

ConsultA

ACEI Newsletter - 3 December 2020

Information and Advice for ACEI Members

ACEI Work Arrangements

The ACEI office is temporarily closed. Email info@acei.ie with queries or contact sarah.ingle@acei.ie.

Covid-19 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 Engineering Excellence Awards 2021

ACEI is pleased to announce that the call for project applications to the 2021 Engineering Excellence Awards is now open. There are nine project categories and all nominations will be considered for Project of the Year. A project can be nominated for more than one category, however a separate application form must be provided for each nomination. We are delighted that PJ Rudden, retired ACEI member and CEO of Aengus Consulting, has agreed to undertake the role of Lead Adjudicator this year. PJ will be ably assisted in the judging process by ACEI Past President, John Lombard. The deadline to submit project nominations is **12:00, Friday 29th January 2021**. Further information about the procedures and application form are available on the [ACEI Website](#).

CIF Releases Updated COVID-19 SOP

Earlier this month the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) released an update of its [COVID-19 Standard Operating Procedure \(V5\)](#). The purpose of this document is to protect workers, their families and the community, whilst also recognising the need to protect livelihoods. The updated document has been endorsed for implementation by the Federation's Executive, and provides information on how contracting firms can work to protect their businesses, their workforces and communities.

New IT Sligo / TII Road Safety Programme

A new postgraduate certificate in road safety has been designed and developed in collaboration between the Institute of Technology (IT) Sligo, TII and others. The programme in [Road Safety Audit and Engineering](#) accredited by IT Sligo had its first intake of learners recently. The content provided in the certificate facilitates professionals within the road engineering sector to develop appropriate road safety auditing and road safety engineering skills. The certificate is delivered part-time, utilising a blended approach of online lectures and workshops over one semester.

This new initiative builds upon IT Sligo's successful partnerships with the Local Authority Services National Training Group, Irish Water and the Society of Chartered Surveyors of Ireland for bespoke online part time programme development. Applications are now being accepted for a January 2021 intake.

Beale & Co Upcoming Webinars

ACEI Members are cordially invited to attend an upcoming Webinar being hosted by Beale & Co at 1pm on Thursday 4 February 2021. The topic is: *Adjudication under the Construction Contracts Act 2013*. During the webinar, Killian Dorney and Cian O’Gorman will focus on the structure of the adjudicative process and the considerations for referring parties and responding parties in adjudication. There will be a live Q&A session at the end of the session. A relevant article is [attached](#) along with the [link to register for the webinar](#).

A bespoke Webinar for ACEI members is also being provided by Beale & Co on 14 January 2021. The topic is: *Negotiating Contracts and Dispute Avoidance*. This is an increasingly important area and we look forward to many members attending and asking questions. Further details to follow.

EC Calls for Streamlining of Public Procurement

The European Council (EC) recently adopted a set of conclusions in relation to [streamlining public procurement](#) within the EU. It notes that efficient public procurement rules and practices, with increased public spending, can accelerate the economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis and lead to a sustainable and more resilient EU economy. The EC calls on all member states to co-ordinate actions that enhance the efficiencies of public procurement to boost recovery and tackle future crises more effectively.

ESB Networks National Smart Metering Project

ESB Networks (ESBN) has been tasked with rolling out the National Smart Metering Project (NSMP), which was established by the Commission for the Regulation of Utilities (CRU). The aim of the NSMP is to successfully deliver a national installation of Smart Meters to replace the legacy meters currently in service throughout the Republic of Ireland. ESBN commenced the meter exchange programme in September 2019 and by end of November 2020 has exchanged over 200,000 single phase 24 hour meters. Smart meters have also been installed for 24 hour tariff New Connections up to and including 16kVA

Recent Good News

- ACEI member firm [Ethos Engineering](#) has raised €14,000 for Special Olympics Ireland in its November Challenge. More than 80 employees took part and covered over 10,000km in outdoor exercise.
- Last week the Limerick and Athlone Institutes of Technology formally submitted an application for a new [midlands based technological university](#). This will lead to a combined student population of up to 15,000 students across six campuses. More than 2,000 staff and other jobs will be supported as a result of this initiative.
- A firm in Ballycastle has developed a new air steriliser that kills almost 100% of airborne pathogens including the novel coronavirus. The [Ilimex UV-C Air Steriliser](#), which completed a second phase of testing this month, has been proven to uniquely kill viruses and bacteria, as well as improving air quality in the environment in which it is installed.
- A new report, [Our Zero e-Mission Future](#), by the MaREI energy institute in UCC indicates that by 2030, the electricity network in Ireland will have increased by 40%, but will emit half of the current carbon emissions.
- Irish retailers have a variety of STEM related items to choose from for the coming holiday period. This [gift guide](#) pulls ideas from Irish shops, designers and businesses so you can help to support them this Christmas.

Turn off Work Thoughts during Free Time

A recent [Ted talk](#) addresses the issue of feeling burned out in relation to spending too much time thinking about your job outside of working hours. In the talk, psychologist Guy Winch advises on how to stop worrying about tomorrow’s tasks or office tensions. He outlines three simple techniques aimed at helping you relax and recharge after work.

Alternative Christmas Party Suggestions

An Irish SME, Allgo, has suggestions for alternative [Christmas parties](#) for firms in these restricted times. The expert guide to Revenue’s tax-free reward scheme for Irish employers and employees is also included in the link.