

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 18 June 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

Covid-19 Updates

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

Online Resources

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

ACEI Working Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed while the Secretariat is working remotely. Calls are being diverted and email is monitored at info@acei.ie. ACEI Secretary General Sarah Ingle also welcomes member feedback and queries to sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

ACEI Communications and Website

The ACEI [Website](#) continues to be updated with current information from government and others. To assist in the dissemination of ACEI news and other materials, members are encouraged to connect with and follow the ACEI on [LinkedIn](#).

DPER Building Innovation Report

Today the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) published the Construction Sector Group (CSG) [Building Innovation report](#). In the report an overview of recent trends in the Irish built environment and construction sectors is provided. A number of high impact actions, necessary to increase innovation in these sectors in order to deliver the required infrastructure for current and future societies, are also identified. ACEI is a member of the [CSG](#), working with DPER and others to promote and support the implementation of [Project Ireland 2040](#).

Consultation on Grid Development for Offshore Wind in Ireland

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAIE) has launched a [consultation on grid development policy for offshore wind](#) in Ireland. The DCCAIE notes: *"It is important that a timely decision is made to determine which grid delivery model will be adopted in Ireland, to ensure preparations for this model can commence ... such that the 2030 renewable targets are achievable"*. The consultation ends on 1 July.

Tender Call for Engineering Design Services

The UN World Food Programme (WFP), the Food Aid Agency of the United Nations, has launched a tender for the establishment of Long-Term Agreement(s) for the Provision of [Engineering Design Services](#) to WFP worldwide. ACEI members are invited to participate in the tendering process by responding to the request for Expression of Interest (EOI).

Results of 3rd EFCA Survey

An EFCA task group undertook [a third Covid-19 survey](#) 27 May - 2 June. Responses from 18 national consulting engineering associations provide an overview of the impact on the firms and sectors, along with specific measures undertaken by government and others to support businesses.

FIDIC Contract Users' Survey

ACEI Members are now invited to take part in the [2020 FIDIC contract users' survey](#). Your views are welcome in this confidential questionnaire on which new FIDIC forms of contracts and services are most needed by the market.

Beale Contributes to UK CLC Guidance

Beale & Co Solicitors, London, took part in the working group responsible for drafting the UK Construction Leadership Council's (CLC) Government supported [Covid-19 contractual Best Practice guidance](#). This was published from the perspective of how Covid-19 issues are being/can be approached generally.

Improvements in UK Planning System

As part of the attempts to re-start the economy following the pandemic, government ministers in the UK are getting ready to [improve the planning system](#) in order to speed up approvals for new developments. The introduction of a zonal planning system and the creation of special development zones are central to the new proposals. Robert Jenrick, Communities Secretary, said the government wanted to "*rethink planning from first principles*" with a shake-up designed to accelerate the process, and continued: "*The time has come to speed up and simplify this country's overly bureaucratic planning process*".

Benefits of a New Construction Framework

As a result of the fourth industrial revolution, the built environment sector has the opportunity to move to more efficient production, business models, and value chains. Such a transformation is possible through the convergence of existing and emerging technologies into a new framework. The benefits of this framework, and how it can enhance the industry, are showcased in a [recent blog](#).

Inspired Inefficiency Improving Productivity

A [TED talk](#) by writer and historian Edward Tenner, discusses the promises and dangers of our drive to get things done as quickly as possible, and suggests seven ways we can use "inspired inefficiency" to become more productive.

Recent Good News

- The European Commission announced recently that eight Irish firms have been awarded [€31 million in Horizon 2020 funding](#) to support the development of their innovations and the scaling up of their companies. The eight firms from Ireland obtained more than 10% of the monies available, ranking second overall in countries awarded funding.
- Researchers at [Maynooth University](#) are aiming to develop Covid-19 tests that will help to identify who has been exposed to the virus and who may have developed immunity. The tests will also help to find people with high levels of antibodies for donation.
- Two projects from UCD have been presented with funds under the [Science Foundation Ireland \(SFI\)](#) coordinated research and innovation response to the pandemic. The projects are: (1) 3D printing of PPE for frontline medical staff and (2) Measurement of Covid-19 levels at wastewater treatment plants.
- The SEAI has [awarded €1 million](#) to Irish companies and research institutions carrying out renewable energy research across Europe. The projects are part of the ERA-Net Smart Energy Systems funding call involving 30 funding partners across 23 countries; and the Ocean Energy ERA-Net Co-fund.
- Using organic materials, researchers in York University have discovered a method of making lithium-powered batteries [more environmentally friendly](#) while retaining performance, stability and storage capacity.

Men's Health Week 15 – 21 June 2020

International Men's Health Week ([MHW](#)) is being celebrated this week in Europe, as well as the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and other places worldwide. The aims of events around this time include increasing awareness of preventable health problems for males of all ages, supporting them to engage in healthier lifestyle choices, and encourage the early detection and treatment of health difficulties.