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Prestigious award for local drainage maintenance company

Business profile: Drainpower Environmental Services

DRAINPOWER Environmental Services Ltd are a Limerick based drainage maintenance and CCTV surveying company, have been selected as the environmental winners for the prestigious Construction and Engineering awards (2016).

Originally there were 27 companies nominated for the Environmental section of the annual award, and recently the Limerick city based drainage maintenance company were successful at the award ceremony.

Drainpower Environmental Services Ltd specialise in drainage maintenance and CCTV inspection service, but they excel in adapting their No-Dig technology to resolve complex engineering and environmental issues.

Drainpower Environmental Services is based in Mitchell St, off John Street, Limerick and has offered local employment for the last 5 years. Originally from Thurles, managing director, John Fanning, diversified from a dairy farming background to establish his drain maintenance business and now he is acknowledged as one of the market leaders in drainage maintenance and 'no-dig' repair technology.

Previously John worked in Wang Labs which was based in Plassey Technological Park and with MCR Group Dublin. John still has a close working relationship with MCR group and is responsible for most of their drainage preventative maintenance and repair works in Ireland.

In addition, Drainpower are



Managing Director John Fanning is acknowledged as one of the market leaders in drainage maintenance and 'no dig' technology

the Ireland approved distributor and installer for Kingspan Klargester of its wide range of Bio-Efficient Waste Water Treatment Systems.

John left St Flannan's College

in 1985, and he has fond memories of the five years he spent in the school in Ennis.

He has furthered his education in an unconventional manner, preferring to adopt

and adapt new technologies as they become available. Recent developments in the drainage CCTV surveying and No Dig technology requires continuous upskilling and on-site training.

Recent trips to America, China and Europe have offered amazing opportunities for Drainpower Environmental Ltd. They now have their own brand of pumps and aerators which allows for more efficient repairs being completed.

John is an active member of Limerick Chamber of Commerce and Derg Business Alliance group. He is a past president of The Limerick Leprechauns RFC which has raised in excess of €1.3 million for local charities since 1986.

He adds that regular contact within a business network has significantly increased his exposure and awareness of the services that Drainpower Environmental can offer to customers.

Management at Drainpower have a strong view that whenever possible, local contractors should never be overlooked when there is a possibility to out-source work. Most contractors engaged by Drainpower Environmental continue to promote our unique range of services. Recent acquisitions, which includes Blackberry Drains (Kildare), Kilkenny Drains and Free and Clear Drains (Cashel), have had significant positive effect on annual turnover. John expects to expand into Cork / Kerry within the next six months.

On a recent visit to their new offices, it is apparent from the

photographs on display that John's three daughters are his priority, closely followed by a deep interest in sport.

Chloe is currently employed at Northern Trust while Nicole and Aisling are attending the University of Limerick studying Languages and Nursing respectively.

Rugby, GAA and Boxing are all featured and only last July, John received the Super heavy weight Munster boxing title from

Olympic Gold medallist, Michael Carruth. Not a bad achievement for a 50 year old.

The future plans for Drainpower will be to increase the workforce by four more staff members and to extend into the grease trap maintenance market.

Irish Water are completing quality testing on water from food outlets and John sees this as a potential market for further growth. Recent projects completed with MEHS Ltd from Newcastlewest Co. Limerick has secured Drainpower

Environmental Services Ltd and a dominant force in protecting the environment. John acknowledges the help and assistance which he has received from his work colleagues, namely John, James, Mike, Alexandra, Ken, Nina, Kay, Jim, James and Chris.

The company motto 'Working harder under pressure' seems most appropriate for John's company and work ethic.

Drainpower Environmental can be contacted on www.drainpower.ie and or www.Septictankanddrain-

Eir fibre broadband for Kilfinane welcomed

LOCAL Fine Gael TD Tom Neville has welcomed confirmation that Eir fibre high-speed broadband service will be available to the residents in Kilfinane.

The service will be available from this week following the completion of the work in establishing a Fibre to the Cabinet (FTTC) node in the town.

"I understand that over 400 premises will directly benefit," said Mr Neville.

"Broadband is as important now as electricity was in the early 1900s. Rural businesses need access to high speed broadband to be able to compete with those in larger urban areas. We talk about the need to entice people to stay in our local towns and villages, and broadband is key to this".

"Customers who are



Welcome: Tom Neville

interested in availing of the service should contact their retail telecommunications provider to order," he added.

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

Astronaut to speak in LIT as part of Space Week

Cyril Bennis, who will be Ireland's first space tourist and astronaut Al Worden are to speak at Dream Big, a family event for space enthusiasts of all ages taking place on October 5 at the Millennium Theatre, LIT.

The event is part of Space Week which runs from October 3-8, with events taking place throughout Ireland to enable all people to explore how, as 21st century citizens under one sky, we can use the power of critical thinking, science, technology, engineering and maths to shape our understanding of life on Earth and our place in Space.

Bennis and Worden will tell their story of getting to space, share personal archival footage and photography, give details on the sacrifices they have made, their highs and lows, their strong Limerick connections and the significance of seeing the Earth from a distance.

Dream Big takes place at Millennium Theatre, Limerick Institute of Technology on Wednesday, October 5 at 8pm. Tickets €5. Bookings can be made on www.spaceweek.ie

Deloitte offers opportunities for graduates in Limerick

DELOITTE, the professional services and consulting firm, has announced its intention to hire 280 graduates, some of which will be in Limerick, through its graduate recruitment campaign.

There is a diverse range of opportunities for graduates across a number of service areas including audit & assurance, risk advisory, corporate finance, restructuring and forensic services, tax services and consulting services. Furthermore, the Deloitte technology programmes also include a number of graduate positions in cyber risk, Deloitte Digital, information management & analytics, and systems integration.

Students from all academic disciplines are encouraged to apply, including accounting, business, law, science, technology, engineering, maths, amongst others.

Speaking about the graduate programme, Brendan Jennings, Managing Partner, Deloitte said: "Through this programme, we are offering graduates across many different disciplines the chance to experience and work in a global firm that develops graduates to achieve their full potential. Our programme allows graduates to grow and develop unique skills and leadership capabilities. We are excited to have graduates join us to build our team and to collaborate with us to deliver exceptional work to our clients."

Orla Graham, chief human resources officer commented: "At Deloitte we give graduates the opportunity to kick-start their career and we believe Deloitte is the best place to do just that. Our focus is on learning and growth, enabling graduates to make a leadership impact early in their careers to create an impact on the world around them. We offer graduates more than just a job and we recognise the importance of creating a challenging and rewarding environment." Applications for the graduate positions can be made via the dedicated graduate recruitment website - www.deloitte.com/ie/students.

Shannon Group boss outlines strategy

THE new chief executive of The Shannon Group has said he wants to develop a close partnership with key stakeholders in the Shannon Region and West of Ireland in order to create a real economic counter-balance to Dublin.

Matthew Thomas was speaking at a Shannon Chamber luncheon, his first official public function since taking up the post recently.

He stressed that one of his key priorities will be to forge a cohesive drive with business, tourism, local government, chambers of commerce and other interests. "We want to create a platform together that will attract more jobs and tourists to the Region, leading to increased passenger numbers through the airport," he said.

Mr Thomas continued: "The Shannon Group has invested



Pictured at the Shannon Chamber luncheon were Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber; Matthew Thomas, Shannon Group chief executive and Julie Dickerson, president, Shannon Chamber of Commerce.

over €45m since 2013 in enhancing the customer experience across our portfolio and in developing improved property solutions. Almost 200,000 sq ft

of new space is being developed at Shannon Free Zone - this includes a new office block, a new advanced technical manufacturing unit, new facilities for the

aviation cluster and incubation space at the Zone.

"I envisage that this investment will be accelerated in 2017 and over the following years.

"However, Shannon Group is not operating in isolation and it is only by working closely with regional stakeholders that we can achieve our common goals," he added.

As part of this coordinated regional approach, Mr Thomas indicated that the Group plans to promote Shannon Airport as the natural gateway to the whole Wild Atlantic Way, including making the Airport itself feel and look like the entrance to that highly popular route.

In welcoming Matthew Thomas to Shannon and the Region, Julie Dickerson, president of Shannon Chamber said that Shannon's great achievements in regional development over

the decades should now inspire the Region's stakeholders to work together to meet today's challenges.

"While a thriving capital city and hinterland east region are essential to a vibrant Ireland, it is absolutely vital that the rest of the country experiences its fair share of economic activity, job creation and enterprise growth. The Shannon Region has a major role to play in leading that drive," she said.

Also speaking at the Chamber luncheon, Patrick Jordan, owner of Atlantic Aviation Group outlined the company's investment and expansion plans at Shannon. These include the acquisition of the former Kraus & Naimer 65,000 sq ft building at Shannon and converting it into an Aviation Training School, which is due to open in December.

Second transnational meeting of the Techtown network in City Hall



Taking part in the recent Techtown meeting which explored the development of new digital jobs through start ups and existing businesses were (back row) Prof Brian Donnellan, Maynooth University, Tracey Johnson, Barnsley Council, Kieran Reeves, Limerick City & County Council, Hannah Wrixon, Last Minute Minders and John Savage, Action Point; (front row) Jillian Robinson, LCCC, Mihai, Billauc, LCCC, and Alison Partridge, Aurora



Hannah Wrixon, Last Minute Minders, Eamon Ryan, Head of Enterprise, LEO and Laura Bennett, Tech North



Ivar Renngård, Moveyum and Peter Westby, Gavle



John O'Flaherty, MAC Ltd, Susan George, Basingstoke Council and Anthony Coleman, LEO



Javi Buron, Fablab, Limerick and Freja Ludvigsen, Gladsaxe