

Interchange Upgrade



As part of the upgrade of the M50 / M1 interchange, a steel beam was placed over the M1 during the week of 8 June. The beams, which are 42 metres in length and weigh 68 tonnes for each pair, are part of a high level bridge over the M1. Atkins Ireland is the designer of the Interchange and when completed in 2010 it will be used by over 100,000 vehicles each day. The upgrade of the M50/M1 Interchange includes two new high level bridges over the M1 and the existing roundabout to allow traffic to travel non-stop between the M50 and the Dublin Port Tunnel without being delayed at the roundabout.

Planning Permissions Extended in New Legislation

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Bill 2009 will allow local authorities to give planning applicants an extension on the time limit attached to planning applications.

Under existing legislation, applications have a shelf life of five years. Regardless of the time and expense involved in producing a plan and getting it through local authority and An Bord Pleanála planning processes, once the five years is past a developer must reapply for permission if they decide to go

ahead with the development.

Under section 23 of the new Bill if 'the authority is satisfied that there were considerations of a commercial, economic or technical nature beyond the control of the applicant, which substantially militated against either the commencement of development or the carrying out of substantial works pursuant to the planning permission, the council may extend the timeframe of the planning permission by a period in time up to five years at their discretion'.

If introduced, the legislation means that developments such as that planned for the Burlington Hotel in Dublin may come to fruition when the economy has recovered. The €1bn redevelopment plan for the hotel was shelved by Bernard McNamara this month for at least five years.

Glasbay, a company controlled by Bernard McNamara, recently secured planning permission for a mixed use scheme.

Bovis Lend Lease in Life Sciences Industry Partnership

Management and technology consultancy, BearingPoint and consulting, project management and construction company, Bovis Lend Lease have formed a strategic partnership in Ireland to support the pharmaceutical and medical technology sectors.

Between them, the two companies employ over 200 people locally in Ireland with global experience in the life sciences sector. They work for 18 of the top 20 life sciences organisations globally.

Mark McAleer, senior manager, BearingPoint, says that BearingPoint's management and technology experience will complement the site master planning, construction, commissioning, validation, IT and automation skills of Bovis Lend Lease to address the needs of the Irish life sciences sector.

'Many companies have adopted new technology to improve performance within their business,' says Jason Hier, director, Bovis Lend Lease. 'However, this technology needs to deliver meaningful business value across all functional areas, from the executive boardroom to the plant shop floor. Such business value can only be realised when technology projects are completed within the framework of technology-enabled business transformation programs. The industry continues to face enormous challenges and changes, which is driving technology to reduce costs and support both new business models and regulatory requirements.'

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