

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 15 December 2022

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is physically open three days a week on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Phone 01-6425588 or email info@acei.ie to make contact with the Secretariat.

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](#)

ACEI Awards 2023

Members are reminded that applications are still open for the 2023 ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards and the 2023 Future Leader Award. The closing dates to receive project and future leader nominations are 12 January and 20 January respectively. Further information and procedures are available in the NEWS section of the [ACEI website](#).

ACEI Correspondence to Public Sector Clients

Two letters were recently issued by ACEI to public sector clients on behalf of members. The first to Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council ([DLRCC](#)) was in relation to its software requirements for lighting design. The second letter was sent to [The Housing Agency](#) regarding a recent framework seeking engineer and consultancy services for the defective concrete blocks grant scheme. ACEI continues to engage with public clients on a regular basis and feedback regarding public procurement processes is welcome from members.

ACEI FConsEI and RConsEI Recruitment

The titles FConsEI and RConsEI are used exclusively to signify registration as an ACEI Fellow / Registered Professional Consulting Engineer. In the coming weeks, we hope that suitably qualified engineers from ACEI member firms might consider applying for FConsEI or RConsEI membership in 2023. The professional requirements for both of these high status grades are available on the [membership](#) section of the ACEI website. Completed forms and supporting documentation along with an FConsEI proposer and seconder must be provided with each application. After these are approved by the Executive Board the Secretariat confirms successful registrations with each candidate.

ACEI Submission on the OGP's Liability Caps Position Paper

During November the association provided a submission to the Office of Government Procurement (OGP) with an [ACEI response](#) to its recent position paper on liability caps. ACEI welcomes the proposal to introduce caps on liability and the recognition that unlimited liability makes it difficult for businesses to estimate their potential financial exposure under a Capital Works Management Framework (CWFM) contract.

In the submission the association's concern with the limited extent of the proposals was outlined and it was stressed that consultants cannot be expected to carry uninsured and / or undefined liability for the services they provide. Another point made was that the OGP paper provides for the cap on liability potentially being above the level of PII required on the project. This is inappropriate in ACEI's view and conflicts with the desire to "permit a business a degree of certainty as to what its maximum financial exposure could be". The cap should be tied to the level of fee required for the service provided.



EFCA Barometer Autumn Overview 2022

The Autumn 2022 EFCA Barometer provides a very good overview of the consultancy and engineering industry status in Europe during the last six months. The current main challenges for the European sector are the shortage of skilled staff, low fees and salary increases. Also the impacts from the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, rising inflation and increasing interest rates are continuing factors contributing to further uncertainty.

The EFCA Market Index, showing the overall development of the European markets, has improved markedly from Spring 2022 and is at the highest level recorded since it began in 2018. The employment index reached a peak earlier in 2022 and has now fallen back to more usual levels.

EFCA 30th Anniversary and Green Manifesto Launch

EFCA recently celebrated its [30th Anniversary](#) with a special event in Brussels which was attended by ACEI President, Brian Kavanagh and Secretary General, Sarah Ingle. At the event, EFCA launched its [Green Manifesto](#), *Delivering a resilient, green and digital built environment: Manifesto from European Engineering Consultancies for 2030 and beyond*. This manifesto is in line with the European Green Deal and sets out the scenarios for a transition pathway for a resilient, greener, and more digital construction ecosystem.

FIDIC CEO Update

In the December 2022 [FIDIC CEO Update](#), Nelson Ogunshakin reports on Board activities, events, conferences and capacity building / training news. At the end of November the formation of a new governing senate for the FIDIC Academy was announced. The Academy will be led by senate chancellor, Chris Cole, who is also chairman of the WSP Global Board and member of the governance, ethics and compensation committee. In other news, FIDIC has published reprints of a number of its key construction contracts and developed a new guide to their use.

OPW Annual Report 2021

The Office of Public Works (OPW) 2021 Annual Report is now available for review at [gov.ie](#). The OPW's principal activities are in the areas of flood risk management and estate management, including heritage services.

Recent Good News

- Many congratulations to **Ethos Engineering** on its three recent [2022 awards](#): *Professional Consultancy of the Year at the Fit Out Awards*; *Best Workplace Innovation* at the Property Industry Excellence Awards and the *Engineering Firm of the Year* at the Irish Construction Industry Awards.
- Well done to **TOBIN Consulting Engineers** which has been awarded the 2022 Continuing Professional Development (CPD) [Employer of the Year](#) by Engineers Ireland.
- Congratulations to **DBFL** which has been nominated in [two categories](#) for the upcoming 2023 National Diversity & Inclusion Awards, the first dedicated event to celebrate D&I progress in Ireland.
- Well done to **Varming Consulting Engineers** as it transitions to join a Net Zero Carbon Buildings [Commitment](#) after COP27.
- **Kirby Group Engineering** recently announced it has awarded substantial [bursaries](#) to four women students at third level institutions across Ireland. The scheme forms part of Kirby's ongoing effort to promote gender diversity in the evolving worlds of engineering and construction.

Fixing Engineering's Gender Crisis

In a recent article, [Troy Coyle](#), chief executive of the NZ Heavy Engineering Research Association (Hera) notes that more than 40% of highly skilled women in engineering are likely to depart the sector, an alarming figure at the best of times but especially in the current skills shortage environment where every engineer is badly needed. She notes that 'those women who remain in engineering account for just 16% of the industry's workforce, in no small part because of entrenched culture problems.'

ACEI Holiday Arrangements

The ACEI Office will be closed from 22 December 2022 to 2 January 2023 inclusive. Sarah, Louise and Toni in the Secretariat, along with President Brian Kavanagh and the Executive Board wish all ACEI member firms a safe, healthy and peaceful break. We look forward to continuing our work on behalf of members in 2023.