

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 20 January 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with any queries.

News Updates

- [ACEI](#)
- [EFCA](#)
- [FIDIC](#)

Online Resources

- [HSE](#)
- [Revenue](#)
- [Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection](#)
- [Health & Safety Authority](#)
- [World Health Organisation](#)
- [Centre for Disease Control](#)
- [Health Protection Surveillance Centre](#)
- [Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)

New Year Greetings!

The ACEI Executive Board and Secretariat wish all members a safe, healthy and successful 2022. We look forward to continuing our work on behalf of member firms and their employees. For the moment the ACEI office in 46 Merrion Square continues to be closed until further notice. To make contact with the Secretariat email Louise at info@acei.ie or Toni at projects@acei.ie

ACEI 2022 Directory & Review

We are pleased to advise that the ACEI 2022 Directory & Review publication is in the final stages of production. It will be provided to all FConsEI and RConsEI members in late January and will also be uploaded to the ACEI website. We hope that you enjoy reading this year's Directory which provides information and images of all of last year's events, as well as looking forward to the year ahead.

Register for Pledge to Net Zero

ACEI encourages all members to continue to register for, and commit to, the [Pledge to Net Zero](#) science-based targets. One of consulting engineers' core roles is to advise clients to manage and deliver on environmental challenges, and signing up to Pledge to Net Zero (PTNZ) is a clear way for member firms to show leadership in this area.

For further information about how to start your firm's PTNZ journey, visit the dedicated page on the [ACEI website](#). For any comments or questions about the pledge email: netzero@acei.ie A dedicated virtual PTNZ Summit is being planned for members in the Spring. Registration and other details will be provided soon.

CPD & Training Updates

Members are encouraged to regularly visit the [CPD & Training](#) area of the ACEI website. Upcoming ACEI courses include a two day virtual DSC (Designing for Safety in Construction) Course on 9 and 16 February, and a two day virtual PSDP (Project Supervisor Design Process) Course on 30 March and 6 April. Member discounts are available for both of these. It is also planned to run a Graduate Development Course later in the year.

Construction Material Price Inflation CWMF Amendments

On 7 January the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) published a suite of interim amendments to the Capital Works Management Framework (CWMF). These address, in a number of areas, the risk of price inflation to construction materials in public works contracts. Further details of the specific amendments are available from the [Gov.ie website](#).

Connacht GAA Dome - Innovation in Consulting Engineering

The new [Connacht Air Dome](#) is an innovative structure that is currently receiving a lot of attention. It is the first Irish air dome as well as being the largest indoor sports air dome in the world. This impressive indoor sports facility commissioned by Connacht GAA's Centre of Excellence in Began, Co. Mayo, was required to be a venue suitable for football and hurling matches on days when poor weather conditions made other pitches unplayable. When the cost of a steel-frame construction was deemed to be too high, an alternative structure was proposed by ACEI member firm TOBIN Consulting Engineers.

TOBIN has been associated with Connacht GAA since 2010, when the land for the Centre was bought, and a vision for an innovative sports facility to address damp and slow conditions on pitches, was already in the planning stages. The new dome has more than delivered on its promise as a sporting facility and has been very well received by players and other stakeholders. The innovative design can also be utilised as a fully functional indoor conference or concert venue with capacity for 10,000.

Congratulations to all involved in the design and delivery of this project which clearly and tangibly demonstrates the importance and value of the work of consulting engineers to communities and the general public.

Work Placement Experience Programme

In case members are not aware of it, we would like to advise of the Government's [Work Placement Experience Programme](#) (WPEP) that allows employers, at no cost to them, to host a jobseeker on a work experience placement. This also helps those seeking employment to develop new skills and gain valuable work experience.

Employers who host a WPEP participant are required to provide a placement for 6 months. A number of Training and Development supports are provided to facilitate a quality learning experience for the participant and to ensure that the host employer has access to the necessary training infrastructure to deliver a meaningful work placement experience. This valuable WPEP is open to employers in the private, public, civil service, community and voluntary sectors.

Recent Good News

- Congratulations to member firm J.B. Barry and Partners Limited which has been granted the *Investors in Diversity* Bronze Award for Diversity and Inclusion by the [Irish Centre for Diversity](#). *Investors in Diversity* is Ireland's only Equality, Diversity and Inclusion performance accreditation. The programme aligns with J.B. Barry's Diversity and Inclusion initiative and supports its journey of continuous improvement.
- In a [recent post](#), Paul Doherty, Managing Director of member firm Gavin & Doherty Geosolutions (GDG) outlines specific actions and projects the firm is undertaking to address the Annex of Actions to support Ireland's 2021 Climate Action Plan.
- Member firm O'Connor Sutton Cronin's (OCSC) group of companies was honoured to have received the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) Presidents Award for a large size organisation at the NISO 2021 awards. OCSC also received a Consistent High Achiever Award. This marks the 14th consecutive year that OCSC's health and safety culture has been recognised at the NISO awards.
- The Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) has launched [Carbon Designer for Ireland](#). This free, simple tool can estimate the carbon impact of a project at an early stage of building design. It quickly provides information on the carbon impact by selecting different material buildups of large elements such as walls, floors and roof.

Importance of Workplace Wellness

Fania Stoney of [Healthy Place to Work Ireland](#) advises that looking after employees' health and wellbeing is very important. She notes that potential employees consider many factors before joining a firm, including their diversity and inclusion policies, training programmes and technological expertise. Stoney also emphasises that "one major consideration for many employees could be how the company approaches [health and wellbeing](#)" and notes that:

"The pandemic experience has given people the chance to reflect on what is important to them, particularly when it comes to their health in the workplace, and how their organisation is – or isn't – supporting them in that. Leaders who genuinely care for the wellbeing of their people and demonstrate healthy behaviours themselves are more likely to be creating a healthy workplace."