Striking Electricity Cables' safety booklets are also available on the ESB Networks website (www.esbnetworks/stayingsafe/contractorsafety)

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

ESB Networks is pleased to be part of the Construction Safety Partnership and to work with the CIF as a sponsor of Construction Safety Week. The focus in Safety Week on 'Plant and Machinery' is particularly relevant for construction work that inevitably is taking place where there may be wires and cables. A significant risk when working at heights is always to keep a safe distance from overhead wires, remembering that electricity can jump gaps. It is essential to know what to do in an emergency, including knowing the safe way to exit a machine when contact with the wires has occurred, and to keep everyone clear until it is safe to return. Finally, remember to phone 1800 372 999 immediately. **C**

'NOBODY GETS HURT'

Jones Engineering CEO Jim Curley and EHS Manager Declan Grady discuss why the physical safety and mental wellbeing of the contractor's staff and subcontractors must go hand in hand.

CIF Construction Safety Week shines an important spotlight on safety. It provides a platform to share best practices and to work together to strengthen the industry's safety culture. The current Covid-19 pandemic has brought challenges to the construction industry on a scale not seen before in our lifetime.

ADDRESSING COVID-19 RISKS

Jim Curley, CEO, Jones Engineering, gives an insight into how the company is coping with Covid-19 restrictions.

"Like every other industry, the current Covid-19 pandemic has impacted all levels of our company and presented a range of challenges both on site and in our offices worldwide. Our teams have worked tirelessly to implement the guidance provided by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), medical experts and World Health Organisation (WHO), to ensure all our employees have a safe working environment, and to reduce the spread of the virus to our workforce. Although the way we work may have changed for now, minimising disruption to our clients and their projects, our teams, our subcontractors and our communities is vital as we face this challenge together."

Jones Engineering established a dedicated company Covid-19 website to provide information and guidance to employees as the company adapted to new working conditions. This included a compulsory training module to be completed by all employees returning to work following lockdown. Jim Curley says it has been a steep learning curve adapting to new work practices, but Jones Engineering's teams



Jim Curley, CEO, Jones Engineering.

have risen to the challenge by overcoming obstacles safely in accordance with current guidelines.

"We are enforcing strict protocols and have dedicated Covid-19 compliance officers on all our sites and offices," he adds.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY WEEK

Declan Grady, Environmental Health and Safety Manager, Jones Engineering, gives his insights by saying, "Construction Safety Week has never been so important. While the Covid-19 pandemic has dominated headlines, we must remain focused at all times on the day to day operations and pro-active safety culture. The themes that the CIF chose to focus on this year were covered in themed toolbox talks and events on many of our sites throughout the country over the course of the week. The best

resource we have as a group is our staff and specialist subcontractors. Their support and commitment to our ethos of "Nobody gets hurt" is vital to achieving success with our safety management system."

MENTAL WELLBEING

Hand in hand with the focus on the physical safety of employees is the company's focus on their mental health and wellbeing. Jim Curley explains, "Historically, construction health and safety has always prioritised the more immediately obvious physical hazards and their impact on site safety. But attitudes are thankfully changing, as people realise that the silent issue of mental health is just as dangerous and potentially fatal. In fact, recent statistics suggest that one of the most dangerous things on a construction site is the human mind. The mental health and wellbeing of all of our staff are of utmost importance, and we have engaged with Pieta House on how best we can support our employees in this regard."

OUTLOOK

Jones Engineering is moving ahead, embracing technology, diversity, innovation, working internationally and dealing head-on with the challenges of Covid-19, not just in Ireland, but across Europe and beyond.

"We are now focused on the short- to medium-term," Jim Curley continues, "remaining fit and adaptable to deal with whatever comes next, while holding onto the original values of our firm. Safety has always been the number one value for Jones Engineering. Priorities can change, but values do not. Now is a time to take care of one another. We are all in this together." **C**



Socially-distanced tool box talks.



Temperature screening.

A SAFE SITE IS AN EFFICIENT AND PRODUCTIVE SITE

EMMET HYNES, Group Health & Safety Manager, JJ Rhatigan & Company, writes about the practical solutions the contractor has come up with to address the impact of Covid-19, while also keeping traditional health and safety risks in focus.

As a sponsor of Construction Safety Week 2020, JJ Rhatigan supports the initiative's collective mission, "To eliminate accidents and incidents on construction sites; promote a healthy culture of sharing lessons; celebrate good safety performance; while all the time reinforcing the Covid-19 prevention message through our C-19 Pandemic Standard Operation Procedure."

COVID-19 RESPONSE

We are conscious of and greatly appreciate the engagement that has been taking place between the CIF and its members, and its collaboration with Government since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak. Having the safety structure and personnel in place to develop and administer the necessary protocols and guidelines enabled JJ Rhatigan to adapt and react to the challenge of Covid-19.

We implemented site-specific Covid-19 standard operating procedures and daily communications with all disciplines involved in our projects. We introduced additional hygiene facilities, including mobile hand-wash basins and cleaning processes, as well as providing additional PPE. We have implemented protocols on the close management and strict monitoring of everyone coming to our site, including temperature screening.

We support all of this with dedicated C-19 compliance officers, who co-ordinate, enforce and coach our personnel on Covid-19 protocols. It's a testament to our people's commitment that in the past number of months, there have been several HSA visits to our sites across the country, with compliance commended in all regions. Clients also find our response to Covid-19 impressive, and we are acutely aware that safety is a core factor in clients' confidence in our business.

SAFETY INITIATIVES

As we are all well aware, a safe site is an efficient and productive site. This is

embedded in our company's culture through year-round safety initiatives.

BEHAVIOURAL SAFETY PROGRAMME AND RECOGNITION AWARDS

On all sites, we encourage attitudes and behaviours that enhance safety performance with our Behavioural Safety Programme and Recognition Awards. Subcontractors and individuals are nominated by site management teams to recognise their commitment to health and safety on site.

DRIVE SAFE INITIATIVE

As a main contractor, JJ Rhatigan is committed to promoting best practice vehicle safety so that construction vehicles and drivers servicing our sites present zero risk of harm to the community. Our procurement department distributes JJ Rhatigan vehicle safety flyers to our supply chain for drivers servicing our sites. These are also included as part of our subcontractors' pack to be held in each truck for reference.

MIND YOUR HEAD

JJ Rhatigan's 'Mind Your Head' programme supports a healthier work-life, where people's mental health is supported, protected, and their wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do.

We provide cards with details of free and recommended professional helplines that people can keep with them in their wallets and refer to or give to someone who may need help. These Mind Your Head cards are issued to everyone who attends our project inductions.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) follows the model that has been successful with conventional first aid. Members of our site teams have completed training with Mental Health First Aid Ireland to become certified mental health first aiders. Through this, they have learned how to offer and



Emmet Hynes, Group Health & Safety Manager, JJ Rhatigan & Company.

provide initial help, and guide a person towards appropriate professional help in an understanding and empathetic way. These employees display a custom-designed MHFA orange cross sticker on their hard hats so that they are easily identifiable on site. This training is being made available to our staff companywide to enhance mental health awareness and to support colleagues and communities.

SAFETY WEEK 2020

Everyone in JJ Rhatigan embraced the themes and challenges of this year's CIF Construction Safety Week, tailoring delivery to facilitate physical distancing and adhere to our Covid-19 protocols. Health, safety and wellbeing messaging was delivered virtually both by our in-house teams and by external support services and subject experts.

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA), in conjunction with the CIF Construction Safety Week presented a series of webinars on 'Practical Ergonomics Risk Assessment in Construction'. I was one of the speakers and showcased our procedures on eliminating manual handling from stone cladding installations. This ergonomic case study demonstrates our practical approach to risk assessment and problem-solving through worker consultation is available on our website at www.jjrhatigan.com/blog/main-category/webinar/ **C**

WHAT CAN CONSTRUCTION LEARN FROM CURRENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PPE IN HEALTHCARE?

DR MARIE COGGINS, Academic Director, BSc Environmental Health and Safety programme, NUI Galway, writes about the recommended PPE required for dealing with suspected coronavirus cases and the best practice for its use.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is very much part of every construction worker's uniform. However, the recommendations contained in the C-19 Pandemic Construction Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) document for on-site personnel dealing with workers displaying symptoms of coronavirus mean a new level of PPE has been added to provide extra protection against contracting the virus.

PPE includes everything from gloves and ear plugs to masks and gas-tight suits.

We have all seen the new forms of PPE that have become the norm for protecting healthcare staff working at the frontline fighting Covid-19. They are relying on respirators, and eye and body protection to prevent them being exposed to contaminated aerosols released when treating infected patients. In our community, we see many citizens using disposable gloves to form a barrier between their skin and potential Covid-19 contamination on door handles, money or a petrol pump. People are now required to wear facemasks in shops and many are wearing them on our streets.

Occupational health and safety practitioners have for decades been managing PPE programmes across a range of workplaces and can offer a lot of guidance on this topic.

FACE MASKS

Face masks and gloves are just two of an array of infection-control measures used by those working at the frontline. Face masks or tight-fitting respirators, also referred to as filtering face pieces (FFPs) operate as negative pressure (relative to ambient air) respirators and provide protection from airborne transmission of contaminated aerosols (ie, tiny droplets released when coughing, sneezing and even during normal breathing) and can reduce the risk of transmission of respiratory disease by up to 85% (1).

As the wearer inhales air through the FFP filter, the contaminant is caught in the filter material. Theoretically, FFPs can provide protection factors (PFs) –



Dr Marie Coggins,
Academic Director, BSc
Environmental Health
and Safety programme,
NUI Galway,

ratio of concentration inside the mask to outside – ranging from 4-20 (from FFP1 to FFP3 masks), depending on the design, particle size of the contaminant, and the facial fit. A PF of 20 implies that the virus concentration inhaled by the wearer is reduced by 95%. However, air can also bypass the filter and pass between the mask and the face, which is why a tight seal is necessary to get the best possible protection. Surgical face masks are also used in a healthcare settings, although not classed as a tight-fitting respirator, they offer some protection against airborne aerosols, but the PF can be much lower than that of a FFP – typically only reducing the contaminant concentration by around 65%. Surgical masks are therefore not recommended

for high-risk aerosol-generating tasks in a healthcare setting (3, 4). Mask wearing, FFPs and surgical masks play an important role in protecting the wearer, but also have a role in controlling disease transmission from symptomatic or asymptomatic wearers. Recent research shows that FFPs and surgical masks can reduce outward aerosol transmission by up to 90% (2).

[Editor's note: Version 5 of the 'C-19 Pandemic Construction Standard Operating Procedures' (SOP) document states that a task-specific risk assessment is required to identify the appropriate PPE/combination of PPE (ie, face shield/mask of surgical type FFP3/FFP2 or other, eye protection, disposable suit, and gloves). It advises that the general wearing of a face covering/mask

has been shown to reduce the rate of transfer of the virus, and therefore it is recommended that contractors review their policy in line with the recommendations of the SOP].

More recently, the importance of cloth or barrier masks as a measure to reduce outward transmission of infectious aerosols has been debated in the media, however further research is required to fully understand the efficacy of these masks (2). Recent research emphasises the importance of regular cleaning of cloth masks to ensure that they don't become a source of contaminated aerosols (2).

SARS-CoV-2 can persist on surfaces for at least three days and on the surface of a surgical mask for up to seven days (5), therefore mask wearing is only effective when combined with other measures, including hand hygiene, social distancing, etc.

When compared to FFPs, cloth masks tend to have a poor facial fit and have very poor filter efficiency performance across a range of particle sizes and so should never be worn as a substitute for FFPs or surgical masks (6).

CORRECT RESPIRATOR USE

Correct respirator use has previously been shown to reduce transmission of the SARS-CoV virus in healthcare settings (7). Achieving the full PF of the tight-fitting respirator largely depends on the wearer

having a good fit to the face and performing a pre-use fit-test or seal-check. Training on how to fit and remove respirators is essential prior to use. We all have different shaped faces, and the mask may not match the face shape. Some males have facial hair, which can make a tight fit impossible. These are all factors that have been shown to reduce the facial fit, lowering the actual PF achieved by the wearer (3). An incorrect fit can potentially lead to contact transmission. Studies among chemical users have shown that when a respirator doesn't fit correctly, the worker is more inclined to 'fidget' with the mask, inadvertently touching their face and increasing the risk of transferring virus contamination to the face from their gloves (8).

Although many FFPs are designed for one use only, during a pandemic FFPs can run short in supply and questions regarding decontamination options and the impact of such on the PF arise. Thankfully, research has shown that successful decontamination treatments involving UV, heating or vaporised hydrogen peroxide (VHP) can successfully decontaminate some respirator models (9).

GLOVES

We are constantly reminded that the Covid-19 virus is persistent on surfaces for a few days, and frequent hand washing and disinfection of surfaces is important to

avoid infection and contact transmission of the virus. Again, training for health and safety and other personnel who are required to wear disposable gloves on how to fit and remove gloves is very important, and gloves should never be re-used.

Workers who are required to wear disposable gloves should also avoid touching their skin or personal items such as mobile phones when gloved. Studies among gloved chemical users have shown reused gloves to be a source of chemical contamination on the face, and on personal items such as phones (8). We touch our faces on average 16 times per hour (12), and frequent face touching can also lead to inadvertent ingestion of contaminants (8), including virus particles. Therefore, face touching, particularly when gloved, can be a significant mode of transmission for viruses. Most importantly, wearing gloves does not substitute for washing hands. Gloves only reduce contact transmission when worn and used correctly and when hands are thoroughly washed before and after use. **C**

Dr Marie Coggins is a lecturer in Exposure Science in the School of Physics, and Academic Director of the BSc Environmental Health and Safety programme at NUI Galway. She is a chartered member of the Faculty of Occupational Hygiene (British Occupational Hygiene Society).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to acknowledge Prof John Cherrie, Institute of Occupational Medicine Edinburgh, Dr Alison Connolly NUI Galway, and Nuala Flavin, former Health and Safety Inspector, for comments on the final draft.

- 1 MacIntyre, Wang, Q. (2020) 'Physical distancing, face masks, and eye protection for prevention of Covid-19'. *The Lancet*. 395:10242, 1950-1951
- 2 Asadi, S; Cappa, CD; Barreda, S; Wexler, AS; Bouvier, NM; Ristenpart, WD. (2020) 'Efficacy of masks and face coverings in controlling outward aerosol particle emission from expiratory activities', *Scientific Reports*, 10:15665.
- 3 Cherrie, JW; Apsley, A; Cowie, H; Steinle, S; Mueller, W; Lin C; Horwell, CJ; Sleuwehoeck, A; Loh, M. (2017) 'Effectiveness of face masks used to protect Beijing residents against particulate air pollution'. *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* Jun;75(6):446-452.
- 4 Lee, SA; Grinshpun, SA; Reponen, T. (2008) 'Respiratory Performance Offered by N95 Respirators and

Surgical Masks: Human Subject Evaluation with NaCl Aerosol Representing Bacterial and Viral Particle Size Range', *The Annals of Occupational Hygiene*, Volume 52, Issue 3, April 2008, Pages 177-185.

- 5 DHS Science and Technology Directorate. (2020) Master question list for Covid-19 (caused by SARS-CoV-2) 15th September 2020, US Homeland Security, Science and Technology.
- 6 Brosseau, LM; Sietsema, M. (2020) 'Commentary: Masks for all for Covid-19 not based on sound data'. 'Centre for Infectious Disease Research and Policy'. University of Minnesota.
- 7 Reynolds, MG; Anh, BH, Thu, VH; et al. (2006) 'Factors associated with nosocomial SARS-CoV transmission among healthcare workers in Hanoi, Vietnam', 2003. 'BMC Public Health' 6, 207 (2006).
- 8 Connolly, A; Coggins, MA; Galea, KS; Jones, K; Kenny, L; McGowan, P; Basinas, I. (2019) 'Evaluating Glyphosate Exposure Routes and Their Contribution to Total Body Burden: A Study Among Amenity

Horticulturalists'. *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*, Volume 63, Issue 2, March 2019, Pages 133-147.

- 9 Fischer, R; Morris, D H; van Doremalen, N; Sarchette, S; Matson, J; Bushmaker, T; Yinda, CK; Seifert, S; Gamble, A; Williamson, B; Judson, S; de Wit, E; Lloyd-Smith, J; Munster, V. 'Assessment of N95 respirator decontamination and re-use for SARS-CoV-2'. *medRxiv* 2020, 2020.04.11.20062018.
- 10 Brosseau, L; (2020) 'Are Powered Air Purifying Respirators a Solution for Protecting Healthcare Workers from Emerging Aerosol-Transmissible Diseases?' *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*.
- 11 Chughtai, AA; Seale, H; Rawlinson, WD; Kunasekaran, M; Macintyre, CR. (2020) 'Selection and Use of Respiratory Protection by Healthcare Workers to Protect from Infectious Diseases in Hospital Settings'. *Annals of Work Exposures and Health*.
- 12 Nicas, M; Best, D. (2008) 'A study quantifying the hand-to-face contact rate and its potential application to predicting respiratory tract infection'. 5(6):347-52.

INDUSTRY NEWS

DESIGNER GROUP ACQUIRES FKM MECHANICAL

Designer Group, the Dublin headquartered electrical and mechanical engineering company, has announced the acquisition of FKM Mechanical, the mechanical engineering business of the FKM Group, for an undisclosed sum.

Founded in 1945, FKM Mechanical has a strong track record in working on FDI projects. It has in recent years delivered projects for Abbot, Allergan, Boston Scientific, eBay, PayPal, Diageo and Ballymore's Dublin Landings.

Designer Group, with a total turnover of €262m last year and over 1,000 employees, operates across Ireland and the UK, as well as in Europe and Africa.

In Ireland, Designer Group has provided engineering expertise to major public and private sector construction and development projects. Public sector projects include the TU Dublin campus at Grangegorman, the new Department of Health headquarters in Baginbun, Trinity College Business School, and ESB's head office complex on Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin.

Private sector projects include Capital Dock, IPUT Wilton Place, Bristol Myers Squibb in Blanchardstown, and Abbott Ireland Diabetes Care in Longford and Donegal.

In the UK, Designer Group electrical and mechanical projects include Project Mint at The O2, Royal Academy of Arts restoration, Warden Towers in Canary Wharf, Heathrow Terminal 3 upgrade and Birmingham Central Exchange Data Centre.

Announcing the acquisition Michael Stone, founder and CEO of Designer Group said: "We are very pleased to have acquired the FKM Mechanical business, together with its highly experienced



Designer Group's Dublin headquarters.

team, from owner Matt Mohan. FKM Mechanical has a long-standing reputation in the Irish engineering industry for the high-quality work undertaken for leading domestic and international commercial and industrial clients. It has a particularly strong presence in the pharmaceutical and life sciences sector, which when added to our existing work creates a formidable team in this resilient sector."

Matt Mohan, CEO, FKM Group, said, "I'm delighted that FKM Mechanical is teaming up with Designer Group. FKM Mechanical will be an ideal fit for Designer Group, with common and complementary skills and experience. In recent years, it has become evident that the building services sector is opting for a combined mechanical and electrical offering, so this acquisition makes strategic sense." **C**

SAINT-GOBAIN IRELAND APPOINTS PADRAIG BARRY AS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Saint-Gobain Construction Products Ireland has announced the appointment of Padraig Barry as its new managing director, following the retirement of Brian Dolan.

Padraig Barry has worked with the Saint-Gobain group since 2007, spending the last 10 years in the UK as managing director of Saint-Gobain Weber (UK & Ireland). Before this, he was the managing director of Isover Ireland, also part of the Saint-Gobain group.

Before he joined Saint-Gobain in 2007, Padraig Barry worked in the medical device sector – mostly in Ireland – and spent 15 years at senior general manager level with a strong focus on manufacturing operations, as well as product development and marketing.

In his new role, Padraig Barry is developing and executing business strategies in Ireland for the Saint-Gobain brands Gyproc and Isover. He is also



Padraig Barry, Managing Director, Saint-Gobain Construction Products Ireland.

responsible for leading and guiding the executive team, and overseeing the company's business operations, as well as

continuing to grow and enhance Saint-Gobain's brand and profile as a leader in the Irish building materials market.

A Limerick native, Padraig Barry holds a BSc in Manufacturing Technology and went on to study for an MBA from the University of Limerick. He has a passion for sports – particularly hurling, running, rugby and golf.

Commenting on his appointment, Padraig Barry says he is excited about the new opportunity and looks forward to the challenge ahead.

"I have been working with Saint-Gobain for more than 13 years now," he comments. "So, I am acutely aware of the talented team working with the firm across Ireland and the UK, so I am honoured to be appointed as managing director. I look forward to engaging with my colleagues and our customers in my new role over the coming months to help create healthy, safe and sustainable buildings for Ireland." **C**

KILSARAN RECRUITING FOR NEW PRECAST PLANT

Kilsaran has announced its entry into the precast market with the launch of a new precast concrete manufacturing facility at its Brownstown site in County Kildare. This site, scheduled to come on stream in early 2021, will be dedicated to the delivery of factory-finished materials to the Irish construction sector.

James Murphy, Business Development Manager, Precast Division, Kilsaran, says the new precast offering will fit seamlessly into Kilsaran's well-established product range.

"Kilsaran has long been recognised for its site-based benefits and reliability, it will now have the enhanced advantages of factory production, which will bring increased certainty in quality, budgets, and programme."

The fully-automated structural precast concrete plant features the most advanced concrete production machinery available in Europe. It has been assembled in a circulation plant that has robots providing shuttering, placing fixings, prefabricating reinforcement cages, and placing concrete to the highest degree of accuracy.



Kilsaran's new precast concrete manufacturing facility will enable the design, manufacture and assembly of buildings of all sizes.

Computer-controlled production systems transfer information from designers directly to the robots, meaning that just in time delivery is a prerequisite.

Buildings of all sizes can now be designed, manufactured, delivered, and assembled by Kilsaran. It is now actively speaking with clients regarding their precast requirements for 2021 and beyond as well

as building a team of talented personnel to run the plant.

The first panels from the new plant are on schedule for delivery in Q1 2021. **C**

For more information on Kilsaran open positions, visit www.kilsaran.ie and click "Careers" tab.

YOU'RE IN SAFE HANDS WITH ORDER OF MALTA IRELAND TRAINING SERVICES

In January 2021, Order of Malta Ireland Training Services will launch a new online First Aid Response (FAR) learning model. This will comprise two days of self-paced learning, with one day in-person at the Order of Malta's National Training Centre in Ballsbridge, Dublin. Full Covid-19 guidelines will be followed during the one-day training module.

The main benefit of the new service will be that staff will only have to take one day away from work to complete the training.

Order of Malta Ireland Training Services provides the highest standards in professional training, delivered by an experienced team of trainers. The trainers have first-hand experience in delivering first aid treatment at sporting events and concerts as well as numerous other public events. These highly skilled are passionate about empowering their students with life-saving skills. They deliver enjoyable and practical first aid and health and safety training to clients across all sectors from construction and financial services to healthcare, education and hospitality.

"We have provided first aid and ambulance training for over 80 years, and we pride ourselves on the high standard of our facilities, the delivery of our training and on customer service," says Peadar Ward, CEO, Order of Malta, Ireland.

Training programmes include:

- First Aid Response (FAR) and Refresher
- Cardiac First Responder (CPR & Defibrillator)



Order of Malta's training room.

- Manual Handling
- Fire Warden
- Safety Officer Training.

All profits from its training services are reinvested into the charity to provide support to the Order of Malta Ireland Ambulance Corps and other projects across the country.

Order of Malta runs regular open-classes at its National Training Centre throughout the year. It can also carry out on-site training at client premises.

Order of Malta is the only approved organisation in Ireland offering this type of course online. **C**

For more details or to get a quote, call Order of Malta on 01 614 0035, email courses@orderofmalta.ie or visit www.orderofmaltaireland.org

QUINN REBRANDS TO MANNOK

Mannok is the brand name that has been unveiled as the new identity of Quinn Industrial Holdings. Its Quinn Building Products and Quinn Packaging brands are now in the process of transitioning to the new name. The rebrand announcement also revealed details of the company's strong 2019 financial results, which show it to be in the strongest position since its acquisition in 2014, with a fifth consecutive year of increased earnings.

Rebranding to Mannok marks the culmination of a five-year transformation and investment programme that has repositioned the business as a provider of increasingly sophisticated and sustainable building and packaging solutions, supporting an increase in sales of over 30% during the period.

The name derives from Fear Manach, the origin of Fermanagh, reflecting the company's pride in its roots in the Fermanagh and Cavan region, and its commitment to the people and communities that are the lifeblood of the organisation's success.

The new identity resonates well with domestic and international stakeholders, an important consideration, given the company's increasing export focus.

An overview of Quinn Industrial Holdings' operating performance for the 12 months ended 31st December 2019 shows an increase in earnings before interest, tax depreciation and amortisation to €26.6m,



Kevin Lunney, Chief Operating Officer, Mannok; Liam McCaffrey, Chief Executive Officer, Mannok; and Dara O'Reilly, Chief Financial Officer, Mannok.

with an investment increase to €11.5m.

Speaking of the new brand and the company's 2019 performance, CEO Liam McCaffrey, says, "We are extremely pleased to unveil Mannok as our new brand identity, which we believe better reflects the ownership, evolution and future focus of our business. It marks a major milestone for us, following a five-year transformation programme that has empowered our staff and repositioned our businesses for continuing growth and innovation. Our business is now in the strongest position since its acquisition in 2014, and Mannok

is an appropriate and much more expansive brand proposition that reflects what our customers value most – a professional one-stop-shop for building and packaging solutions and the support of exceptional staff.

"They can certainly expect a lot more of that same quality offering we've become synonymous with, but 'more of the same' does not mean we will stand still, as we will continue to focus on developing and innovating with market-leading, sustainable solutions," Liam McCaffrey concludes. **C**

AG APPOINT NEW HEAD OF MARKETING



Ross Telford, Head of Marketing, AG.

Specialist building products company AG (Acheson & Glover) has appointed Ross Telford as its new head of marketing.

Ross Telford has more than 15 years of experience in marketing management roles. Most significantly, he spent 10 of these years leading the marketing department in a builders' merchant and a construction manufacturing company. He also spent several years in plastics manufacturing.

He holds a BA Honours in Business Studies, which he obtained from Ulster University, and he then furthered his education at Ulster University by achieving a Masters in Marketing.

Rodney Davidson, Commercial Director, AG, welcomed Ross Telford to the team saying, "We are delighted to welcome Ross to lead our marketing department. He has a clear depth of marketing knowledge and valuable experience working in the construction manufacturing industry."

The head of marketing role will involve creating and delivering marketing strategies in line with AG's broader business objectives and developing tactical marketing plans for day-to-day marketing. It will also include working closely with the technical and product development teams to launch new products in various market segments across the UK and Ireland.

Having been in business since 1960, AG remains a family-owned company that is committed to producing products that make construction better, faster, and safer for its customers. **C**

FOR YOUR DIARY

Helping you plan ahead

NOVEMBER

Thursday 5th, 1:00pm

MID WEST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Brid Cody

Tel: 021 435 1410, Email: bcody@cif.ie

Monday 9th, 4:00pm

CECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Denise Tuffy

Tel: 01 406 6066, Email: dtuffy@cif.ie

Monday 9th, 6:00pm

GALWAY BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502 680, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Wednesday 11th, 1:00pm

SOUTH EAST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Ronan O'Brien

Tel: 021 435 1410, Email: robrien@cif.ie

Thursday 12th, 8:00pm

DONEGAL BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Monday 16th, 1:00pm

CORK BRANCH IHBA MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Brid Cody

Tel: 021 435 1410, Email: bcody@cif.ie

Tuesday 17th, 8:00pm

MIDLAND BRANCH AGM 2020

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Wednesday 18th, 3:00pm

MBCA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Denise Tuffy

Tel: 01 406 6066,, Email: dtuffy@cif.ie

Wednesday 18th, 5:00pm

MBCA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Denise Tuffy

Tel: 01 406 6066,, Email: dtuffy@cif.ie

Thursday 19th, 9:00am

CIF SOUTHERN REGION CONSTRUCTION SUMMIT

Location: Online

Details: www.southernconstruct.ie/

Monday 23rd, 5:00pm

GALWAY BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680,, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Tuesday 24th, 5:00pm

MIDLAND BRANCH AGM 2020

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680,, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Wednesday 25th, 8:00pm

NORTH WEST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Thursday 26th, 9:00am

CIF HEALTH & SAFETY SUMMIT

Location: Online

Details: www.cifsafety.ie

Monday 30th, 1:00pm

CORK BRANCH EXECUTIVE MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Brid Cody

Tel: 021 435 1410, Email: bcody@cif.ie

DECEMBER

Tuesday 1st, 11:00am

EXECUTIVE BODY MEETING

FOLLOWED BY CIF AGM 12:45pm

Location: Online

Contact: Gillian Heffernan

Tel: 01 406 6016, Email: gillian@cif.ie

Wednesday 2nd, 5:00pm

NORTH WEST BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680,, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Thursday 3rd, 5:00pm

DONEGAL BRANCH MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Justin Molloy

Tel: 091 502680,, Email: jmolloy@cif.ie

Tuesday 8th, 11:00am

IHBA NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Location: Online

Contact: Cathy Gurry

Tel: 01 406 6008, Email: cgurry@cif.ie

Wednesday 9th, 1:00pm

PROCUREMENT TENDERING AND CONTRACTUAL MATTERS COMMITTEE

Location: Online

Contact: Denise Tuffy

Tel: 01 406 6066, Email: dtuffy@cif.ie

CIF TRAINING COURSES

Training Dates for November and December 2020 Live Training Webinars

NOVEMBER 2020 COURSES	CODE	DAYS	DATES	TIMES
CIF Site Supervisor Safety Programme	SSSP 4055	2 Days	16th, 17th November	9:00am-5:00pm
CIF IOSH Managing Safety in Construction	MSIC 4057	5 Days	2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th November	9:30am-4:30pm
Building Control Course – Part E – Sound	BCC 3966/7	Half Day	11th November	9:00am-1:00pm
Building Control Course – Part G & Part H – Hygiene and Drainage	BCC 3966/8	Half Day	11th November	2:00pm-5:00pm
Building Control Course – Part K & Part M – Stairways and Access	BCC 3966/9	Half Day	12th November	9:00am-1:00pm
Building Control Course Examination	BCC 3966/10	Half Day	12th November	2:00pm-5:00pm
Environmental Management for Construction Focusing on Land/Waste/Water	EM 4060	2 Days	19th, 20th November	9:00am-5:00pm
Appointed Person	AP 4195	3 Days	10th, 17th, 24th November	9:00am-5:00pm
Project Supervisor Construction Stage	PSCS 4062	3 Days	4th, 11th, 18th November	9:00am-5:00pm
Temporary Work 2-Day Coordinator	TWC 4064	2 Days	25th, 26th November	9:00am-5:00pm
Working With the Assigned Certifier – A Site Manager's Approach	AC 4065	1 Day	26th November	9:00am-5:00pm
NZEB Briefing	NZEB 4196	1 Day	19th November	9:00am-1:00pm
CIF Project Supervisor Design Process	PSDP 4066	2 Days	12th, 13th November	9:00am-5:00pm
CIF Management & Inspection of Scaffold	SI 4067	1 Day	19th November	9:00am-5:00pm
Payment Process under the Construction Contracts Act 2013	PPCC 4197	Half Day	25th November	9:30am-1:30pm
Adjudication	ADJ 4198	1 Day	27th November	9:30am-3:00pm
Conflict Avoidance Management and Dispute Resolution Procedures	CAMD 4199	Half Day	30th November	9:30am-11:30am
MS Excel Introduction	MSEI 4202	1 Day	23rd November	9:00am-1:00pm
MS Excel Advanced	MSEA 4205	1 Day	27th November	9:00am-1:00pm
Introduction to Microsoft Power BI Desktop	MPBI 4208	1 Day	24th November	9:00am-1:00pm
MS Project Masterclass (Setting Up, Tasks, Dependencies)	MSP1 4217	1 Day	25th November	9:00am-1:00pm
MS Project Masterclass (Resources, Tasks, Views, Filters)	MSP2 4220	1 Day	25th November	9:00am-1:00pm

DECEMBER 2020 COURSES

CIF Site Supervisor Safety Programme	SSSP 4071	2 Days	14th, 15th December	9:00am-5:00pm
CIF IOSH Managing Safety in Construction Fast Track	MSIC 4072	5 Days	1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 14th December	9:30am-4:30pm
Project Supervisor Construction Stage	PSCS 4073	3 Days	2nd, 9th, 16th December	9:00am-5:00pm
Appointed Person	AP 4227	3 Days	1st, 8th, 15th December	9:00am-5:00pm
Site Managers – A Practical Approach to Building Regulations	SMBR 4074	2 Days	10th, 11th December	9:00am-5:00pm
Working with the Assigned Certifier – A Site Manager's Approach	AC 4075	1 Day	7th December	9:00am-5:00pm
CIF Project Supervisor Design Process	PSDP 4229	2 Days	9th, 10th December	9:00am-5:00pm
CIF Management & Inspection of Scaffold	SI 4076	1 Day	11th December	9:00am-5:00pm



Hegarty

DEMOLITION



- Demolition
- Site Clearance
- Site Remediation
- Recycling
- Contaminated Soil Management
- Asbestos Removal
- Conservation
- Basement Construction
- Civil Engineering

A Reputation **Built** on Experience

We at Hegarty Demolition are fully aware of the impact our operations can have on the environment. How we choose to operate, determines the effects on our surroundings. By embracing the circular economy, these effects are positive. All materials that can be recycled, are recycled. These include timber, plasterboard, steel & glass among other materials. Broken concrete is transported to End of Waste concrete recycling facilities which have been both approved by the EPA and NSAI to produce secondary aggregates. These efforts also help ensure Ireland meets its obligations under the Waste Framework Directive (2008/98/EC).

Hegarty Demolition Ltd.


46 Blackburne Square, Rathfarnham Gate,
Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. D14 V4F1

t: +353 1 4905058

e: info@hegartydemolition.ie
w: www.hegartydemolition.ie



**Irish Construction
Excellence Awards 2019
Winner**



Actavo | Hire & Sales is delighted to announce its partnership with ULMA Construction, a leading global manufacturer and supplier of formwork, shoring and temporary scaffolding systems, providing high performance engineered products and reliable services.

Actavo's expertise is built on over 50 years' experience in the provision of specialised building equipment. We always deliver on our promise to our customers, with the trust, reliability and service that goes beyond.

PROUD PARTNER TO ULMA

Killeen Rd
Bluebell
Dublin 12
T: +353 (0)1 601 1500
E: dublin.hire@actavo.com

Turnapin Lane
Old Swords Rd
Cloghran
Co. Dublin
T: +353 (0)1 901 18690
E: dublin.hire@actavo.com

Silver Bullet Ind. Estate
Glanmire
Co. Cork
T: +353 (0)21 486 6400
E: cork.hire@actavo.com

Airglooney Ind. Estate
Tuam
Co. Galway
T: +353 (0)93 60470
E: galway.hire@actavo.com



www.actavo.com

