

Supply Chain Ireland builds on early success

Supply Chain
Ireland



The Irish Exporters Association (IEA) launched Supply Chain Ireland (SCI) on 31 March 2015 at an event held at the Clarion Hotel in West Dublin. Supply Chain Ireland is the latest of a number of IEA initiatives seeking to inform and guide exporters and potential exporters through the complexities of manufacturing and shipping goods to overseas markets, and follows the nationwide launch of the National Export Hub.

Speaking at the launch event the IEA Chief Executive, Simon McKeever said, "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".

The launch of SCI is supported by the Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and the Department's Secretary General, Tom O'Mahony who informed the attendance, "Ireland needs a vibrant and efficient freight sector in parallel with our continued economic growth." He also took the opportunity to advise that the Department would shortly be launching a consultation on a policy document on the sustainable development of freight transport.

Gerry Culligan, Commercial Director at Iarnród Éireann which, along with Crowe Horwath and Aer Lingus Cargo, is one of the SCI sponsor companies, spoke of the company's commitment to the development of the sustainable movement of goods by rail and to the future development of Rosslare Europort and the company's Navigator Freight activities.

The next SCI event was hosted by Shannon Airport taking place on 27 May and with a clear focus on supply chain issues that affect exporters in the mid-West and Western regions. Joe Cleary of the Customs Division of the Revenue Commissioners, who had also spoken at the Dublin event, took the opportunity to alert the local exporting community that all international freight movement is covered by the Electronic Manifest System (EMS) and that from 1 July Customs will not be able to release cargo that is not properly manifested. Also discussed at Shannon was the initiative of the Limerick City and County Council, along with Regional Chambers and others, to develop a Sustainable Freight Gateway for the Limerick/Shannon area. Developments, current and planned at Shannon Airport, and Foynes Port, together with

the re-instatement of freight services on the Foynes-Limerick rail link were also discussed.

SCI will intensify its schedule of events, both regional and in Dublin, over the coming months with events planned to take place in the south-east and in Cork in early September, Claremorris, County Mayo (30 September) and in Galway (November) before returning to Dublin for a follow-up meeting to the March event. Niall Stobie, Head of Membership services at the IEA and who is driving the SCI activity hopes that this group will substantially increase the awareness amongst exporters of manufactured goods of the problems within the supply chain, and the opportunities that can be secured by optimising goods delivery to their clients.

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