



# Employee Newsletter

DECEMBER 2017

Welcome to this edition of our newsletter. I am delighted to report that it's been another really successful year for the Port. This performance is founded on implementation of our exciting development plans as well as on a continued focus on efficiencies.

With regard to our development plans, we recently engaged in consultation concerning our Foynes Jetty expansion plans which include developing the recently acquired 90-acre site at Foynes for port related activity.

We expect to lodge a planning application for this element of our plans shortly. I am also delighted to report that the funding of this project received a major boost by recently securing a further €4.5m in EU funding. This EU funding enables us to complete this entire element of our plans much faster than previously envisaged.

Consequently, assuming we receive planning permission during 2018, we will also commence procurement in 2018 with the intention of commencing construction in early 2019.

This infrastructure offers significant new business opportunities and in this regard, it gives me great pleasure to welcome Sean McGowan to our team. Sean brings a wealth of experience in business development and we look forward to working with Sean in realising these new opportunities.

Since 2015, The EU has approved €7,5m in funding supporting our development plans. This is a significant vote of confidence by the EU that our plans as outlined in Vision 2041, are deemed an integral part of the EU's future core maritime transport network. Further complimenting our plans is the purchase of a new €2.8m Liebherr crane which arrived just this month. This crane with a 135ton lift capacity will significantly enhance ship turnaround times as well as providing higher lift capacity than previously available.

## Jetty Enhancement - €4.5m EU Funding Confirmed



*L-R: Michael Morrissey (DTTAS), John Carlton (SFPC), Pat Keating (SFPC), Isabel Roy (INEA), Morten Jensen (INEA) and Ed Stanley (SFPC).*

All of the aforementioned investment in capacity infrastructure is required to service trade growth. In addition, we note that the Government fully supports the Limerick to Foynes Road Scheme with its inclusion in the recently published draft National Planning Framework.

Furthermore, we understand that the planning application for this new road will be published in early 2018 and accordingly, we look forward to the delivery of this new road.

As mentioned 2017 was another successful year for the Port and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all for their contribution in delivering this performance. Finally, I would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Enjoy the turkey!

Pat

## ESPO Award

EcoPorts is the main environmental initiative of the European Port Sector. The principal of EcoPorts is to raise awareness of environmental protection and to improve environmental management within Ports. Compliance with the PERS standard is independently assessed by Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance and the certificate has a validity of 2 years. There are 25 ports in Europe and it's neighbouring countries currently certified by PERS.

*Congratulations to all SFPC staff involved in making this achievement possible.*



*ESPO congratulates Shannon Foynes Port Company for achieving PERS certification.*

*Certificate was presented to Pat Keating, CEO at the ESPO Conference in Barcelona, Spain in June this year.*

## Maritime Industry Award



*Declan McDonald, Partner, PwC presents the Ports & Harbours Operator of the Year award to Pat Keating, CEO, Shannon Foynes Port Company.*

Shannon Foynes Port Company's rising status has been affirmed after it was announced as winner of Ports & Harbours Operator of the Year at the annual Marine Industry Awards in July this year. The award winners are selected by an independent panel of recognised and expert judges, representing Ireland's marine sector. SFPC – which oversees commercial navigation on the Shannon Estuary and is Ireland's largest bulk port company - took the top award for ports for the first time. Speaking after receiving the award, SFPC CEO Pat Keating said it was validation of the collective efforts of the team. "We're delighted as this is an endorsement of the efforts being made by the company over recent years. We have really turned the business around since the downturn and today SFPC

is one of the key contributors to the regional economy." Last year we had growth of 11.4% in year on year tonnages at our general cargo terminals, bringing us close to peak tonnages of the boom and delivering double digit growth for the second successive year. This award very much recognises those gains." It also recognises the ambition of the company, backed up by a capital expenditure programme by us and our customers that has seen €40m spent at Foynes alone over the past three years." The company's ambitious plan, Vision 2041, is focused on helping to transform the estuary into an international economic hub by taking advantage of what are among the deepest and sheltered harbours in Europe & the world.

## Shannon Foynes Port Company: The Gateway to Europe – A Brexit Opportunity?

On 22 November 2017, Shannon Foynes Port Company co-hosted a lunch event in Brussels with Irish MEP Sean Kelly to discuss the risks and opportunities of Brexit and, more specifically, what it means for Irish connectivity to the Single Market. A wide range of European stakeholders were in attendance, including Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), European Commission representatives from the Directorate-General for Transport (DG MOVE) and the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs (DG MARE), the European Investment Bank (EIB), as well as trade association representatives from the Federation of European Port Operators and Private Terminals (FEPOR) and the European Sea Port Organization (ESPO). In addition, representatives from the Irish Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport and the Irish Maritime Development Office of the Irish government were also participants at the lunch. The conversation brought to light the need for SFPC to be part of



the TEN-T network – being a core port is simply not enough – and this is a particular need in a post-Brexit world.



## GKinetic

GKinetic's Ltd., a Limerick tidal energy company, is to develop its first commercial device after the successful completion of its prototype testing programme. Based in Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, GKinetic's will develop its first 25kW commercial device after its 8kW unit generated outputs above international industry standards. The device will be capable of generating enough electricity to power up to 15 homes.

The GKinetic device, which will replace dirty fuels like diesel is a compact design which allows it to be easily deployed in rivers, operating in depths as shallow as 2m and widths of 3m. This means that we now have the option of this ground-breaking, green solution for their energy requirements. Its 8kW prototype has been successfully tested at Limerick Docks over the past year. Tests at the Limerick docks have supported the initial results from one of the world's leading tidal laboratories, the IFREMAR centre in Boulogne-Sur-Mer, France. The 25kW device will also be tested at Limerick Docks prior to being deployed at certified river or estuary test sites.

GKinetic Youtube Link

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/vCnrPYZ1nRA>



*G-Kinetic to develop its first commercial device after 12 months of successful tests at Limerick Dock*



## SEAPT

Seapt held its 2017 exercise in Spanish Point, County Clare, hosted by Clare County Council and run by PWS Ltd. The practical exercise took place on the 26th April 2017. In all about 50 people attended the practical exercise/demonstration consisting of delegates from Clare County Council, other SEAPT members and other agencies and organisations.

Equipment deployed included containment boom, variety of skimmers, temporary storage tanks and decontamination centre.

The Desktop element of the exercise was conducted at Clare County Council offices in Ennis on the 27th April, specifically focusing on the planning process of the Incident

Management Team. (IMT) in preparation for an imminent shoreline impact the following day at Spanish Point arising from the scenario where an escape of oil had taken place as a result of an incident at an offshore platform. The day was again well attended and proved successful with presentations made by the Irish Coastguard, SEAPT members and advisors.

SEAPT also welcomed Providence Resources as new members during 2017. They joined early 2017 due to the fact that they were beginning exploration work offshore and required a response capability along the west coast of Ireland.



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



*Sincere sympathy to Peter and the Bourke family on the recent death of their father, John.*

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dilís.*

## New Arrivals

## Congratulations!

*Congratulations to Mick & Claire Kennelly on the birth of their baby daughter Aodhla and to Philip & Elaine Devine on the birth of their son Harry!*



## New Employees

## Best Wishes!



*Stephen Delahunty joined SFPC in June as Port Services Maintenance Technician.*



*Bredette Keane joined joined in November as IT Development & Assurance Officer*



*Sean McGowan joined in December as Business Development Manager.*

*We wish Stephen, Bredette & Seán every success in their new roles with SFPC.*

*Happy Christmas  
and the very best for 2018  
from all at*

**SHANNON FOYNES PORT COMPANY**