

ConsultA: April



ACEI President, Ciarán McGovern (TOBIN).

Your monthly member newsletter:

ACEI 2026 AGM	A New Dawn from our New President	Political Engagement	Annual Conference	New Members	Upcoming Events
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ACEI AGM 2026:

This month saw members gather both at AtkinsRealis to hear from Members of the Board in relation to the activities, financial health and overall direction of the Association. Proceedings began with outgoing President, Tim Murnane welcoming delegates before passing to Joe Burns and Donnachadh O'Brien for the Secretary and Treasurer's Reports.

There were reports from each of ACEI's sub-Committees with some excellent work reported across the board in the development of guidance notes and training for members.

The AGM moved to the election of officers for the coming year. It's important in an expanding association that new voices are sought and new views are incorporated so it was great to see the election of Sinéad Timoney of Fehily Timoney and Company to the Board of Directors as she assumes the role of 2nd Vice President. In addition we saw the election of Cian Dowling of Axiseng, Aonghus O'Keeffe of Roughan & O'Donovan and Gavin McHugh of Downes Associates as they join the ACEI Executive team to help shape the Association as we prepare for the years ahead.

In his first address to members, Ciarán highlighted the need for engineers to double-down on contractual issues stating that progress can only be made collectively. As President, he said his focus will be on improving collaboration between the engineering sector and client organisations to remove barriers to project delivery. The Mayo (Kiltimagh) native becomes the 69th President of the Association and in closing, paid tribute to the excellent job his predecessor Tim Murnane had done in galvanising the spirit of the Association and that he hopes to carry that flame in the year ahead.

Inaugural President's Address:

Dear All,

It is a great honour to stand here today as your incoming President. Can I start by thanking my predecessor Tim Murnane for his exceptional leadership over the last year, for helping us all to pull on the county jersey and to work collectively. You have brought great passion to the role and done tremendous work Tim, my thanks to you.

I would like to thank my colleagues in TOBIN for granting me time to take up the role of President and in supporting my decision to take on this most serious of tasks.

Context & Challenge

Our Industry is going through a period of profound change, and this brings fresh challenges with it. In the last decade, capital spending has increased from 3.6BN in 2015 to 15.8BN in 2025 and is expected to increase to €28BN by 2028. Spending €275BN within a 10-year window is not "business as usual" for member firms, for the Association or how we should represent our members.

I find these numbers hard to comprehend, so I've converted them to something I can more readily understand, which is that the government will be spending €105M on capital infrastructure each and every day of a working week for the next 10 years.

Government priorities are aligned with the recommendations of the accelerating infrastructure taskforce, and so we as an Association are being challenged to adapt, to grow and respond to these priorities. Business as usual for the coming decade is going to be fundamentally different to that of the last decade.

Strategic Plan

To cope with this level of change, we are launching our new Strategic Plan today for coming 3 years which sets out how we as the voice of the Consulting Engineering Sector will deliver against these challenges.

The lifetime of this Strategy will see significant change in the way work is procured and delivered in Ireland. The "Business of Consulting Engineering" is becoming increasingly more complex, and we will provide leadership in developing the solutions that will be required.



President Ciarán McGovern and his wife, Carmel

Finally, over the coming year we will be advocating with the broader construction Industry on how we will "Engineer Ireland's Future". We will do this on behalf of 120 member firms employing over 5,200 professionals setting that out we are trusted advisors in accelerating the delivery of vital infrastructure.

I look forward to travelling around the country, engaging with member firms, and hearing your views.

Thank you for your trust and I look forward to working with you all over the coming year.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ciarán McGovern".

Ciarán McGovern
President of ACEI

Political Affairs Update:

The ACEI Secretariat was again busy this month on the stakeholder engagement front meeting with;

- 2 Contracting Authorities: *OPW and DoEY*
- 1 Departmental Meeting: *DPER*
- 1 TD: Fine Gael's *Joe Neville (Infrastructure)*
- 1 Meeting of CIC Group

International events in Iran continue to hold centre stage as the Accelerating Infrastructure Bill progresses through the Oireachtas. It is worth noting that as we move towards May/June the indicator from ProgressIreland is that more of the Government's actions are slipping into the 'Overdue' section of their tracker. Though still very early, this points to some initial friction between government ambition and implementation. The tracker can be viewed here <https://infrastructuretaskforce.org/> Current Tracker Progress on Government Actions

As highlighted at our Member's only webinar on May 5th, the government is resisting any introduction of NCCs at present and the HFA remains unwilling to adopt different contractual terms. What is working is you the member fighting for NCCs on contracts. This changes government perception on what is considered 'standard' industry practice and increases the likelihood of movement on public sector work. Keep working together and demand these contractual arrangements where possible. We are working with the RIAI and others to have their members demand NCCs as well. We are also working with TDs to form Parliamentary Questions which will ensure the Government lays out its position on the record.

Key priorities for the sector and ACEI remain;

- Issues around collateral warranty extension within contracts from state-funded bodies.
- Introduction of more flexible contract types (to include NCCs)
- Median pricing on government procurement

Remember: the ACEI will represent you directly with clients if and when issues arise. Contact Shane or Dónal, we can help.

A full breakdown of activity can be seen in our latest Public Affairs Digest [here](#).

Looking Ahead:

Events:

Annual Conference: 14th May

This week the ACEI 2026 Conference: 'Engineering Ireland's Future' takes place in Croke Park.

The full lineup can be found below.

Make sure you and your team are there:

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

ACEI ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS OF IRELAND


Engineering Ireland's Future


Annual Conference 2026


Thursday 14th May Croke Park, Dublin

8:30 - 9:20AM Registration & Networking Breakfast

9:20 - 9:30AM Welcome
Host, Ingrid Miley

 **The Infrastructure Decade** Keynote Speaker
Minister Jack Chambers
Minister for Public Expenditure, Infrastructure, Public Service Reform and Digitalisation **9:30 - 10:00AM**

Opening Address **The Future Will Be Engineered** 
Ciarán McGovern
ACEI President **10:00 - 10:15AM**

Fireside Chat **In Conversation with Professor Bent Flyvbjerg** 
Megaproject Expert **10:15 - 11:30AM**

11:30 - 11:45AM Coffee Break

Panel **Is Infrastructure Delivery Accelerating?**
11:45 - 12:30PM

12:30 - 1:15 PM Lunch with Sinéad O' Sullivan and Ger Howlin

8 X 7 **Engineering Ireland's Future**
1:15 - 2:15PM Eight speakers. Seven minutes.

Panel **Leadership: Engineering the Global Economy**
2:15 - 3:00PM

3:00 - 3:15PM Coffee Break

Panel **Leader's Panel**
3:15 - 4:00PM

4:00PM Closing remarks
ACEI Director General, Shane Dempsey

#ACEIConference2026

Events Cont...

Annual Golf Classic: 1st October

After a brilliant inaugural event last year it is our great pleasure to announce the 2026 Annual Golf Classic. This year's event will take place in Grange Golf Club, Dublin on October 1st. Further detail will follow in the weeks and months ahead.

Webinars:

- **May 27th:** RIAI Guidance Note
- **June 18th:** Keystone Showersave
Focusing on waste water heat recovery

The Association Grows:

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

FConsEI

- FConsEI – James Duggan, Arup
- FConsEI - Conor Doherty, Clifton Scannell Emerson



PSDP - Online Classroom (4200)

Attention for members that a new PSDP class with Engineers Ireland is now accepting bookings. You can get full details through the link [here](#).

Times:

- Day One: Thursday, 21st May 2026 – 09:30 to 17:00
- Day Two: Thursday, 28th May 2026 – 09:30 to 17:00

ACEI advocates for members on Uisce Éireann forum...

As part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement, the ACEI is participating in a Uisce Éireann (UÉ) Developer Services Forum. The Forum has been developed for UÉ to engage constructively with the construction industry as part of a broad review of UÉ standard details and codes of practice. The forum consists of representatives from Uisce Éireann, ACEI, Irish Home Builders Association, contractor representatives and other key stakeholders.

The ACEI invites submissions from member firms so that we can advocate on your behalf. Submissions should be technical in nature and directly related to UÉ's technical guidance documents

The ACEI will collate member queries and seek to include relevant items on the forum agenda for discussion.

Guidance Notes

Guidance Note Ref 2026-04/1

Following several meetings with political stakeholders the ACEI has issued a guidance note to members on the issue of collateral warranties in contracts with the HFA and LDA. A webinar took place on 5th May to highlight the technical detail of the guidance note. Both the webinar and guidance note are available to members. You can read Guidance Note Ref: 2026-04/1 [here](#).

Thank you for reading!