

STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE SAFETY IN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CHAIN

Bringing together stakeholders from across the construction supply chain and featuring presentations and panel discussions from leading experts, a safety symposium highlighted the need for collective responsibility and a collaborative approach to driving safety excellence across the industry, as well as the far-reaching benefits of a sustainable safety culture.

Sustainable safety culture is critical to keeping people safe. The supply chain's complexity and increased tiering means making sure all partners – from major contractors to sole traders – adopt a consistent safety approach to safely and efficiently deliver projects.

Therefore, a collective and consistent approach is critical to driving safety excellence across the construction industry, which had employed up to 150,000 people in Ireland and it experienced annual growth of 10%, before the outbreak of the Covid-19 crisis in March.

Jacobs brought together stakeholders from across the construction supply chain during its inaugural Safety Symposium at Dublin's Aviva Stadium on 27 February, which featured presentations and panel discussions from experts including Dr Sharon McGuinness, CEO of the Health and Safety Authority, Catriona Schmolke, Jacobs Senior Vice President and Jacobs Global Head of Safety, and Tom Parsons, Jacobs Culture Manager Europe.

BEYOND ZERO CULTURE

According to Jacobs' Vice President and General Manager Micheál O'Connor, fostering a robust safety culture throughout the construction supply chain is fundamental to their collective success. "Safety is the right way to execute work, not an add-on for consideration. At Jacobs, through our BeyondZero culture of caring, we are committed to driving safety excellence within and beyond our organisation.

"Our people, at every level of our business and across every function, are empowered to be accountable for their actions when it comes to health and safety, and the result is a win-win for colleagues and clients alike. This Safety Symposium marks another important milestone in our ambition to elevate our industry's safety standards and reap the benefits that come with a commitment to keeping people safe."

Dr Sharon McGuinness, CEO of the Health and Safety Authority, said: "Bringing together everyone in the business of construction is a really positive way for all stakeholders to collaborate and make the sector safer for all.

"Construction workplace deaths more than doubled last year from five to 12, and there really is no room for complacency. Having a strong safety culture in an organisation is vital and the leaders in the sector must drive

and promote good health and safety practice."

Safety Symposium themes included:

- The role leadership plays in driving a sustainable safety culture;
- How industry stakeholders can work together to pursue excellence in safety;
- How workplace culture can act as a catalyst for safety excellence, with people empowered to speak up without reprisal;
- The need for workplace safety culture to support people's well-being and mental health;
- The benefits that a shared focus on safety can deliver for all stakeholders.

Jacobs' Irish operation employs more than 1,100 people in Dublin, Cork and Belfast. The company has nearly doubled its footprint in Ireland in the past five years as a result of growth in construction management, commissioning, qualification and validation.

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Pictured at the inaugural Jacobs Safety Symposium at the Aviva Stadium, Dublin on 27 February (l-r): Matt Cooper, MC; Jacobs Senior Vice President and Jacobs Global Head of Safety Catriona Schmolke; Dr Sharon McGuinness, CEO of the Health and Safety Authority; Steve Hails, Director of Business Services & HSW, Tideway; Jacobs Vice President and General Manager Micheál O'Connor and Tom Parsons, Jacobs Culture Manager Europe.