



Polymer Technology
Ireland
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POLYMER
GROUP

Polymer Processing Conference 2023

Thursday, 20 April 2023
Hodson Bay Hotel
Athlone

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now**

www.athlonepolymerconference.com

Designing for the Future

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now

Conference Programme

Thursday, 20 April 2023

8:30	Registration + Coffee & Scones
9:00	Welcome Address Dr Sean Lyons, Dean of Engineering, TUS
Session 1 / Chair: Dr Sean Lyons, Dean of Engineering, TUS	
9:10	Keynote: Building the Factory of the Future – Semi-Conductor Fab Hugh O'Hara, MCIOB, Project Manager, Intel
9:50	The Role of Renewable Energy Systems (RES) in the decarbonisation of industry Diana Vaz, Renewable Research Technologist, IMR
10:20	The Application of Data Analytics to deliver value in manufacturing Dr Fergus Quilligan, Director of Digitisation & Analytics, IMR
10:50	Coffee Break
11:20	Delivering sustainable growth: navigating environmental and labour constraints Fergal O'Brien, Director of Lobbying and Influence, Ibec
11:50	Female Leaders in the Polymer Industry <i>Panel Discussion facilitated by Dr Sinead Keogh, Director of the Irish MedTech Association</i> <i>Joined by</i> Jessica Whyte, Johnson & Johnson, Liga Grzibovska, West Pharmaceutical Services and Lorna O'Gara, Ultrapolymers Group
12:30	Development of a framework for training in the Circular Economy, for the plastics manufacturing industry – Circvet Tania Mendes, CENTIMFE
12:45	Polymer Technology Ireland Update Mark McAuley, Director, Polymer Technology Ireland
13:00	Lunch
Session 2 / Chair: Jacqueline Tyrell, Embankment Plastics	
14:00	Controlling Energy Use in Plastics Processing Dr Robin Kent, Tangram Technology
14:45	Polymer Research at the Technological University of the Shannon Dr Sean Lyons, Dean of Engineering, TUS
15:15	Increasing uptime due to modular automation systems Giuliano Pappalardo, Product Account Manager, Waldorf Technik GmbH
15:45	Summary & Close

Conference Exhibitors

- 3DWIT
- APT
- Arburg
- ATIM / Circvet
- Billion UK
- Brady Insurance
- Bray Engineering Services
- Colloids / Performance Masterbatches
- DeltaQ
- Engel
- First Polymer Training Skillnet
- Hasco
- HB Therm
- HGF
- Hi-tech Automation
- Ibec (Keep Well Mark)
- Ibec Manufacturing & Polymer Apprenticeships
- IMC Plasticus
- IMR
- Intertrade Ireland
- IPC
- JL Goor
- LV Logics
- Micro Automation
- Pharmaforce
- Sempre Group
- Sepro Robotique
- TSM Polytech / Sumitomo Demag
- TUS
- Waldorf Technik
- Zenith Adhesive Components

To book an exhibition stand contact Catherine Collins
Email: catherine.collins@ibec.ie Mobile: 087 239 6447



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Conference speakers



Dr Seán Lyons

Dr Seán Lyons is the Dean of Faculty of Engineering & Informatics on the Midlands campus of the Technological University of the Shannon. The Faculty provides polymer programmes spanning NFQ levels 7-10 encompassing apprenticeship, undergraduate & postgraduate taught programmes and significant applied Research activities through the PRISM Institute and APT Gateway. Dr Lyons is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of Engineers Ireland. His research interests are focused on advanced processing of polymer materials authoring over 50 peer reviewed papers and numerous international patents in this space. He is currently a funded investigator in the SFI advanced Manufacturing centre CONFIRM and the Academic Lead for the ATIM Cluster in the Irish Midlands.

Hugh O'Hara

Hugh joined Intel in 2019 excited to assist with the largest Tool Install Project ever undertaken in Europe. Hugh has been involved in the Construction Industry for over 20 years and was awarded the Silver Award for Construction Manager of the Year 2017 for his role on a live Data Centre Refurbishment Project for the Department of Social Protection.



Diana Vaz

Diana is a Renewable Research Technologist at Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR). She applies her experience in renewable energy engineering, energy efficiency and sustainability to guide companies on their path to decarbonization. Her background on applied research and consultancy equips her to attain the best technical solution for each setting.

Dr Fergus Quilligan

Fergus is a Director of Digitisation & Analytics at Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR). Fergus received a PhD in astrophysics in 2001, and spent time working onsite in NASA. He then spent 14 years working in Intel in California and Ireland in data analytics before transitioning to IMR, where as well as participating in research, he engages with companies of all shapes and sizes on their data analytics journeys.



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Fergal O'Brien

Fergal O'Brien is Director of Lobbying & Influence with Ibec. He leads and coordinates the organisation's activity across a range of business policy issues and public affairs activity. He represents Irish business on a number of areas at both national and EU level and is currently the Chair of Business Europe's Economic Policy Committee; a member of the National Competitiveness Council and a council member of the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. Fergal is a regular commentator on the economy and domestic and international policy issues. Prior to joining Ibec in 2005, Fergal worked for 5 years as an Economic Consultant with Fitzpatrick Associates, where he delivered a large number of consultancy assignments for a range of public and private sector clients. He also worked as an economist with the Irish Dairy Board. Fergal holds his primary and masters degrees from the University of Limerick.

Dr Sinead Keogh

Sinead is the Director of the Ibec's Medtech and Engineering Sectors, which includes the Irish Medtech Association. A number of Government Funded Skills Networks (Skillnets, Apprenticeships and Springboards) fall under her remit. Sinead currently sits on a number of national and international boards including the Advisory Industry Board for Enterprise Ireland funded BioInnovate Ireland and the Governance Board for Science Foundation Ireland funded Irish Photonic Integration Centre (IPIC). She is a member of the National Executive Committee at Medtech Europe. Prior to Ibec, Sinead held technical roles at 3Com Technologies, and lectured part-time at DIT, Kevin Street. She holds a Ph.D. in the Physics of Molecular Materials/Nanotechnology and B.Sc. (Hons.) in Applied Physics, DIT Kevin Street.



Jessica Whyte

In 2019 Jessica commenced her career in plastics in education through a Polymer Processing Technologist apprenticeship in Johnson and Johnson Vison Care, Co. Limerick. She worked in the Injection Moulding Department where she was supported during this time & graduated from Athlone IT, now known as TUS (Technological University of the Shannon) with a B.Sc. in Polymer Processing Technology in November 2022. The apprenticeship programme gave Jessica confidence to pursue further education and she is now in her second semester of her Master's degree in Process Validation & Regulatory Affairs in TUS. After nearly 4 years in the Injection Moulding department, she took a new role within the company and is now a Process Engineer since Jan 2023.

Liga Grzibovska

Liga started her career in Injection moulding in 2014 when she joined Tool & Plastic as Production Operator and later as a back-up Quality Technician for shift. She joined West (Tech Group at the time) in 2016, as a Production Operator and moved to an Injection Moulding Process Technician role in 2017. She graduated from IT Sligo in 2021, with a Bachelor of Engineering in Polymer Processing. After her graduation she moved to a Process Engineers role in West. She received Green Belt Certification in 2021 and is currently undertaking BSc in Manufacturing Management with ATU (IT Sligo).



Lorna O’Gara

Lorna has a B.Sc. in Polymer Technology from Athlone IT, now TUS and has many years’ experience working in the polymer industry. After graduating, she started her career working with Irish Customer Extruders, then spent time working in the UK and Europe in Technical sales roles for Polyurethane systems and Conductive

Coatings for plastics. She then worked for Trend Technologies as Key Account manager working with global OEMs of computers, telecoms, consumer goods and healthcare products. After a career break to spend time with her family, including a relocation to Brazil for 4 years, she joined the Ultrapolymers team in 2015. Her current role is European Business Development Manager for Healthcare.



Mark McAuley

Mark McAuley is Director of Polymer Technology Ireland. PTI is the national representative organisation for the polymer industry within Ibec. PTI supports the entire polymer supply chain and polymer converters. It runs the polymer technology apprenticeship and the First Polymer Skillnet in Athlone. Ibec is Ireland’s largest lobby and business representative group. Our purpose is to help build a better, sustainable future by influencing, supporting and delivering for business success. Prior to joining Ibec, Mark worked in corporate finance and management consulting in the tech sector. He holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin and a MSc from The University of Edinburgh.



Jacqueline Tyrrell

Jacqueline is co-owner of Embankment Plastics, one of Ireland’s largest and leading injection moulding specialists. She worked in global tourism marketing before joining Barry Armstrong at Embankment Plastics in 2007. Since then, their team has grown to 45 staff who sustain 24hour manufacturing, satisfying international clients across production areas of injection moulding, blow moulding and assembly. Jacqueline has spent 15 years in manufacturing and is a well-known female business-owner in the plastics industry.



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Dr Robin Kent

Dr Robin Kent has a B.Eng. (Hons.) in Materials Engineering from Monash University (Australia) and a Ph.D. in Polymer Physics from the University of Surrey (UK). Robin has been involved with plastics processing since 1971 in sectors ranging from extrusion to injection moulding. Since 1995 he has specialised in energy and sustainability management for plastics processors and has carried out energy surveys and assessments on over 500 companies. His publications include over 500 technical and management articles and papers on plastics and windows and 10 books on plastics processing. He regularly lectures on cost, energy and sustainability management in plastics processing and materials technology throughout the world. Robin is a Fellow of the Energy Institute, a Chartered Engineer and a Chartered Energy Manager. He is a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Horners and Freeman of the City of London.



Giuliano Pappalardo

Giuliano Pappalardo holds a Msc degree in Mechanical Engineering and can look back on a decade of experience in the planning, engineering, fulfilling and selling of turnkey manufacturing plants for the global food industry. Over the course of his career, he has faced the challenges of customized manufacturing machinery starting with his master's thesis in the product management of platform based packaging machines for

the food and pharma industry. Drawing from more than 30 years of automation expertise at Waldorf Technik, Giuliano has been the Product Account Manager for Pharmaceutical-, Eyecare- and Oralcare - disposable polymer products for the last three years, which all demand sophisticated demolding automations. He is established as an expert for COC/COP Prefilled Syringe based automation processes and is constantly developing efficient and reliable automation concepts matching the trends in the polymer industry.



Tânia Mendes

Tânia Mendes has a Msc Chemical Engineering degree from University of Coimbra and a postgraduate degree in Lean Six Sigma at Black Belt Level by IPLeiria. She is currently attending the Doctoral Programme in Industrial Engineering and Management at the University of Aveiro, with the thesis 'The alignment of the skills needed to implement technologies associated with industry 4.0 and the role of humans in the industry of the future'. Working at the Innovation & Prospective area at CENTIMFE, she manages national and international projects, cooperates in R&D projects and supports companies, mainly SMEs, in the gathering of national and international funding opportunities. She has professional field experience in the Plastic Industry in the Quality Management area and is a business consultant.



Fee

Delegate	Extra delegate from same company	Student	Exhibitor
€180	€120	€30	€100

Fee includes coffee, lunch and documentation.
Substitutions may be made at any time.

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