

# Newsletter

December 2013



**Shannon Foynes**  
PORT COMPANY



## 2013 Update on Progress

Welcome to this addition of our newsletter. Looking back over 2013, it has been a positive eventful year for the Port Company.

We started the year on the back of a strong 2012 trading performance and this trading momentum has been maintained in 2013. Importantly, the Port Company is now well positioned to capture the future growth prospects of the national economy as they emerge. To this end, the new 2013 National Ports Policy, launched by the government in March 2013, recognises SFPC as a Tier 1 port of national significance, we believe this designation will be important in attracting new future investment to the Port and is welcomed.

Our Masterplan, Vision 2041, was launched in February by Minister Leo Varadkar. Vision 2041 is a 30 year plan mapping out future port expansion and development opportunities. During 2013 we have been busy

laying the foundations for many of the objectives therein. Furthermore, the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary, launched by Minister Jan O'Sullivan in November, inter alia recommends the zoning of the land banks adjoining the deep-water sites for maritime related investment. We fully support the SIFP as it will assist in attracting new inward investment to the Shannon Estuary by reducing investor risk. Additionally, due to the restructuring of the Airport and Shannon Development, we have forged new links with the IDA, who are now fully conversant with the maritime economic opportunities afforded by the Estuary and are committed to working jointly with us in attracting new inward investment to the Shannon Estuary.

In June CPL Fuels announced its intention to invest circa €20m in a smokeless fuels processing plant at Foynes port. This investment is progressing to plan with its delivery and viability enhanced by the general carbon derogation for biomass products announced by the Department of Finance and implemented in the 2014 Finance Act.

With regard to port connectivity, we have agreed a program with Irish Rail to complete preliminary works in connection with the reinstatement of the Limerick to Foynes rail line.

In order to fastrack the reinstatement we are funding these initial preliminary works that are been undertaken by Irish Rail. In relation to the N69, the procurement of engineering services as advertised in August is extremely welcome. The N69 road improvement is vital if the Mid-West Region is to fully realise the economic and job creation opportunities afforded by the Port at Foynes.

We stated in Vision 2041 that we are committed to improving the physical appearance of our public facing properties in Limerick and Foynes. During 2013 we have been busy "cleaning up our act" so to speak where significant refurbishment expenditure has been incurred on the properties along the Dock Road and at Main Street Foynes. Notably, we have an ongoing program of improvement in place for these locations for 2014 and the years ahead.

Vision 2041 contains ambitious growth targets and notwithstanding that it is a 30 year plan we have surpassed the annual projected growth rates for 2013. On that note I would like to thank our customers and port users, our staff and service providers and all those connected with the Port for their contribution in making it happen. To conclude may I wish you and your families a very happy Xmas and much success in the years ahead.

Pat Keating

*Shannon Foynes Port Company Vision 2041  
launched by Minister Leo Varadkar.  
L-R: Michael Collins, Chairperson,  
Minister Leo Varadkar and Pat Keating, CEO*



## NISO/NISG Safety Awards

The 22nd Annual National Irish Safety Organisation / Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISO/NISG) Safety Awards, took place on 4 October 2013 at a special ceremony in Galway which was also celebrating the 50th anniversary of NISO.

The NISO safety award competition involves a very thorough assessment and submission of all safety policies and procedures including evidence of how they are implemented on a day to day level. Shannon Foynes Port Company are proud to announce they received a Prestigious Award for excellence in occupational health and safety. This award is positive recognition by external experts of the continuing improvements that we in Shannon Foynes Port Company are making. It is a fantastic achievement for the company to be recognised on our first submission.

Lucinda Creighton TD presented the Award to Alma Moran, at the Gala Awards Event in Galway on Friday 4th October 2013. The NISO Awards are regarded as the most recognised and valued awards of their type, they celebrate the efforts of health and safety professionals and the employers who lead the way in raising the bar for safety in the workplace across Ireland.

It is recognised by the board and management of Shannon Foynes Port Company that this progression to a modern, proactive and engaging safety culture within the company would not have been possible if the employees of SFPC had not embraced the changes required and helped to drive those changes forward.



L-R: Eoin Davis, Tony Murphy, Alma Moran and Tom Treacy at Award Ceremony in Galway

Right: Eoin Davis and Tom Treacy accept the award on behalf of Shannon Foynes Port Company



## Monastic Artefacts returned to Scattery

The return of two carvings, absent from Scattery Island for a long number of years took place during the recent Gathering Event on the 7<sup>th</sup> July 2013. Pádraig de Barra and his nephews Paddy and Barry Keane returned the stones to Scattery after a long absence

Originally removed from the Island by Captain Francis M Kennedy in the mid 1800's as ornaments for his garden, they were then brought to St Senan's Well in Kilkee by Stephens Collins as ornaments. In the 1950s Pádraig discovered the stones while cleaning the area and put them on display at the well. For security reasons it was decided to remove them to Pádraig's safe keeping where they remained until 2012 when it was decided to return them to Scattery, once a secure and safe home was established to keep them there.

Scattery Island Heritage forum thanked Patrick Scanlon and SFPC for providing LOOP HEAD for the stones safe return.



Pádraig de Barra and Paddy Keane on board LOOP HEAD with the return of carved stones, (monastic artefacts), to Scattery Island.



## Largest Ever Wind Turbine Cargo at Foynes

August 2013 - Evidence of the enormous investment potential of the Shannon Estuary, thanks to its deep-water channels, was to be seen at Foynes Port recently as a giant 55,000 tonne ship, the Santa Fe, carrying one of the largest ever cargo of wind turbines to come into Ireland, docked at the County Limerick port on the 16<sup>th</sup> of August. The ship, which arrived in Foynes from China, departed for Rotterdam after having its cargo unloaded and transported by road to wind turbine installations on the West coast.

## Offshore Activity 2014

Next year see the start of what we hope will become an important part of our business in the future. Foynes has been selected as the supply base for planned drilling off the West Coast during 2014 by Cairn Energy and its partners, including Chrysaor. The first appraisal well on Spanish Point is targeted for Q2 2014. The partners also expect to propose a 3D seismic work programme on another location. Further appraisal drilling will be dependent on the first appraisal well result.

In July 2013 Cairn entered into a contract to secure a drilling rig for the planned

Spanish Point appraisal well. Cairn and its joint venture partners will use the "Blackford Dolphin" which is an enhanced Aker H3 deepwater semi submersible drilling rig. Subject to obtaining the necessary approvals the rig which underwent a \$400 million deepwater upgrade in 2006 will be mobilised to begin operations on this well in Q2 2014. The rig will be serviced by a supply vessel which will use Foynes as its base for a period of about three months. With a good degree of optimism in the industry about the prospects for commercial finds in Spanish point and environs, Foynes will make an ideal location for the port activity which is necessary to support such undertakings.



## Seismic Vessel visits Foynes / Bunkers directly from new Fuel Terminal

SFPC's Foynes terminal recently hosted the first visit of the POLARCUS AMANI, an ultra modern, super high ice class, 12-14 streamer 3D/4D seismic research vessel currently operating off the west coast of Ireland.

On Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July she berthed at Foynes Port to change crew and receive gas oil bunkers. Inver Energy Ltd supplied the 600 tonnes of fuel directly by pipeline from the new Atlantic Fuel Supply Company terminal located at Foynes harbour.



SFPC expects to host considerably more activity in the coming years to service the planned exploration of potential gas and oil fields located off the West coast of Ireland; offshore supply bases operated out of Foynes during previous exploration phases so the skills and resources to successfully service this sector are firmly in place

## SEAPT exercise 2013



*UAV Fulmer flying over Shannon 1 and Granuaile during exercise "Cathach" in April 2013.*

Exercise 'Cathach' was a marine incident response demonstration involving an oil/chemical spill situation in an estuary environment. The exercise was organised by Shannon Foynes Port Company, The Mobile and Marine Robotics Research Centre at the University of Limerick and Clare County Council and held in the Shannon Estuary from 17th to 18th April 2013 and was executed as a real incident response following state protocols. The exercise itself was a joint collaboration between an Interreg IVB project, NETMAR, and the Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT) with the support from additional state agencies such as the Irish Coast Guard and Defence Forces.

In addition to shoreline activities, the response implemented state-of-the-art aerial (in collaboration with the Irish Aviation Authority) and underwater vehicles (UAV's, ROV's and AUV's) for remote sensing operations. These vehicles developed in-house by industry (Technalia) and research institutions (FEUP, UL, NUIM) were used in order to assess and relay in-situ sensor data, ultimately allowing for fast effective deployment of resources essential to be able to contain and control spills in a safe manner.

A whole host of other agencies were also involved in both technical and logistical roles. These include SmartBay, Marine Institute, Civil Defence, Naval Service Reserve, Environmental Management Services, Commnet, Basline Surveys Ltd and a host of others. SEAPT will hold its annual training course on 18<sup>th</sup> December in Limerick, and expect a full house for the day.

## SFPC and CPL Fuels



reached agreement on the option to lease a 16 acre site at Foynes in order to construct and operate a new smokeless fuel facility. It is expected that CPL will lodge a full planning application in early 2014, and construction will begin at the end of next year, with the first phase of the plant operating by the end of 2015. When fully complete by 2018, the plant will have the capacity to produce up to 300,000 tonnes of smokeless fuel products for the domestic market in Ireland. This development has been driven by the government declaration that all fuels must become smokeless (at present, this only applies to certain cities and large towns). Full implementation of this policy is subject to the agreement of the authorities in Northern Ireland to ensure that it applies on all-island basis. CPL Fuels is a market leader in these products in its home UK market; the products are manufactured using a combination of low carbon coal and biomass materials, for which the proximity of the site to the deep water at Foynes was a key consideration.



Shannon Foynes Port Company took part in the Foynes & District Community 2013 *Pride of Place Awards* in August this year. The Foynes entry was a tremendous triumph which reflected very positively on the residents and businesses of the area and what can be achieved when leaders emerge in the community and play their part. Limerick City & County Councils complimented Foynes Community in that "they represented Limerick in an exemplary fashion".

## SFPC Annual Hospice Coffee Morning



The 19<sup>th</sup> September this year saw us host our now annual Milford Hospice Coffee Morning. The bar was raised again this year with the standard of baking and tea making second to none. A very special thank you to all who contributed food from the Sandwiches to Cheesecakes to Rocky Roads! It could not go ahead without all of your help and it is very much appreciated.

A thank you also to Foynes Yacht club & Foynes Community Centre for giving us the contents of their kitchens for the day.

The event was really well supported by the local port users and local people from the area - it seems to be growing in popularity year on year and an occasion that SFPC staff enjoy organising. The total amount raised this year for Milford Hospice was €2,000. Roll on 2014!

*Aoife*



### *Welcome on Board!*

In September James Nolan joined the Port Services Department of SFPC in the role of Port Services General Operative. James brings a wealth of knowledge to the General Operative role as well

as developing his career to date in the electro-mechanical industry. James will be engaged with a range of activities across the company in the coming months and we look forward to helping James to develop his skill sets as his career progresses within SFPC. The management and staff of SFPC wish James the very best in his new career.

### *Congratulations to*

Alma Moran & Evan Egan on their engagement and we wish them the very best for the big day in June 2014.

Mick & Claire Kennelly on the birth of their baby girl, Anna.

Ed & Josephine Stanley on the birth of their baby girl, Clara.

John & Deirdre McDermott on the birth of their baby boy Sonny.

JJ & Ciara Ryan on the birth of their baby boy Cathal.

James & Donna Nolan on the birth of their baby girl Cora.



### **Sincere Sympathy to the families of**

the late Brendan Henry, Father of SFPC Director Conal,  
the late Maureen Dolan, Mother of Pilot Brian Dolan  
Sean McNamara, late of Limerick Harbour Commissioner.

*Ar dhéis Dé go raibh a n-anam dilís*



Shannon Foynes Port Company extended a C ad M ile F ilte to the Students and Teachers from Catherine McAuley School, Limerick, 3rd Class Foynes N.S. & 5th Class Askeaton N.S. earlier this year. Some schools took part in an essay and art competitions based on our Vision 2041 theme.

Art Competition "Impressions of Foynes Community life surrounded by the Port in 2041" - 1st Jamie-Lee Russell, 2nd Erin O'Donnell and 3rd Ois n O'Farrell from Foynes N.S. Essay Competition "You have travelled in time with Doctor Who and arrived on the Shannon Estuary in 2041.. what do you see?" - 1st Aaron Thompson, 2nd Caoimhe O'Connell, 3rd Maude Adams. Congratulations to all who took part in the competitions, it was extremely difficult to choose the winners as the standard was top class! Well done.



Students & Teachers from Askeaton N.S. on a visit to the SEA-PT Oil Pollution Warehouse in Foynes Port.



Students & Teachers from 3rd Class Foynes N.S.



Students & Teachers from Catherine McAuley School in Limerick at an Oil Pollution Demonstration in Foynes Port.



Students & Teachers from Laurel Hill Secondary School, Limerick on a visit to Ted Russell Docks, Limerick.

If you would like any items included in the next newsletter, please forward to :-

"PO Box Newsletter", Shannon Foynes Port Company, Mill House, Foynes, Co. Limerick or [info@sfpc.ie](mailto:info@sfpc.ie)