



New export hub to assist Irish businesses

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A National Export Hub has been established to help drive-on export-led growth that is crucial to sustaining economic recovery.

The new hub, launched by Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Charlie Flanagan, is in collaboration with the Irish Exporters Association (IEA).

Speaking at the event Minister Flanagan said the new National Export Hub will assist Irish businesses to export for the first time, to enter new export markets and to grow their exports.

"The Hub will see the IEA and its partners represented here today make their expertise available to existing and future exporters around the country.

"Increasing exports is a key driver of growth for the Irish economy and is crucial to sustaining the Irish recovery. Last year saw an increase in the value of goods exports of €2.1 billion (+2.4 per cent), in 2013, total Irish exports were €181bn, 104 per cent of GDP. The Central Bank is projecting trade volume growth in excess of 5 per cent in both 2015 and 2016.

"The new campaign and hub will run breakfast seminars around Ireland to provide practical export advice to Irish companies who are interested in driving on export-led opportunities. A dedicated hub manager will then work with companies to identify export opportunities."

Speaking of the potential of the Government's St Patrick's Day 'Promote Ireland' programme to enhance export opportunities, create jobs and support new commercial links the Minister said: "One of the key messages ministers will take abroad with them on trade and investment visits this year is that Ireland is open for business. If I can paraphrase that today, as Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, I would say that our Embassy network is open for business.

"During the St. Patrick's Day period last year, ministers participated in over 100 specific business events overseas, attended by over 13,600 Irish and international company representatives. They also participated in 115 focussed company engagements with potential to support new commercial links, export opportunities or win new investments.

"Exporters who have taken part in a trade or investment-focussed St Patrick's Day events overseas, will be able to attest to the value of these programmes. St. Patrick's Day provides a golden opportunity to deepen business networks and to reinforce other ongoing sales and investment activities, as well as creating new business opportunities."



The National Export Hub initiative is a partnership between the IEA, ABP, AIB, DHL, Euler Hermes, PWC in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Enterprise Ireland and Bord Bia.

<http://www.irishfarmersmonthly.com/295-export-hub>