

Announcement of the Winners of the Ireland France Business Awards 2016

NetworkIreland and the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the winners of the Ireland France Annual Business Awards 2016.

The Jury was chaired by Gerry Halpenny, Senior Partner, LK Shields and composed of Sinéad Lonergan (Director France, Enterprise Ireland), Sebastien Carbon (Deputy Managing Director UK & Ireland, Ubifrance), Rory McNeill (Marketing Procurement and Communications Director, CRH), Gisele Hivert-Messeca (Directrice Ubifrance Irlande), Pierre Mongrué (Chef du Service Economique, l'Ambassade de France en Irlande), Jim Rice (Chartered Engineer & Business Consultant), Niamh Breslin (IDA Europe), and Anne Marie Ronayne, (MD Terra Connecta).

The Jury was very impressed by the quality of this year's entrants, and also by the number of applications submitted.

The Jury has selected **Grassland Agro** as the Best French Company in Ireland. Grassland Agro was created by the merger of the giant French Agro supplies Company Group Roullier's Irish Timac business with the Irish owned Grassland Fertilizers Company in January 2013.

Grassland Agro supplies a complete range of specially blended commodity fertilisers (approximately 25% national market share all of which came with the Grassland Fertilizer business) in addition to the new Group Roullier's full range of high performance products for the Animal, Soil, Fertiliser and Dairy Hygiene sectors. Turnover has grown to over €120m in 2015 while employee numbers in Ireland have increased to 100. Grassland Fertilizers was founded in 1965 by a number of likeminded Irish Agri supplies businessman to provide agricultural fertilizer to Irish farmers via the Merchant and Co-op trade. Liam Woulfe led the buyout of this business from Greencore Plc in 2002 and since then the turnover has doubled.

Groupe Roullier was founded in St Malo, Brittany, France by Mr Daniel Roullier in 1959 to provide scientifically proven enhanced fertilisation and soil conditioning products to farmers in France via the Merchant and Co-op trade and today Groupe Roullier is still led by Chairman Mr Roullier who has created businesses in over 40 countries with a total annual turnover of over €3.2bn, c8,000 employees, 350++ Research Engineers and R+D personnel who supply superior performing products across their portfolios of products in Fertilizers, Soil Conditioning, Animal Minerals and Nutrition, medicated Animal bedding treatment, Slurry Enhancing products, Bio stimulants products and the full range of superior dairy hygiene products.

Venn Life Sciences has been awarded the Best Irish Company in France 2016. Venn is a European Contract Research Organisation (CRO), headquartered in Dublin, providing drug development, clinical trial management and resourcing solutions for pharmaceutical, biotechnology, medical device and academic organisations. Venn specialises in the rapid deployment of local teams and the management of multi-site cross cultural clinical trials with unique knowledge of national and EU regulations.

Through the combination of organic growth and acquisition, Venn now has over 200 personnel across Europe and the US, representing a solid base on which to build future growth. The relocation of **Venn's Paris** offices to a central flagship location on the beautiful Boulevard Haussmann unifies a broad spectrum of cross functional research teams further enhancing Venn's full service offering. Venn's French office employs over 50 people including 9 external consultants and the award is welcomed by Venn as recognition of their commitment to growing their business through their excellent people on the ground.

Venn Life Sciences Ireland is a wholly owned subsidiary of Venn Life Sciences Holding PLC. Total Sales for the group calendar year 2015 were €11.5 Mil and total personnel of 200. Sales for Venn France (2015) were €2.1 Million with projected growth to €2.5 Million until December 2016. Venn is listed on the Irish Stock Exchange ISE (VENN) and UK stock exchange AIM (VENN) which has enabled us to expand and facilitate future growth.

ECOCEM has won the special award for Impact on Climate Change

Founded in 2000 by Donal O'Riain, ECOCEM Materials Ltd. is an Irish company which has two production facilities in Northern Europe and in Ireland and one in France at Fos-sur-Mer, near their raw material supplier ArcelorMittal Mediterranean, and near one of the biggest ports in France.

The ECOCEM group is the leading producer of GGBS (Ground Granulated Blast-furnace Slag) in Europe. The product is sold and marketed as ECOCEM, environmentally friendly cement. Used in concrete, it helps to produce low carbon concrete.

The cement sector is the most polluting manufacturing sector in the world, generating 5% of worldwide CO2 emissions. ECOCEM is the only cement company in Europe exclusively dedicated to the exclusive use of low carbon cement technology. ECOCEM invest 2.5% of their turnover in Technical Innovation which enables them to develop new markets and specialist applications throughout Europe.

ECOCEM is recognised as a pioneer in the promotion of sustainable construction and the circular economy in Ireland and in France.

These awards recognise the contribution of three successful companies to the development of trade and investment between Ireland and France.

The Jury commended the high quality of the candidates which included runners-up Amarenco, Carbon Crowley, Greenval Insurance, Sogeti and Veolia.

The winners will receive their Awards at a ceremony and Gala Dinner on **24th November** at the **Royal Hospital Kilmainham in Dublin**. Contact Marie (info@franceireland.ie) to register.

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