

Industry Determined to '*plant*' the Importance of Construction to the Economy

WITH an unprecedented number of trade shows being cancelled across the globe due to the economic downturn; Expo Events, alongside the **Irish Contractors Plant Association (ICPA)** and **Construction Industry Federation (CIF)**, have taken the valiant decision to continue with this year's biennial **Construction Plant Show**. Beginning on Thursday 2nd and running until the 4th of April, the show attracted 4,500 visitors in 2007 and takes place at Punchestown Event Centre.

In the UK, the two main construction shows - Hillhead and the Commercial Vehicle Show 2009- have both been cancelled and following on from this, was the announcement that the 2010 British International Motor Show has been cancelled. However, buoyed by all-industry support from the CIF and ICPA, the Construction Plant Show will take place this year in a bid to keep Ireland's struggling construction industry afloat.

Worth a mammoth €38 billion in 2007, the Construction Industry was one of Ireland's largest employers, with 288,000 working in the industry at its height. Today, there are 190,000 people in the sector and the main focus for the CIF is to ensure the continuity of Government sanctioned developments to protect jobs.

It's a gloomy picture but by encouraging the industry to come together, exhibitors are hopeful that the show will be well attended and business will be done. The level of commitment from exhibitors for this year's show has been very heartening. It was this determination from the industry which was the deciding factor on proceeding with the show. Industry stalwarts, McCormick MacNaughton will host its legendary Operator Challenge at the show and other quality exhibitors include Pat O'Donnell, McHales, Liebherr, JCB, Swan Plant Hire Ltd, and McSharry Bros amongst others.

An inaugural new event, the **Recycling & Waste Handling Show**, will also take place alongside the Construction Plant Show at Punchestown Event Centre. Sponsored by Manvik, the show has been created in response to the innovation and rapid developments within the recycling industry.

With 3,397,683 tonnes of municipal waste and 17,791,745 tonnes of construction and demolition waste generated in 2007*, the need for businesses to deal with their waste efficiently is apparent.

Unlike other recycling shows, RAWH will offer visitors the chance to view the latest equipment and technology in waste management solutions first-hand.

The Construction Plant Show and Recycling & Waste Handling Show take place from 2-4th April at Punchestown Event Centre, Co. Kildare.

For further information: www.constructionplantshow.com and www.rawh.ie.

*EPA Report, 2007

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