



Next Generation Construction of Capital Assets in Ireland

Increasing innovation in the Irish construction sector will be more necessary than ever over the coming years in order to deliver on the ambitions set out in the Government's Project Ireland 2040 investment strategy.

To support the industry in grasping this opportunity, an Innovation and Digital Adoption Team has been established by industry and government in order to deliver on the seven priority actions identified in the Construction Sector Group – Building Innovation report over the coming period.

These actions have been informed by research carried out by KPMG and Future Analytic Consulting and peer reviewed by Technological University Dublin. The work drew upon a wide-ranging survey and consultation, international benchmarking process and an economic analysis of causes of productivity trends in the construction sector in Ireland.

The priority actions are as follows



The integrated delivery of all seven of these actions will contribute to a more competitive, dynamic and sustainable construction sector to deliver the new social, economic and climate infrastructure required by Ireland in the future.

Build Digital

- The Build Digital Project will be one of the leading actions as part of this strategy.
- To this end and as part of its role in driving the delivery of Project Ireland 2040, the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform is launching a competitive challenge-based grant call on 16th December 2020 to deliver the Build Digital Project.
- Expressions of Interest must be submitted to DPER by 15th January 2021 and full applications by 15th February 2021.
- The Build Digital Project will aim to ensure that world class digital practices, which already exist in certain elements in the construction sector, are adopted throughout the industry and supply chain in order to achieve a more sustainable and innovative sector from top to bottom.

- The project will achieve this goal by providing guidance and leadership on the necessary digital tools, standards, approaches and training required by all across the sector, in particular with small and medium sized firms who may have yet to realise the full benefits of digital approaches.
- Applications are being sought from multi-partner consortia, for example collaborations between higher education institutions (HEIs), companies and/or other Research Performing Organisations (RPOs).
- One successful application will be selected in March 2021 based on the prescribed criteria.

- The successful bidder will be eligible to draw down public grant funding of up to €500,000 per annum for a total of five years, subject to meeting the requirements of the grant agreement.
- There will be significant opportunities for industry participation and cooperation in the Build Digital Project, as well as the need for the public funding to be supplemented by industry funding.