

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 22 July 2021

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 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](#)

ACEI Update on 2021 Awards

ACEI is pleased to advise members that the 2021 Engineering Excellence Award winners will be announced during September 2021. The winners in each category will be advised well in advance, and member firm representatives for each winning project will be invited to a daytime event in Dublin city centre on 21 September for photographs and award presentations. Further information will be provided to the winners nearer the time.

ACEI in *Irish Construction News* July 2021

ACEI is well represented in the latest edition of the [Irish Construction News](#). A three page feature article and interview with 2021-2022 ACEI President David McHugh is included, along with past-president Conor McCarthy's contribution to an article on how regional economic growth is dependent on the outcome of the current review of the National Development Plan (NDP). Secretary General Sarah Ingle's recent election to the EFCA Board of Directors is also covered in the publication.

ACEI Pledge to Net Zero & ACE Net Zero

The ACEI Sustainability Committee has been working hard to provide a pathway to net zero for ACEI member firms. Following research into a number of options, the committee recommended the adoption of [Pledge to Net Zero](#) to the ACEI Executive which was approved at its July 2021 meeting. ACEI will be working with the [Society of the Environment](#) to assist members in achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030, as outlined in the [ACEI Sustainability Vision](#).

Other news in this space is that the Association for Consultancy and Engineering (ACE) and the Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) have jointly launched [Net Zero](#) this week. Net Zero is a guide for SMEs working in the built environment that highlights the steps to be taken towards a carbon free future. It also explores how Net Zero is already influencing client decision making, and outlines how to meet new client expectations while seizing the related business opportunities.

ACEI Events and CPD Updates

Members are encouraged to review the [ACEI Website](#) on a regular basis to learn of upcoming events and relevant CPD / training opportunities. Virtual events will continue over the Summer until opportunities for attending in person can be provided later in the year.

External Assurance RFT for Major Projects

ACEI welcomes the Request for Tenders (RFT) publication of the External Assurance Process ([EAP](#)) for major infrastructure proposals. Relevant projects are those with a greater than €100 million estimate. International evidence suggests that the most effective barrier to failure of a major project is ensuring an independent external review is undertaken before the work begins.

Launching the tender, DPER Minister Michael McGrath said: *"The public have a very strong desire for realistic and timely delivery of major capital projects and I want to ensure these expectations are met. I am acutely aware of the pitfalls that have arisen in the past which have delayed projects or given rise to additional costs and I am taking immediate actions to address weaknesses in the process. In particular we need a strong challenge function at key stages in the process to ensure risks are identified and fully addressed."*

EFCA Newsletter July 2021

The latest edition of the [EFCA Newsletter](#) has been published. Included in this edition is information on the activities of the EFCA committees. One of these, the European Green Deal Committee of which ACEI President David McHugh is a member, has four working groups: Climate Adaptation; Circular Economy; Sustainable Mobility and Renewable Energy, all of which are developing action plans.

Details of upcoming EFCA events and meetings along with relevant EU updates and reports are also provided.

The Importance of Hobbies

Responding to a recent [Harvard Business Review article](#), Gaetano DiNardi, Director of Demand Generation at Nextiva, asserts that 'When people don't have time for hobbies, businesses pay a price. Hobbies can make workers substantially better at their jobs'.

DiNardi believes that by spending time on hobbies such as music, art, crafts or cooking, many important workplace skills are enhanced. Such skills include the development of enhanced creativity, perspective and confidence. He also suggests that firms celebrate their employee's hobbies by displaying their work, or hosting talent shows or competitions as well as encouraging creativity for all.

Recent Good News

- Congratulations are due to ACEI member firm, Varming Consulting Engineers, which this year celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Chief Executive James Kavanagh, also ACEI Honorary Treasurer and 2nd Vice-President, was interviewed in the [Irish Building Magazine](#) to discuss past and future challenges for the business.
- Martin McGrath and Patrick Field from member firm O'Connor Sutton Cronin (OCSC) were recently interviewed on Newstalk's [Open For Biz](#). They discussed the importance of consulting engineering design to building and infrastructure projects and outlined the impact of OCSC's more recent work including the Cross City Luas.
- The world's first first [3D-printed steel structure](#), a bridge named a 'living laboratory' because of its digital twin, has been opened to the public in Amsterdam. It took four robots six months to print the 12m long structure, using 4,500kg of steel and 1,100km of wire.
- A Postgraduate Diploma in [Circular Economy Leadership](#) has been launched by the Galway Mayo Institute of Technology (GMIT). This timely programme is now open for applications and will begin in September 2021.
- IT Sligo has announced the appointment of a Business Development and Account Coordinator as part of its plan to significantly increase the range of higher education opportunities for online learners. In his new role, Patrick Sweeney will have responsibility for supporting developments within the Department of Civil Engineering and Construction.

Irish Water Safety Conversation on Deliveries

In a recent Irish Water '[Safety Conversation](#)', a number of delivery / loading incidents were outlined to highlight recent occurrences in this area. Corrective actions for improvement taken by Irish Water are also included.

ACEI Office Summer Closure

The ACEI Office will be closed from 03 – 23 August 2021 inclusive. Sarah, Louise and Toni in the Secretariat, along with President David McHugh and the Executive Board hope that all those working in ACEI member firms can take a good break during the Summer. We look forward to continuing our activities on behalf of members in a less restricted environment later in the year.