

# it@cork Appoints a Senior Cluster Manager



IN response to an expanding membership base of technology companies in the south west region, it@cork appointed Eoghan O'Mahony to the full-time role of Senior Cluster Manager in July 2018. Speaking on his recent appointment, O'Mahony commented:

*"The concept of managing business clusters has been around for many years but it is still relatively new to the Irish technology sector. Essentially, a business cluster*

years ago, it@cork has grown from strength to strength. The mission of the association is to encourage collaboration and innovation between members; to advocate and lead on issues affecting the industry and ultimately, to enable the growth and development of the tech cluster in the south west.

The association manages the 'Skillnet' program for the ICT sector in the region with over 1,200 employees participating on their courses since 2014. it@cork also runs a series of technology events throughout the year including the TechSummit, Diversity in Tech and Tech Leaders



Eoghan O'Mahony; Senior Cluster Manager it@cork.

such as the talent shortage'. The cluster manager role also involves developing relationships and linkages with other world class tech-

reputation as a world class destination for technology companies to establish and grow their business'

#### Leaders Awards:

A key event in the it@cork calendar is the annual 'Leaders Awards'. The Awards, which are in their 12th year, are now open to applicants, with judging to take place in early October. It will culminate in a gala prize giving ceremony to be held at the Rochestown Park Hotel on October 19th.

Speaking at the launch Caroline O'Driscoll, Tax Partner KPMG and Chairperson of it@cork, said: 'I have been involved in these awards for a number of years and every year the volume and the calibre of applicants is growing. This is a testament to the thriving ICT cluster which has developed in the region, playing strongly in areas such as Cyber Security, Cloud, Data Analytics, SaaS and IOT. We would encourage all parties involved and interested in the ICT sector to get involved and nominate worthy companies and individuals'.

There are 7 different awards categories including 'tech start-up of the year', 'large company of the year' and 'excellence in education' with an overall prize for 'Tech person (s)' of the year, which was won by Peter Coppinger and Daniel Mackey of Teamwork.com in 2017. You can nominate companies/individuals for the 2018 'Leaders Awards' at: [www.itcork.ie](http://www.itcork.ie).



Peter Coppinger;  
Teamwork;  
John Drury;  
Smarttech247,  
Caroline  
O'Driscoll;  
Chairperson it@cork, Eoghan  
O'Mahony; Senior  
Cluster Manager  
it@cork.

operates where companies from a similar sector are attracted to one particular region in order to benefit from advantages such as access to a skilled talent pool, 3<sup>rd</sup> level expertise, innovation collaboration and informal networks. The tech sector and in particular sub sectors like cyber security and cloud computing have evolved in the Cork region in this manner'.

it@cork is a not for profit body which represents more than 200 companies working within the south west tech sector. Members include start-ups, SMEs and MNCs, including Carefolk, Smarttech, Fexco, Blizzard, Poppulo and Dell EMC. Founded over 20

Awards. In total, over 3,000 attend their series of tech events annually.

O'Mahony believes that a culture of collaboration is the regions key strength:

*"The tech sector in the south west is well placed to capitalise on opportunities and meet challenges head on, largely due to the willingness and openness of stakeholders within the ICT ecosystem to collaborate with each other. These stakeholders include industry, City and County councils, third level institutions such as UCC/CIT and support agencies such as EI, IDA and CorkBIC. This is a major advantage that favours Cork when tackling key strategic challenges for the industry,*

nology clusters in Europe with the support of the EU Commission.

*"The EU Commission plays a crucial role in facilitating the development of successful business clusters in Europe. According to the EU Commission, there are over 2,000 business clusters in Europe but approx. only 20 of these are world class and accredited tech clusters. It is the goal of it@cork to develop linkages with these world class ICT clusters and learn from their successes"*

*"It is also our goal to become a world class technology cluster that is accredited by the EU commission within 3 years. Achieving this accreditation will enhance Cork and the south west's*