

Supply Chain Ireland launched by Irish Exporters

By Jarleth Sweeney

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On Tuesday last, the Irish Exporters Association launched Supply Chain Ireland, a new initiative to support exporters from SME's to multinational companies with multimodal supply chain, logistics and customs issues, to overcome the challenges that arise when exporting. The event which took place at the Clarion Hotel, Liffey Valley, Dublin brought together industry specialists from the air, road, sea and rail sectors with Government and key stakeholders.

Supply Chain Ireland will strive to strengthen Ireland's position as a leading location for conducting global supply chain activities. This forum will provide a network for exporters across all sectors to interact and exchange information on best practice through supply chain and logistics activities through a series of targeted information seminars, events and roundtable meetings countrywide.

Simon McKeever, Chief Executive of the Irish Exporters Association welcomed the speakers, attendees and sponsors Crowe Horwath and Irish Rail and commented: "Supply Chain Ireland is a very exciting initiative aimed at providing a platform for businesses to learn from one another and from leading experts in the field. The IEA felt a responsibility to drive collaboration across the transport and logistics sectors, corporate and Government in order to support and develop the industry."

Keynote speaker Tom O'Mahony, Secretary General of the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport added: "The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport is delighted to support, and to take an active part in, the Supply Chain Ireland Forum. The Department is committed to supporting the Irish economy by ensuring that goods can be moved more easily about the country and particularly to and from ports and airports."

Guest speaker Howard Knott, Trade Facilitation Director, Irish Exporters Association said: "A sustainable, competitive, flexible supply chain has never been more in demand. As Irish exporters penetrate more overseas markets, grow their presence in existing markets, or export for the first time, it is crucial that they are guided along the supply chain. Supply Chain Ireland has been established to assist our members achieve their optimum supply chain through advice, support and ongoing interaction with suppliers of logistics services. The initiative will be member driven and support activities across the island of Ireland."

Event Sponsor Gerard O'Reilly, Partner in Crowe Horwath added: "As an Island, Ireland has been highly successful in developing our export economy and the Supply Chain industry is a critical component of this success. The continuous enhancement of Ireland's competitiveness is dependent on an efficient Supply

Chain and we are delighted to support the Supply Chain Ireland initiative from Irish Exporters Association. As a leading global firm of accountants and business advisers we specialise in helping companies make the transition to international markets. Through our support of Supply Chain Ireland and through directly working with ambitious companies, we in Crowe Horwath look forward to supporting Exporters and Supply Chain companies in their growth and their business needs at home and abroad.”

Gerry Culligan, Commercial Director Iarnród Éireann / Irish Rail, guest speaker and sponsor said: “Iarnrod Éireann is delighted to support the Supply Chain Ireland initiative in partnership with the IEA. As we develop the rail freight market in Ireland it is essential that we work closely with all key stakeholders and play our part in providing a competitive, sustainable and environmentally friendly supply chain offering for the benefit of our customers and the Irish economy.

Also speaking at the event, Kevin Churchill, Head of Procurement at the London Borough of Camden which along with the IEA, partners in the Interreg IVB, EU backed “La MiLo” project focussed on sustainable City Logistics, said that the establishment of a Consolidation Centre handling supplies of goods for Camden and neighbouring City Councils has been a great success. This pointed the way for the Boroughs to manage their logistics in a more sustainable manner while securing cost reductions from their suppliers. It also enabled those suppliers to achieve savings and, as the Centre grows its service could be sold to other end users generating substantial environmental benefits.

Eoin Gavin, President of the IRHA, spoke about the challenges to the Irish Haulage Industry in meeting the sustainability challenges. He advocated greater levels of collaboration between hauliers to reduce empty running and spoke about ongoing work to design and build longer/heavier truck combinations that would meet specifications within a European Modular System. Mr. Gavin also spoke about the Sustainable Gateway Pilot Project in the Limerick/Shannon Region in which the IRHA is engaged along with Limerick City and County Council and the IEA. This pilot is a part of the EU backed Weastflows project.

Supply Chain Ireland brings together rail, sea, air and road along with the key Government and industry bodies to identify, grow and promote Ireland as a leading player in the global supply chain.

Full report and photographs will feature in the May edition of Fleet Transport.

Pictured are Simon McKeever, Chief Executive, Irish Exporters Association and Mr. Tom O’Mahony, Secretary General of the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport

<http://www.fleet.ie/breaking-news/supply-chain-ireland-launched-by-irish-exporters/>