ConsultA: October

ACEI
Association of **Consulting Engineers** of Ireland

Your Association Needs You

Welcome to your monthly ACEI newsletter. This month, we have dedicated its pages to the often-unseen work of the Association and the role our members play in keeping ACEI to the fore in a changing and competitive construction and design environment.

Graduate Development	Presidential Address	Committee Work	Political Engagement	Upcoming Events	Things to Know

ACEI Graduate Development Course Kicks Off

October saw preparations completed for November's Graduate Development Programme, with over 70 consulting engineers now enrolled on the course.

An enormous amount of work goes into this programme, which acts as a milestone for newly graduated consulting engineers as they move towards chartership. Speakers across the four days include President Ciarán McGovern (TOBIN), James Barrett (OCSC), Neasa Kane Fine, Aisling Hahessy (Arup), Aonghus O'Keeffe (ROD), Brian Kavanagh (Garland), Alisa Doyle (Arup), Craig Beeson (COWI), Anupama Ajit (OCSC), Conall Boland (RPS), Michael Fleming (Garland), James Duggan (Arup), James Kavanagh (Varming), Peter Farrell (EDC), Cian Dowling (Axiseng) and Ian Anderson (Arup).

All of these speakers give up their own time and volunteer to prepare industry-leading materials for attendees, and we are grateful to each of them and their firms for their commitment to the Graduate Programme and the next generation of consulting engineers.

President Ciarán McGovern addresses attendees at the Graduate Development Course in Dublin



Director General Shane Dempsey updates delegates on the work of the Association and strategic priorities for 2027



Presidential Address

Dear Colleagues,

As we head into the final stretch of the year, I want to turn the focus away from what ACEI does for its members and towards what our members do for ACEI. October has been a reminder that much of the Association's most important work isn't done by the ACEI team alone. It's done by you.

Our nine committees, covering Civils, Structures, M&E, Learning & Development, Risk, BIM/Digitalisation, BCAR, Health & Safety and Sustainability, are made up of volunteers from member firms. They give their time, expertise and experience to shape the guidance, submissions and standards that serve the whole profession. Few people outside those meetings see the hours involved, but every member firm benefits from them.

That work is about to bear fruit. We expect two significant pieces of work to be completed before Christmas: ME2000 and CE9201. Both are the product of committee members working through detail, debating wording and meeting separately to redraft established documents. My sincere thanks to everyone involved. These documents will be used across the industry, and they carry weight because they were written by practitioners.

Our programme of webinars continues over the coming weeks. Each session is shaped by the questions and concerns member firms bring to us, and each is more valuable when more of you take part:

- Uisce Éireann, sharing their priorities and what they mean for consulting engineers.
- The Irish Centre for Diversity, on the ED&I Pledge and how firms can commit.
- AI Guidance Note, looking at the practical and professional questions AI raises for our sector.



That's the point I want to leave you with. An association is only as strong as the engagement of its members. When firms put people forward for committees, join our webinars, respond to consultations and share what they're seeing on the ground, ACEI becomes more than the sum of its parts. Our community grows, our guidance improves and our voice in Government carries further.

The reverse is also true. When engagement drops, the work falls on fewer shoulders and the Association speaks with less authority. So I'd ask every member firm to consider how you might get involved: nominating a colleague to a committee, attending a webinar, or simply picking up the phone to the ACEI team with an issue that matters to you.

Together, we are at our strongest when every firm plays its part. Thank you for your continued support of the Association.

Warm regards,



Ciarán McGovern
President of ACEI

Supporting Your Association: Joining a Committee

ACEI's nine committees are at the heart of how this Association works. They are where the issues facing consulting engineers are identified and turned into action, and they are open to engineers from every member firm.

We're looking for new members to join our committees in:

- Civils
- Structures
- M&E
- Learning & Development
- Risk/PII/Procurement
- BIM/Digitalisation
- BCAR
- Health & Safety
- Sustainability



What's involved?

The commitment is around one hour a month to attend online committee meetings. In that time, you'll bring your experience to the table and help shape the committee's actions.

Where needed, you can also contribute to:

- Guidance for member firms: practical documents used across the industry.
- Responses to Government consultations: making sure the profession's voice is heard on the policies that affect it.
- Networking: building relationships with peers from member firms large and small, across the country.

Our committees report directly to the ACEI Executive, which sets the strategic goals for the Association. What you raise in committee can directly influence ACEI's priorities and the case we make to Government on your behalf. Committee membership is also a pathway to the Executive. It gives you a clear view of the work ACEI does for its members, and the chance to play a leading role in it.

If you, or a colleague in your firm, would like to join a committee, contact Dónal or Shane at donal.oneill@acei.ie or shane.dempsey@acei.ie for more information on the role of each committee. Let us know which committee interests you and a little about your experience, and we'll take it from there.

Supporting Your Association in November and December

Upcoming Webinars

Webinar 1: Uisce Éireann Wastewater Seminar 10th November

In what is always a well-attended seminar, this year there will be presentations from a range of industry experts on network monitoring for operational management, wastewater resource recovery, Uisce Éireann's National Bioresource Strategy and urban runoff management strategies used by local authorities. Book your place **here.**

Webinar 2: Irish Centre for Diversity 10th November

This webinar will cover the ACEI ED&I Pledge, how it works for member firms, the benefits for tendering, and how you can sign up and engage with the Pledge. We'll be joined by James Cawley, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the Irish Centre for Diversity, to explore why inclusion matters for the future of the sector. You can book your place **here.**

Webinar 3: AI Guidance Note 17th November

This webinar is the outcome of brilliant work from our BIM & Digitalisation Committee led by Mark Evans. It will guide those unsure how to proceed with AI and give insight into the direction of travel within the DNB sphere. Special thanks to Mark and Aonghus O'Keeffe, who were both front and centre in its development. You can book your free place **here.**

Webinar 4: Uisce Éireann 3rd December

This webinar will take place on 3rd December and will give an overview of CDS, PCE and planning guidance, and a rundown of the recently expanded Developer-Led Infrastructure initiative. For more information, click **here**.

More on the ED&I Pledge

Attracting and retaining talent is increasingly important, and addressing under-representation across the sector presents a significant opportunity to widen the talent pool.

Recognising this, the Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland (ACEI) has partnered with the Irish Centre for Diversity (ICFD) to introduce the ACEI Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (ED&I) Pledge, supporting member organisations in taking meaningful steps towards building more inclusive workplaces.

The Pledge builds on the progress many firms have already made by providing a structured framework to help member organisations strengthen their approach, identify opportunities for improvement and embed inclusive practices throughout their workplaces.

For more information, email jamesjnr@icfd.ie.

Site Visitor Safety Course

A reminder to all readers that ACEI and Engineers Ireland run a Site Visitor Safety Course for anyone who is required to visit sites on an occasional basis but not to undertake construction work. It is intended to provide industry-recognised training that will support the duty of the employer under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.

To book a place, please **click here**.

Remaining enrolment dates for 2026:
December – Wednesday 2nd

Things You Need to Know This Month

Construct Innovate Webinar Series

Construct Innovate, Ireland's National Research Centre for Construction Technology and Innovation, is running the second module of its 2026 webinar series, Digital Construction Technologies, supported by ACEI, Engineers Ireland, the RIAI, the SCSI and the CIF.

The module looks at how digitalisation is changing the way construction teams work together. Topics include BIM for tracking materials and products, sensors feeding digital twins, and augmented reality for site inspections and quality control.

The six weekly sessions run on Tuesdays at 12pm: Building Digital (3 November), BIM and Beyond (10 November), Building Digital Standards (17 November), Connected Construction (24 November), AI in Construction (1 December) and Smart Buildings & Infrastructure (8 December).

You can register for the full series or for individual sessions **here**.

Construction Products Regulation

As you may be aware, the Construction Products Regulation (EU) 2024/3110 (CPR 2024) has applied since 8 January 2026.

CPR 2024 aims to achieve a well-functioning single market for construction products.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has published an information note that provides an overview of the Construction Products Regulation 2024 (Regulation (EU) 2024/3110) (CPR 2024) and sets out the main provisions of the domestic regulations, SI 669 of 2025, which provide for the implementation and enforcement of CPR 2024 in Ireland.

If you would like to stay informed about CPR 2024 matters, please fill in your details **here.**

Attending the ACEI AI Webinar? Enterprise Ireland Funding Is Available

Enterprise Ireland has grants to help firms adopt AI and automation and improve their cyber security. The Digital Discovery Grant pays up to 80% of the cost of an external expert, to a maximum of €5,000, to assess where AI and digital tools could make your business more efficient. Firms ready to act on what that assessment finds can apply for the Digital Process Innovation Grant. It typically covers 50% of eligible costs, up to €150,000, for projects such as automation, AI integration and process redesign. Eligible costs include staff time, consultancy, materials and overheads.

On cyber security, the Cyber Security Review Grant pays 80% of the cost of an independent review by a qualified external expert, up to €3,000. The review gives you a report and a roadmap in line with National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) best practice. Firms that complete it can then apply to the NCSC's Cyber Security Improvement Grant, which pays 80% of implementation costs, up to €60,000, when a call is open. To find out more, visit enterprise-ireland.com.

Political Affairs Roundup

October saw the Secretariat continue its work on key issues for member firms. We are in contact with several Oireachtas committees about giving evidence on key topics for infrastructure delivery in the State, and are actively engaged with TII, Uisce Éireann, DAA and the Department of Education on ongoing challenges for member firms.

ACEI Stakeholder Engagement in October

- DG Shane Dempsey attended the Ireland Infrastructure Conference on October 13th.
- Discussion with Uisce Éireann on water storage (19th October).
- ACEI note sent to local authorities on liability for slips, trips and falls on public works.
- Submission made to the Developer Services Forum (2 November).
- NCC Guidance Note has received the backing of RIAI, SCSI and Engineers Ireland and will be issued jointly in Q4.

Upcoming Meetings

- Confirmed on-site meeting with DAA on 6 November.
- DG Shane Dempsey and Senior Policy Advisor Dónal O'Neill to attend Leinster House on November 10th for the launch of a new report from the Oireachtas Committee on Infrastructure and NDP Delivery.
- Meeting organised with Joe Neville TD, member of the Oireachtas Committee on Infrastructure and NDP Delivery.
- Confirmed meeting with TII in Q4 (date TBC).