

# ConsultA: March



ACEI President, Tim Murnane addresses the 2026 Engineering Excellence Awards at the Intercontinental Hotel, Dublin.

## Your monthly member newsletter:

ACEI Awards 2026 Winners	Political Engagement	A Parting Note from our President	EFCA Barometer Spring Survey	Annual Conference	Thanks Toni!
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## ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards 2026:

Friday night saw the celebration of ACEI member firms and the industry-leading work that has been carried out over the last twelve months. With nineteen categories ranging from SME work to Civil, Structural and M&E as well as leading examples of Irish work overseas, the awards celebrated the very best from Irish consulting engineers.

The night also saw special recognition awards for Michael Moriarty of TJ O' Connor & Associates for years of service to the industry. Michael throughout his career has acted as a touchstone of

sensible advice for ACEI and gives of his time voluntarily to help resolve issues and create consensus for the industry on matters of core importance.

Separately, President Tim Murnane presented Sean O' Driscoll - a member of the Government's Accelerating Infrastructure Taskforce - with a special award of recognition for services to the wider built-environment sector.

Congratulations to all those who were shortlisted and of course to our category winners who will be dotted throughout this month's newsletter celebrating their winning projects!



President Tim Murnane presents Michael Moriarty of TJ O'Connor with the 2026 President's Award for services to consulting engineering

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## Farewell President's Address:

Dear All,

The time has come for my final contribution to the ConsultA as ACEI President. The year has gone by very quickly and I have really enjoyed my time as President. At the beginning of the year, I highlighted two areas from our ACEI Strategy 2022 to 2025 that I wished to focus on:

- Building the Community of Consulting Engineers
- Enhancing the Business of Consulting Engineering

Most of my talks and writings have focused on these areas, as I firmly believe these hold the key to seeing Consulting Engineering really take its place at the top of the Services sector food chain in Ireland.

We must work together closely to leverage our combined potential and we must run better businesses, so we can reward our people and attract the best brains into our sector. As I said during my speech at the 2026 ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards, I believe our country is positioned for a sustained and enduring period of success. The development of our country's infrastructure is utterly essential to enable this success to truly crystalise.

*"We must work together closely to leverage our combined potential."*

Our nation has the fiscal space to fund the progress required. Our government has led the production of a seminal Action Plan on Accelerating Infrastructure, which has real teeth and a plan to remove bureaucracy/barriers to infrastructure delivery.

It is therefore clear to me that there is a wave of opportunity coming the way of the Irish construction sector, like we have never seen before. So as Consulting Engineers, not only do we need to "harness the resources of nature", we need to harness the capacity of our Consulting Engineering community to make the most of these opportunities, for the benefit of our country and its people.

And to do this, we must work together as a community, support each other and pull on that "county jersey" like never before! I know we can and will do this and that is my departing message to you all as ACEI President.

*"We need to harness the capacity of our Consulting Engineering community to make the most of these opportunities, for the benefit of our country and its people."*



President Tim Murnane and his wife, Jennifer at the 2026 ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards

I would like to wish our President-elect Mr Ciarán McGovern of Tobin Consulting Engineers the very best in his year as President. Ciarán is a top man and he will do a great job on our behalf.

I wish to thank everyone who has supported me and contributed to the ACEI over the past year. I ask you all to continue to do so, as the ACEI is the heartbeat of our community and we must invest in and support it. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues at PUNCH Consulting Engineers for their support during the year, as without this, I would not have been able to do the job.

Regards

Tim Murnane  
President of ACEI

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# Engineering Excellence Awards 2026 Winners



Congratulations to all our winners at the ACEI Engineering Excellence Awards this year, and to all our fantastic nominees who made the judging process the most competitive to date!



## 2026 Project of The Year

**WINNER:** Arup for the UCD O'Connor Centre for Learning

**Judges Comments:** "The structural engineering of the project, using long span structural solutions, makes a substantial contribution to realising adaptable, inclusive and future ready spaces with excellent levels of serviceability and durability.

The specification of low carbon concrete mixes, and the use of exposed concrete soffits as thermal mass reduce both embodied and operational carbon. Overall, the building realises the architectural ambition of the brief through both excellence in design and engineering innovation."



## Innovation Large

**WINNER:** Waterman-Moylan for College Square

**Judges Comments:** "The project illustrates the ability of structural engineers to innovatively solve problems in a way that allowed their client to realize the vision and ambition of this new landmark in the city. The design team at Waterman Moylan overcame substantial structural challenges and constraints posed in supporting the tower and the floor plates and in accommodating a new diagonal pedestrian route through the site."



## SME

**WINNER:** McCrae Consulting Engineers for the Shakleton Museum

**Judges Comments:** "The project represents an exemplary conservation-led transformation of Athy's former 1740s Town Hall into a museum. Executed by an SME practice, the project carefully balances contemporary design with the safeguarding of a protected historic structure.

The project demonstrates how a team using expertise and innovation can successfully unite heritage conservation with modern structural, environmental and fire performance requirements."



## Innovation Small/Medium

**WINNER:** Arup for DRRSR

**Judges Comments:** "Engineers Arup delivered a highly innovative upgrade to the tunnel's end-of-life tolling infrastructure while maintaining uninterrupted operation of this critical national transport link. The project introduced a hybrid tolling system combining conventional barrier tolling with slow-moving free-flow technology, one of only a small number of such systems deployed globally."

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## Political Affairs Update:

March was another busy one for the ACEI Secretariat with;

- 6 Political Engagements including
- 2 TDs
- 2 Special Advisors
- 1 Minister and
- 1 Contracting Authority

This direct contact was supplemented by follow up work from previous meetings where TDs are engaged in advocating on behalf of the industry and may require further information on key topics including;

- NCCs
- Median Pricing and
- Contractual issues

For a full list of political engagements this month and a snapshot of our April activity please read the latest Public Affairs Digest [here](#).

## The Association Grows:

This month we saw significant growth in the ACEI's membership. As we grow, so too does our collective voice. In March we welcomed...

### MConsEI:

- Coyle Kennedy
- Aquarius Dispute Resolution



### FConsEI

- Brian Coyle, Coyle Kennedy
- Tadhg Kennedy, Coyle Kennedy
- Gordon Barry, Aquarius Dispute Resolution
- Eddie Quann, MPA Consulting Engineers
- George Frisby, Roadplan
- Martin Hogan, Egis
- Steve Preece, Egis
- Gregory McMahan, Egis
- John Dooley, Egis



### RConsEI:

- Anthony McDermott, Arup
- Darragh Noble, AtkinsRéalis



## Looking Ahead:

### Webinars

**14 Apr:** Lunch & Learn: Digitalisation and BIM

Tickets are now available. You can sign up by visiting [www.acei.ie/events](http://www.acei.ie/events) or by clicking [here](#).

### Events

**21 Apr:** ACEI AGM

To sign up for the AGM please register [here](#).

## Annual Conference: 14<sup>th</sup> May

We are delighted to announce Minister Jack Chambers will be this year's keynote speaker at the ACEI 2026 Conference: 'Engineering Ireland's Future'.

Details on other speakers and panels will be announced in the coming weeks.

Make sure you and your team are there:

<https://www.acei.ie/events/annual-conference-2026/>



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## Engineering Excellence Awards 2026 Winners Continued:



### Derrick Edge 'Future Leader' Award

**WINNER:** Niall O' Brien of Egis Consulting Engineering



### Sustainability Natural

**WINNER:** O'Connor Sutton Cronin for Marina Park & Promenade

**Judges Comments:** "Located along the River Lee in Cork City, the €17.6 million scheme delivers a major sub-regional park and a continuous, car-free riverside promenade linking Blackrock with the South Docklands. The project integrates active-travel infrastructure, blue-green drainage systems, heritage conservation and high-quality public realm to create a resilient and accessible waterfront landscape."



### Sustainability Built Small

**WINNER:** DBFL Consulting Engineers for 180-187 Townsend St

**Judges Comments:** "Sustainability was a core objective throughout the project and DBFL adhered to the principle of minimal intervention and maximum retention of the existing structures. This renewal project transforms a long-vacant residential block into a modern, accessible and socially impactful housing development."



### Sustainability Built Medium

**WINNER:** Don O'Malley & Partners Ltd. for Student Services Building (UL)

**Judges Comments:** "The project involved a 3,600m<sup>2</sup>, four storey student services building catering for a broad range of student life activities including student union offices, clubs, societies and recreation. Low carbon and renewable energy installations were designed to limit the buildings' reliability on fossil fuel, and to deliver an A3 energy rated building. The building also includes a number of sustainable designs in the form of BMS automated natural ventilation, natural daylight optimisation and smart lighting control."



### Sustainability Built Large

**WINNER:** CORA Consulting Engineers for The Treasury Building

**Judges Comments:** "The winning project in this category demonstrates excellence through its pioneering achievement in sustainability and innovation. The project aimed to push design boundaries with a specific focus on innovative structural solutions to reduce Embodied Carbon. CORA Consulting Engineers were the designers on an ambitious renovation and extension to accommodate 1,100 people over nine stories."

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## Engineering Excellence Awards 2026 Winners Continued:



### M&E Small

**WINNER: Varming Consulting Engineers** for Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown

**Judges Comments:** *"The Connolly Hospital Blanchardstown Centralised Standby Power Supply Control System Project entailed complex upgrading of the existing fragmented standby infrastructure into a centralised N+1 resilient network where redundancy is guaranteed even during failure of any primary low voltage or medium voltage component..."*

*Comprehensive pre-planning and meticulous on-site execution in a safe and efficient manner enabled the successful changeover to the centralised standby power supply control system to be achieved with minimal disruption to continuity of electrical supply to the hospital campus. "*



### M&E Large

**WINNER: ARUP Consulting Engineers** for CfL at University College Dublin

**Judges Comments:** *"The CFL is a landmark facility, strategically positioned at the campus entrance and independent of any faculty or discipline. The project design brief requirement was for a building and associated M&E systems that would facilitate and support the next generation of student-focused environments, evolving teaching methods and future learning needs."*

*The integration of building-level engineering excellence with campus-wide decarbonisation initiatives extends the impact of the CFL beyond a single facility."*



### M&E Medium

**WINNER: JV Tierney Consulting Engineers** for NHLIU Project at the Mater Hospital

**Judges Comments:** *"The NHLIU is a purpose-built biocontainment facility, which enables the safe diagnosis, treatment and management of highly infectious patients while, simultaneously protecting MMUH staff, the public and hospital operations from secondary transmission of high-consequence infectious diseases. Given the specialised nature of the project, mandatory quality assurance and quality management standards were achieved by meticulous planning and intensive supervision, witnessing and testing of the me installations."*



### Project Management Small/Medium

**WINNER: Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd.** for Dublin Airport Authority Solar Farm

**Judges Comments:** *"This project demonstrates excellence in project management, navigating complex environmental, archaeological and live-airport operational interfaces."*

*Active project management combined with strategic leadership in procurement and coordination of a multidisciplinary team delivered a highly complex infrastructure project with significant long-term sustainability benefits within a live airport environment."*

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## Thanks a 'bunch', Toni!

It is with a heavy heart that ACEI announces the departure of long-serving Secretariat colleague, Toni Noonan. Toni has worked with ACEI for nine years providing assistance to members, organising events and helping with the administration of the secretariat.

She has been an invaluable member of the ACEI team but departs now for a 'new leaf'! Toni has opened her own florist business and has made a decision to give her full-time commitment helping it grow and succeed.

Avondale Flowers is a family-owned florist who work exclusively with high-quality flowers and their services include weddings, funerals, special occasions, holidays, bespoke arrangements, and just-because flowers.

Toni places quality first by carefully selecting fresh flowers chosen for their beauty and longevity, so every bouquet can be enjoyed for as long as possible. Each arrangement is made by hand, with attention to detail and respect for the moment it's created for.

If any ACEI member has upcoming events or corporate gifting, please do consider supporting Toni's new enterprise by visiting her at [www.avondaleflowers.ie](http://www.avondaleflowers.ie)



## Irish construction set for 5% growth

Ireland's construction sector is forecast to grow by approximately 5% in 2026, around double the Western European average, reinforcing its position as one of the fastest-growing markets in Europe, according to a new report from Goodbody.

The report which can be read [here](#) points to sustained structural demand, underpinned by population growth, strong employment levels and continued government support for housing delivery. Ireland's population is projected to reach between 5.6 million and 5.8 million by 2030, while total employment has exceeded 2.82 million, supporting household formation and long-term demand for new homes and infrastructure.

## EFCA Barometer Spring 2026 Survey



EFCA (the European Federation of Engineering Consultancy Associations) publishes a bi-annual industry barometer based on a survey of companies and EFCA national associations - and they want to hear from you!

You can access the Spring 2026 Survey [here](#).

The Economic Environment Committee is encouraging you to reply to as many questions as you can, and estimate if you are uncertain.

If you have any questions or remarks, you can direct them to the Secretariat and Henrik Garver ([hg@frinet.dk](mailto:hg@frinet.dk)), Chair of the Economic Environment committee.

EFCA and by extension ACEI would very much appreciate your participation in this survey.

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## Engineering Excellence Awards 2026 Winners Continued:



### Project Management Large

**WINNER:** Tetra Tech RPS for Killaloe Bypass, Brian Boru Bridge & R494 Improvement Scheme

**Judges Comments:** "The encompassed proactive front-end risk management with early ground investigations, ecological mitigation and archaeological works de-risked the construction contract and enabled reliable pricing and programme certainty. Delivered safely, on programme and within budget, the project demonstrates excellence in project management and leadership."



### Structural Medium

**WINNER:** Arup for The Beamish and Crawford Bridges, Cork

**Judges Comments:** "Commissioned by Cork City Council, the project comprises two architecturally distinctive pedestrian and cycle bridges that reconnect the historic city core with its education and commercial districts. The bridges exhibit a high standard of creativity and establish enduring civic landmarks that promote active travel, enhance the public realm, and anchor wider regeneration."



### Structural Small

**WINNER:** DBFL Consulting Engineers for 180-187 Townsend St

**Judges Comments:** "Originally constructed in 1909 as one of Dublin Corporation's first social housing schemes, the masonry building had fallen into severe disrepair before this transformation into 20 modern one-bedroom apartments addressing homelessness. The project is commended for its sustainable re-use ethos, rigorous investigative approach and inventive structural solutions that safeguard heritage while delivering value."



### Structural Large

**WINNER:** CORA Consulting Engineers for The Treasury Building

**Judges Comments:** "Strengthening and extending the existing structure within tight spatial constraints required detailed finite element modelling, innovative foundation design and close collaboration between contractor, fabricator and design team. The resulting building combines heritage retention with exemplary low-carbon structural innovation."

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## Engineering Excellence Awards 2026 Winners Continued:



### Civil Small

**WINNER:** Roughan & O'Donovan Consulting Engineers for George's Dock Bridge Replacement Project

**Judges Comments:** "Roughan & O'Donovan were appointed on an emergency design-and-build basis to replace this critical piece of infrastructure and an ambitious 12-week programme of demolition, design and construction followed. This programme and the sensitive replacement of the historic bridge could only have been achieved by a team who understood the importance of trust, communication and, above all, collaboration on achieving the best design."



### Civil Large

**WINNER:** Clifton Scannell Emerson Associates for Project Roadrunner (Dexcom - Athenry)

**Judges Comments:** "The winning project in this category delivers a highly integrated, risk managed civil infrastructure solution for a major, technically demanding manufacturing campus. It also included strong environmental protection, long term operational resilience while also catering for future expansion of the facility. Overall, the design and construction of the Dexcom facility achieved excellence in its execution to deliver the Client's vision with the Design Team and the Main Contractor."



### Civil Medium

**WINNER:** O'Connor Sutton Cronin for Marina Park and Promenade

**Judges Comments:** "This public realm and active travel scheme delivers a sub-regional park and a continuous, car-free riverside promenade. The Works included Atlantic Pond enhancements, flood-storage/SuDS "Blue Marina" infrastructure, accessible bridges and boardwalks, premium surfacing and granite kerbs, feature lighting, seating, signage and biodiversity measures, while protecting heritage assets. Of particular note to the judges was the sympathetic renovation of Barrington's folly (a protected structure) and the elevated walkway which allowed the nature-based drainage facility and woodland paths pass underneath."



### Overseas

**WINNER:** Barrett Mahony Consulting Engineers for The Eades

**Judges Comments:** "This project faced immediately challenging circumstances, bounded by an operational shopping centre, public realm, a trunk road and Underground tunnel running directly beneath the site. The impressive structural solution was based on 1,375 prefabricated modules installed over a 40-week programme to minimise disruption to ongoing retail operations. Foundations were engineered to span the Victoria Line Underground tunnels and interfaced with the existing shopping centre basement."