

# 2024 National Project Awards

Event Programme | 14th November 2024

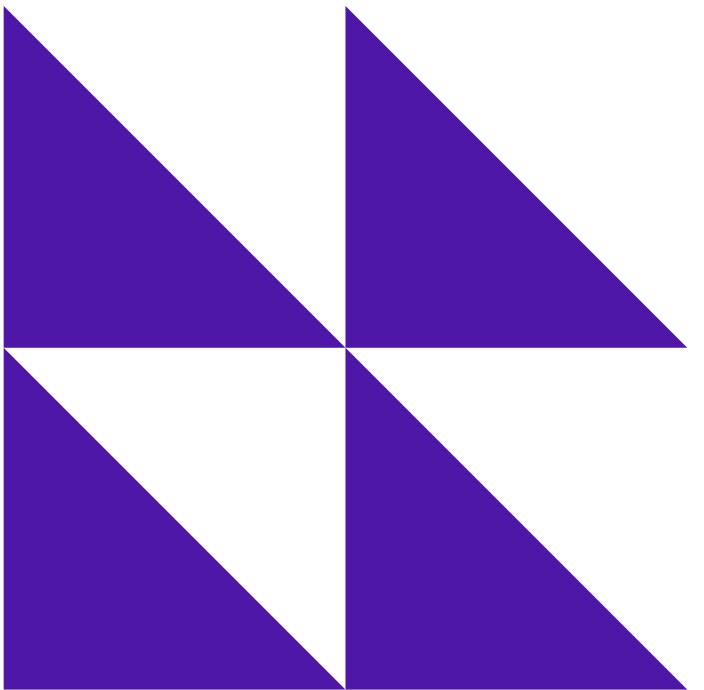
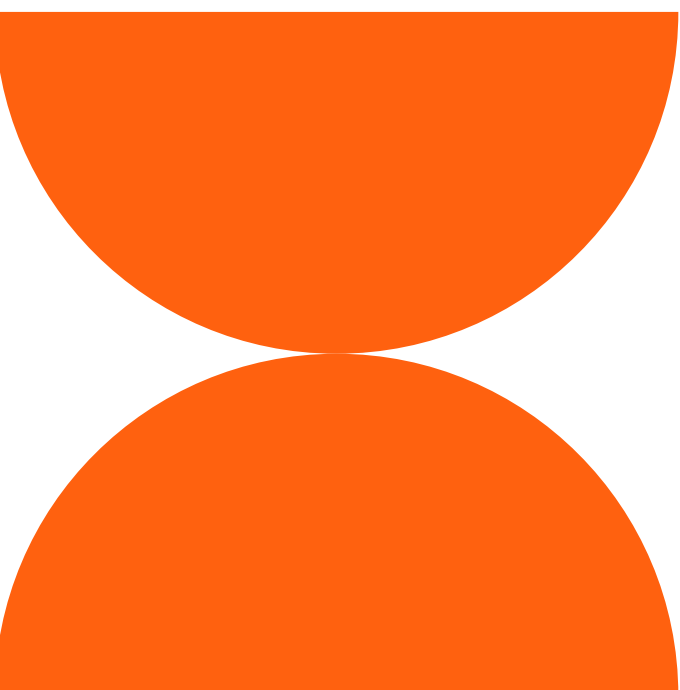
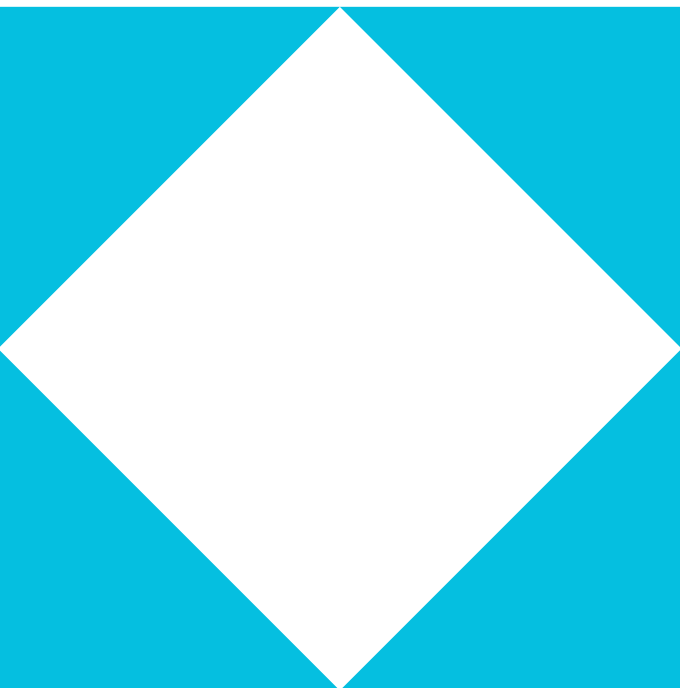
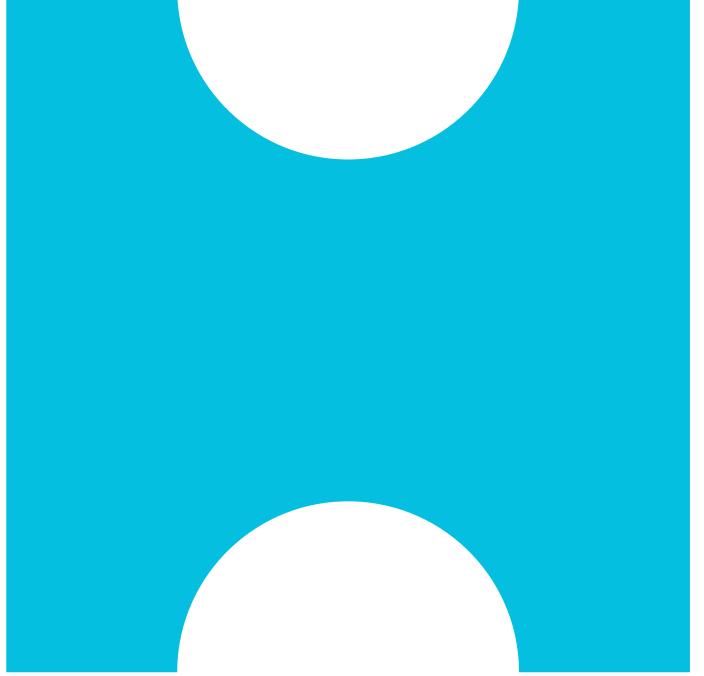


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# 2024 National Project Awards

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# Welcome from Ireland Chapter of PMI



**Peter Glynn**  
President  
Ireland Chapter of PMI

We are delighted that the National Project Awards is now in its eight year and firmly established as one of Ireland's premier events across the profession. It is great to recognise outstanding project success and exceptional talent across Ireland, year on year. Each finalist is a winner, and we are thrilled with the response to this year's awards; the highest number of submissions in the last eight years.

It is fantastic to see the breadth and scale of change being delivered across Ireland and great to see project management contributing so strongly to the success of organisations across the country. Ireland 2040 continues to be a major priority for the Government and AI is changing the business landscape at an ever-faster pace. Healthcare, Financial Services, Pharma, Government, Construction and so many other sectors are leading the change to secure Ireland's continued success in the future.

We have an expanded number of categories this year with the Under 35 Changemakers, Healthcare & Medical

Devices and Sustainability all adding to the existing seven main categories from last year. We are delighted with the introduction of the Under 35 Changemakers group recognising outstanding Irish talent in leading change. This year we have five fantastic individuals who have achieved so much at this stage in their career adding to Sinead Gallagher's PMI Rising Leader Award on the global stage. Overall, the eleven award categories in this year's National Project Awards recognise and celebrate the best of Irish talent in project management.

We would like to thank all our sponsors who without their support the awards would not be possible. This includes PwC, Expleo, Emagine, Saros Consulting, Velopi, Morgan McKinley, Cornmarket and the Irish Emergency Alliance. The Ireland Chapter wishes all of our finalists every success.

We hope that you thoroughly enjoy the evening and join in the celebrations of outstanding achievement.



**Daniel Eagling**  
Vice-President  
Ireland Chapter of PMI

## Welcome from PwC: Headline Sponsor



**Keiran Barbalich**  
Partner, Portfolio  
and Programme  
Management Lead  
PwC Ireland

PwC Ireland is delighted to support the Irish Chapter of the PMI in hosting the prestigious National Project Management Awards for the eighth year running. This year, as always, we have a superb shortlist of fantastic projects across a wide range of sectors, including public, healthcare, pharma, not-for-profit, technology, media and telecommunications, automotive and retail.

As businesses continue to grapple with a range of significant challenges and uncertainties in our economic and geopolitical landscape, project managers play an increasingly crucial role in instigating and executing change in organisations and businesses here in Ireland. Our PwC 2024 CEO survey revealed that over a quarter of Irish

CEOs do not believe their business will be viable in a decade without reinvention. At the heart of this lies the need to transform by delivering projects and change through innovation, technology and AI. Both the PMI and PwC have placed great emphasis on this area and it is why PwC are delighted to be sponsoring the AI & Technology Project of the Year category this year. Our sponsorship of this category reflects our dedication to advancing the field of project management through cutting-edge technology.

Congratulations to each and every one of you here this evening. You and your teams have all achieved tremendous success and very well done in being a finalist. We hope that you enjoy a great evening of fun, celebration and networking.

# Schedule for the Evening

<b>Dress Code</b>	Black-tie
<b>Time</b>	5:15pm drinks reception and photographs
<b>Event</b>	6:45pm everyone seated for dinner
<b>Introduction</b>	Ivan Yates (MC)
<b>Welcome</b>	Keiran Barbalich, PwC Peter Glynne, Ireland Chapter of PMI Presentation of 2 awards <b>Project Management for Social Good Excellence in Innovation Projects of Year</b>
<b>Starter</b>	Followed by presentation of 2 awards <b>Public Sector Project of the Year Private Sector Project of the Year</b>
<b>Main Course</b>	Followed by presentation of 3 awards <b>AI and Technology Project of the Year PMO of the Year Under 35 Changemakers</b>
<b>Dessert/Tea &amp; Coffee</b>	Followed by presentation of 3 awards <b>Project Professional of the Year PMI Ireland Volunteer Award PMI Ireland Special Achievement Award</b>
<b>Close</b>	10:45pm closing address

# Project Management for Social Good Award

Sponsored by Irish  
Emergency Alliance



## The finalists within this category are:

### ActionAid Ireland

#### Together, We Are Stronger

This project was launched to celebrate the contributions of migrants in Ireland and to combat rising xenophobia. The culmination of the project, a three-and-a-half-minute film, showcases a moving rendition of “Danny Boy,” performed by renowned artists Toshin, Jess Kav, and Róisín El Cherif, accompanied by voices of 42 migrants from across Ireland. ActionAid Ireland, an organisation deeply committed to empowering women globally and locally, spearheaded the initiative. Recognising the escalating challenges faced by migrant women in Ireland, who often experience poverty and marginalisation, ActionAid sought to counter the prevailing anti-immigrant narrative. Inspired by the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs’ video for Saint Patrick’s Day 2024, which celebrates the Irish diaspora, ActionAid aimed to mirror this sentiment by honouring Ireland’s migrants. The video poignantly illustrates the myriad ways migrants enrich Irish society, serving as a powerful testament to the nation’s long-standing tradition of Céad Mile Fáilte – one hundred thousand welcomes. This echoes Ireland’s own history, acknowledging the warm reception afforded to Irish emigrants in various nations across the globe.

### CRANN Support Group

#### Social Enterprise Project for CRANN Support Group

Team Impact from Trinity MBA partnered with CRANN Support Group after recognising the need for community organisations to effectively demonstrate their impact beyond mere numbers. CRANN, a vital network supporting community childcare and social inclusion, lacked a robust system to measure its social impact. Team Impact designed a comprehensive, three-tiered KPI framework tailored to CRANN’s needs. This framework tracks and measures the effectiveness of CRANN’s services across three levels: operational impact, service delivery improvements within member organisations, and the ultimate social benefits experienced by the community.

The solution includes a user-friendly survey methodology for continuous feedback, a simple formula for quantifying social impact, and a

strategic roadmap for implementation. By focusing on operational efficiency and service quality, CRANN can now leverage real-time data to make informed decisions, enhance service delivery, and demonstrate tangible benefits to attract crucial funding and support. This partnership exemplifies how strategic collaborations can empower community organisations to effectively measure and showcase their invaluable contributions to society.

### Deloitte

#### Impact Week

Deloitte, driven by a global social impact strategy to empower 100 million people by 2030, has integrated social impact into its core operations. Impact Week, the firm’s annual flagship initiative, exemplifies this commitment by dedicating employee time and expertise to support charities and non-profit organisations. Evolving from a single ‘Impact Day’ to a week-long immersive experience, Impact Week has embraced a multifaceted approach, encompassing webinars, workshops, and consultancy sessions aligned with Deloitte professionals’ skills.

In 2023, Impact Week featured a diverse range of initiatives:

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Ten expert-led webinars tailored to the charity sector, covering topics like Gender Pay Gap Reporting, AI, and Leadership.
- **Skills-Based Volunteering:** Nine projects delivered by multi-disciplinary teams, providing charities with support on leadership strategy and communication.
- **Community Engagement:** Volunteering projects conducted nationally, supporting charities and schools.
- **Educational Outreach:** A workshop for guidance counsellors offering insights into early career paths at Deloitte.
- **Fundraising Initiatives:** A “Shine A Light” event for Focus Ireland, an organisation that works to prevent homelessness.

Deloitte’s 2023 Impact Week impacted 130 lives, with 191 volunteers contributing an estimated €128,000 through their time. This initiative showcases Deloitte’s commitment to driving positive social change and empowering communities.



# Excellence In Innovation Projects of the Year

Sponsored by  
Cornmarket



## The finalists within this category are:

### **Cork University Dental School and Hospital** **EPR Project**

While a visit to the dentist might not be everyone's favourite activity, the importance of oral healthcare is undeniable. Behind the scenes of a typical dental surgery, a dedicated team works to provide essential care, and it's likely that some of these professionals began their journey at Cork University Dental School and Hospital (CUDSH).

In 2020, CUDSH embarked on a transformative journey with the implementation of an Electronic Patient Record (EPR) system. The EPR system replaced legacy systems with a centralised platform for managing all patient records, hospital processes, and student assessments. This comprehensive solution incorporated practice management software, seamlessly integrating functions such as radiology, referrals, and lab requests.

The benefits were significant. Within the first year, paper costs were reduced by €18,000, administrative staff efficiency increased by 50%, and patient and student satisfaction soared. Storage costs decreased, revenue grew, and CUDSH established a pioneering digital reference set for dentistry, the first of its kind in Ireland.

### **Teagasc – The Agriculture and Food Development Authority** **The Development, Launch and Implementation of Teagasc's Climate Action Strategy 2022-2030**

To meet Ireland's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 51% by 2030, Teagasc developed a Climate Action Strategy. A dedicated Project Management Office (PMO) was established in June 2022 to oversee the strategy's development and launch.

The strategy focuses on three key areas:

- ▶ **Signpost Advisory Programme:** Helps farmers understand and reduce their emissions.
- ▶ **Sustainability Digital Platform:** Allows farmers to track emissions and develop sustainability plans.
- ▶ **Climate Centre for Research and Innovation:** Develops new climate-related technologies.

Through careful planning and collaboration, Teagasc launched this strategy to equip farmers with the tools and knowledge needed to reduce emissions while maintaining profitability. This initiative demonstrates the importance of project management in creating sustainable agricultural solutions.

### **Health Service Executive, HSE** **Enhanced Community Care**

The HSE's Enhanced Community Care (ECC) Programme has transformed Irish healthcare, leading the shift from hospital to community-based care. Aligned with the government's Sláintecare policy, ECC has dramatically reduced unnecessary hospital admissions, enabling individuals to receive treatment closer to home.

This transformation has been driven by the mobilisation of over 2,800 healthcare professionals, forming 96 Community Healthcare Network Teams, 30 Community Specialist Teams for Older People, and 30 specialist teams for Chronic Disease. The establishment of these integrated teams has yielded significant benefits, proactively reducing waiting lists and times, and minimising the risk of readmission for high-risk patients. This approach has alleviated pressure on hospitals while ensuring that complex patient needs are met within their communities.

By implementing new ways of working and transitioning to a multidisciplinary, patient-centred model, ECC is redefining how healthcare is accessed and delivered in Ireland, paving the way for a more equitable and accessible healthcare system.

# Public Sector Project of the Year

Sponsored by  
Saros Consulting



## The finalists within this category are:

### An Post

#### Enhanced Route Redesign – TOM

An Post, facing operational challenges due to outdated route design processes, embarked on a transformative Route Design Project. This initiative streamlined operations by integrating three key streams: Data, Infrastructure, and Route Implementation.

The Data stream unified all relevant data into a central warehouse, providing a single source of truth for decision-making. The Infrastructure stream upgraded GeoRoute technology, introducing advanced route optimisation capabilities and scalable modelling for various transport modes. The Route Implementation stream ensured effective deployment of route improvements, with real-time performance tracking through custom dashboards and KPIs.

This comprehensive approach yielded dynamic and scalable route designs, adaptable to evolving business needs. As a result, An Post achieved enhanced agility, increased efficiency, and reduced costs, enabling the organisation to maintain its competitive edge while fulfilling its universal service obligation across Ireland's diverse geography.

### Health Service Executive, HSE

#### The Cork University Hospital / Mercy University Hospital Paediatric Reconfiguration Project

Driven by a vision to enhance paediatric healthcare in the Cork region, Cork University Hospital (CUH) and Mercy University Hospital (MUH) embarked on the Paediatric Reconfiguration project. This initiative aimed to centralise all paediatric services at CUH, ensuring that children receive the best possible care in a single, state-of-the-art facility. As of June 2024, this vision became reality. All paediatric services were seamlessly transferred from MUH to CUH. This strategic consolidation ensures that children under 16 receive the highest quality of care in a purpose-built environment.

The newly established paediatric service at CUH features a dedicated Paediatric Emergency Department, additional general paediatric beds, and a specialised unit for haematology/

oncology patients. This centralisation brings together the combined expertise and resources of both hospitals, providing comprehensive care under one roof.

The new facility boasts single en-suite isolation rooms and advanced paediatric subspecialty services, ensuring that children receive top-tier medical attention. This transformative project represents a significant advancement in paediatric healthcare, offering a brighter and healthier future for the children of the Cork region.

### Department of Foreign Affairs Digital Ireland House

Embracing international best practices and echoing the vision of the Government's Global Ireland 2025 initiative, Ireland has embraced a unified approach to its international communications and digital footprint. This strategic endeavour has culminated in the creation of a compelling online presence that embodies the values and characteristics of Ireland, complementing the expertise of State agencies and diplomatic missions worldwide.

Mirroring the physical "Ireland House" model, this initiative brings together Team Ireland under a single virtual roof – Ireland.ie. This digital hub serves as a central source of information on the Government's international engagement, seamlessly connecting users to Irish embassies and agencies abroad.

Through Ireland.ie, targeted international audiences can explore a wealth of stimulating and informative content on tourism, trade, education, culture, the diaspora, foreign policy, and international development priorities. Irish citizens abroad also benefit from a single point of access to essential services, including consular assistance and travel advice.

Developed as a multi-tenancy "Digital Ireland House" hosted within the Office of the Government Chief Information Officer's infrastructure, Ireland.ie comprises over 100 microsites. Since its official launch in October 2023, the platform has attracted significant engagement, with 6.3 million visitors and 32 million page views, solidifying its role as a dynamic digital gateway to Ireland.



# Private Sector Project of the Year

Sponsored by Expleo

The finalists within this category are:

( expleo )

## Primark

### Next Generation Global WAN Solution

In the fiercely competitive retail landscape, Primark recognised the critical dependence of seamless customer experiences and operational efficiency on a robust and reliable network infrastructure. However, its legacy network, plagued by high costs, complexity, and inconsistent performance across its global footprint, was hindering its ability to excel.

To address these challenges, Primark embarked on a strategic initiative in 2022 to modernise its network. Following a rigorous market evaluation and procurement process, a new Global WAN partner was selected, and a leading Software-Defined Wide Area Network (SDWAN) solution was chosen to empower Primark's future growth.

This transformative project involved a phased migration from the legacy WAN service to the cutting-edge SDWAN solution, encompassing 438 sites, including data centres, stores, offices, and depots, over a 24-month period.

The implementation of SDWAN has begun to revolutionise Primark's network, delivering a cost-effective, secure, and scalable solution that optimises bandwidth, reduces latency, and ensures high availability. This technology has enabled Primark to prioritise critical retail applications, enhance security, and adapt swiftly to evolving business needs.

By embracing SDWAN, Primark has elevated the customer experience, driven sales, and optimised operational costs, positioning the organisation for continued success and digital transformation in the dynamic retail industry.

## RWA Automotive

### Business Intelligence Solution for Automotive Industry

Real World Analytics (RWA), a Dublin-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) data analytics company founded in 2013, initially focused on providing actionable insights for pharmacy retailers. However, between 2020 and 2024, RWA embarked on a new venture: launching its innovative product into the automotive retail sector.

Recognising the challenges faced by automotive dealer groups in consolidating data from multiple transactional systems, RWA developed a SaaS business intelligence solution with pre-built data pipelines that integrate with disparate systems across the sector. This powerful tool visualises key business drivers, provides actionable insights to predict outcomes, and benchmarks groups against each other.

The successful launch of this product into the automotive sector has fuelled significant growth for RWA. The company has created 20 new permanent jobs, predominantly in Ireland, and achieved a recurring revenue of nearly €2 million, growing at an impressive 50% per annum. This success has also driven a new business valuation of approximately €10 million.

RWA's solution empowers clients with a unified view of their data, enabling them to make informed decisions and optimise performance. For example, the John Clark Motor Group boosted profits by £1.5 million after adopting the product, while Steven Eagell added £3 million to their used car profits by leveraging RWA's insights to refine pricing strategies. This demonstrates the transformative impact of RWA's data-driven solutions in the automotive retail industry.

# AI & Technology Project of the Year

Sponsored by PwC



## The finalists within this category are:

### HSE, Technology and Transformation

#### Waiting List Batch Suspensions Automation, Galway University Hospital

In a pioneering move to enhance efficiency and reduce waiting list numbers, HSE Technology and Transformation partnered with Galway University Hospital (GUH) to deploy Robotic Process Automation (RPA). This initiative targeted a previously manual, time-consuming administrative process related to the National Treatment Purchase Fund (NTPF).

The NTPF regularly provides HSE hospitals with patient details for those whose treatment has been sourced elsewhere. Hospitals then must suspend or remove these patients from their waiting lists, freeing up appointments for others. This task, though essential, was highly repetitive and inefficient.

Through its RPA Centre of Excellence, HSE Technology and Transformation introduced “Ruadhan,” a digital assistant or robot, to GUH. Ruadhan was meticulously trained to replicate the manual steps previously performed by the hospital’s Scheduled Care team. The robot seamlessly interacts with the Patient Management System, identifies patients based on NTPF data, and accurately updates their waiting list status.

The successful deployment of this RPA solution at GUH has yielded significant benefits, prompting HSE leadership to request an accelerated rollout to hospitals nationwide throughout 2024. This initiative exemplifies the transformative potential of RPA in streamlining healthcare processes, optimising resource allocation, and ultimately improving patient care.

### Galvia

#### Safeguarding Project Success with AI for NTT DATA Business Solutions

To navigate the complexities of managing a vast portfolio of client projects, NTT DATA Business Solutions, a global leader in IT services, partnered with Galvia, a Galway-based provider of advanced analytics solutions. With thousands of projects running concurrently across diverse industries, NTT DATA needed a solution to gain critical insights into potential risks and identify early warning signs.

Galvia’s machine learning and predictive analytics platform provided the answer. By analysing historical project data, the platform identified patterns and forecasted risks with unprecedented accuracy, empowering NTT DATA to proactively mitigate challenges and ensure project success. This collaboration has set a new standard in decision intelligence and AI-driven project management, enabling NTT DATA to deliver exceptional client satisfaction.

# PMO Of The Year

Sponsored by Velopi



## The finalists within this category are:

### LinkedIn

#### Project Delivery Optimisation (PDO) at LinkedIn Design&Build

Established in 2018, LinkedIn's PMO team, or 'Project Delivery Optimisation' (PDO) team, based in Dublin, has played a pivotal role in streamlining the global Capital Projects Portfolio for LinkedIn's Design & Build team. Comprising PMP-certified professionals and PMI members, the PDO team enhances project efficiencies by implementing standardised processes and creating bandwidth for LinkedIn's global delivery teams, including Project Managers, Design Managers, Technical Program Managers, and the Sustainability & Engineering team.

This centralised support function provides expert guidance to both internal and external stakeholders on capital projects exceeding USD \$150 million per year. PDO's collaborative approach fosters close working relationships with the Design & Build team and the broader Global Workplace team, ensuring alignment and consistency in project execution across LinkedIn's global portfolio.

Beyond optimising project outcomes, the PDO team contributes to LinkedIn's overall strategic goals, providing high-level reporting to leadership in the United States. This dedicated team exemplifies the value of centralised project management expertise in driving efficiency, consistency, and strategic alignment across a global organisation.

### Aerogen

#### Aerogen PMO

Aerogen, a Galway-based global leader in acute care aerosol drug delivery, has treated over 20 million patients in 75 countries. At the heart of this success story lies its dynamic PMO, established in 2021. Comprising over 20 project professionals, including Directors of Strategic Programs, Program Managers, Project Managers, and Project Engineers, the PMO drives project excellence across Aerogen's diverse business units.

Initially focused on portfolio enablement, strategic project leadership, and organisational alignment, the PMO's remit has expanded significantly. It now encompasses People & Organisational Development, leading projects

to evolve business culture and practices, as well as Quality & Compliance and Operations-Engineering focused projects. This expansion reflects the PMO's growing influence and its contribution to Aerogen's continued success. With a portfolio of 50+ projects annually, the PMO's expertise is critical in ensuring that Aerogen's cutting-edge technology reaches patients worldwide. The recent establishment of Aerogen Pharma, a clinical-stage pharmaceutical company, has further broadened the PMO's scope, encompassing technology development, supply chain, business digitalisation, and electronic quality management system programs. The Aerogen PMO exemplifies the strategic value of project management in driving innovation and growth within the healthcare industry.

### Johnson & Johnson

#### Johnson & Johnson Vision Care PMO

The Vision Care PMO, based in Limerick, has established itself as a cornerstone of the organisation's project success. Its unwavering commitment to strategic alignment, robust governance, talent development, proactive risk management, and continuous improvement has driven exceptional results, contributing significantly to the organisation's growth and overall achievements.

By meticulously aligning project initiatives with business outcomes, the PMO ensures that every project delivers tangible value and contributes directly to the organisation's success. A comprehensive governance structure and a proven project delivery framework provide the foundation for efficient project management, effective risk mitigation, and stakeholder engagement throughout the project lifecycle.

The PMO's dedication to talent development fosters a culture of project management excellence, while its proactive risk management approach safeguards projects from potential disruptions. Furthermore, the PMO champions continuous process improvement, regularly evaluating and refining its practices to ensure efficiency, adaptability, and alignment with industry best practices. This commitment to excellence has solidified the Vision Care PMO's reputation as a driving force behind successful project delivery and organisational growth.

# Under 35 Changemakers

Sponsored by Ireland  
Chapter of PMI



## The finalists within this category are:

**The Under 35 Changemaker Award gathers and celebrates the rising leaders across Ireland, those who make ideas a reality, who inspire others, who lead change, who rethink and reimagine the world. So that everyone can live in greener towns and cities with more connected communities. That all can benefit from sustainable innovations and find solutions to global challenges. There are five exceptional leaders in the 2024 award group. They are:**

### Laura McDermott CEO, Colectivo

Laura is passionate about designing sustainable innovations, impact experiences and educational programmes. From 2015–2022, Laura worked in Spain in the spaces of Education and Global Social Impact. During her time there, she held roles such as Director of Academic Experience and Innovation at IE Business School, Adjunct Professor of Innovation, Sustainability and Design at IE University and Design Lead in the IE Centre for Social Innovation and Sustainability. In 2022 Laura was named one of the Top 100 Women in Social Enterprise by the Euclid Network, a European Commission supported initiative.

At the heart of her work, Laura leads sustainable innovation projects with a unique behavioural approach, collaborating with educational institutions, startups, and corporates. In 2022, she founded Colectivo, a project-based sustainability consultancy dedicated to driving impactful change. Through Colectivo, Laura connects visionary thinkers and practical innovators with organisations, guiding them towards sustainable models that align with the Triple Transition framework.

Laura graduated top of her class from the Postgraduate Certificate in Climate Entrepreneurship from Trinity Business School, First-Class Honours from the Master in Customer Experience and Innovation from IE Business School, Madrid (Spain). In addition, she holds an Honours Degree in English Studies from Trinity College Dublin (Ireland), an Honours Certificate in Bilingual Education from the International University of Catalunya (Spain) and a Certificate in Data Science and Visualisation for Business from IE Executive Education (Spain).

Laura has published articles in The Beam, GiLE, Global Voices, as well as receiving two awards for her writings on Ethics, Democracy, Mentorship, Innovation, Behavioural Design and Sustainability.

### Kevin Quinlan Data Governance & Quality Lead, ESB

Kevin is the Data Governance and Quality Lead at ESB with over 10 years experience across the energy sector in Ireland. Kevin is engaged with driving effective data management across ESB and ensuring ethical use of data and AI. As a Data Scientist, he has delivered award winning projects and led a team of other data scientists working on various cross-functional, end-to-end deliveries. He holds a BSc Business Information Systems from UCC, a Post Graduate Diploma in Data Analytics from NCI and Post Graduate Diploma in Business Sustainability from TU Dublin, all with first-class honours.

Kevin's notable career achievements include:

- Future IT Leader Award at 2023 CIO Awards
- Analytics Institute Data Practitioner of the Year Finalist 2023
- AI Ireland Young AI Role Model 2022
- Analytics Institute Team of the Year 2022
- Winner of Best Use of RPA & Cognitive Award 2019 by AI Ireland

He has a keen interest in how AI can be used to combat climate change and power the transition to renewable energy, and he explores these topics in his newsletter PlanetAI.

# Under 35 Changemakers

Sponsored by Ireland  
Chapter of PMI



## The finalists within this category are:

### Sean Higgins

#### Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) & Strategy Lead for DAA

Sean is Group ESG Reporting & Strategy Lead for Dublin Airport Authority (DAA) plc with over 8 year's professional experience. He has a proven track record of driving impactful and innovative initiatives across multiple industries, consistently demonstrating expertise in developing and implementing sustainability and ESG strategies that align with corporate goals. Sean has full responsibility for the DAA ESG Strategy and ESG reporting (CSRD). He previously worked within the Deloitte Sustainability Reporting and Strategy team across challenging, exciting, and innovative projects on all aspects of ESG. This included sustainability and decarbonisation within EMEA for both public and private clients. Sean supported a spectrum of offerings ranging from defining sustainability ambition and initiatives to strategy development, value chain analysis, ESG reporting, implementation, KPI's and programme delivery. He also worked with Jacobs within the Major Projects and Programmes division in Dublin as a Sustainability and Project Consultant. Sean holds an MSc in Environmental Sustainability and a BA in Planning, Geography & Environmental Policy, both from UCD. In addition, he holds a certificate in Sustainability Strategy, Risk and Reporting from CAI.

### Rebecca Keenan

#### Global Head of Intelligent Automation Solutions Director, Expleo Group

Rebecca is responsible for the development and delivery of Expleo's intelligent automation capabilities and in 2024 became a Solutions Director. Her team operates a global service offering for clients, built to develop methodologies and best practice approaches to implement and deploy intelligent/AI automation solutions. As a Solutions Director, she specialises in crafting and executing strategic initiatives that drive business growth and operational efficiency. With a focus on innovation and cross-functional collaboration, she has successfully led diverse teams to deliver impactful solutions that align with organisational goals. Her expertise lies in translating complex challenges into actionable strategies, ensuring sustainable success for Expleo's clients. She is widely recognised and a

sought-after speaker who frequently presents at industry conferences, sharing valuable insights and shedding light on the real-world challenges of implementing intelligent, scalable solutions. Rebecca holds a degree in Computer Science and Business from Trinity College Dublin, where she graduated with first-class honours, finishing top of her class. Rebecca is passionate about DE&I in the workplace and as a leader in her sector, often speaks publicly about her experiences and the need for more diversity in technology. She is the winner of the 2024 Women Mean Business (WMB) 'Woman in Technology Award'.

### James Daggard

#### Senior Project Manager, KSN Project Management

James graduated from Loughborough University in July 2019 and specialises in construction project management. He was Site Manager for a main contractor in the UK and Ireland from July 2019 to February 2023, managing construction projects up to €30m. In 2022, he completed the Trinity Business School Emerging Leaders Programme. In 2024 Sean completed a Master's degree in Construction Project Management from Queens University. James joined KSNPM in February 2023 as an Assistant Project Manager, and from the outset, it was clear that he possessed a unique combination of talent, drive, and leadership potential. His rapid ascent to the position of Senior Project Manager within such a short time frame speaks volumes about his capabilities. James has consistently demonstrated a strong application of project management, coupled with a proactive approach to problem-solving and improvement. He has been a passionate advocate for Social Value, emphasising its importance across all KSNPM projects. James has actively integrated Social Value principles into project management practices, ensuring that the work KSNPM does not only meets the needs of clients but also contributes positively to the communities they serve. James has also implemented an innovative digital standard operating procedure for the delivery of 290 Special Educational Needs facilities in schools across Ireland, ensuring project delivery by KSNPM is consistent and high quality. As mentor for the internship programme at KSNPM, James is responsible for managing and overseeing the development and progression of interns at KSNPM.



# Project Professional of the Year

Sponsored by  
Emagine



## The finalists within this category are:

### **Mojtaba Akbari** **Global Transformation Programme Manager at Grouper**

With over 17 years of experience in regulated sectors spanning aviation, insurance, healthcare, and more, Mojtaba is a seasoned leader known for fostering long-term growth, encouraging innovation, and cultivating the next generation of project management professionals. His leadership acumen was vividly demonstrated at a global logistics company, where he was tasked with rescuing a troubled digital transformation project plagued by delays and spiralling costs. Through skillful reorganisation, clear goal setting, and enhanced communication, Mojtaba steered the project back on track.

Mojtaba's commitment to innovation is equally evident. At a rapidly expanding tech startup struggling to manage its growth, he introduced a hybrid project management model, blending Agile and traditional methods to maintain creativity and flexibility. This resulted in a 40% increase in project throughput and a more scalable organisation. Beyond his direct contributions to organisations, Mojtaba actively shares his expertise through workshops and webinars, extending his influence and shaping the broader field of project management. Whether rescuing a failing project or mentoring junior managers, Mojtaba's leadership leaves a lasting legacy of success and innovation.

### **Ian Fitzsimons** **Project Management Consultant at Expleo**

A certified PMP Project Manager and APMG Change Manager with 17 years of experience, Ian has consistently demonstrated exceptional leadership in diverse projects across regulatory change, transformation, new business, and system enhancements. His career, spanning prominent institutions like Deutsche Bank and Bank of New York Mellon, is marked by a pragmatic approach and forward-thinking strategies that have delivered significant value to clients.

In one instance, Ian navigated a complex client migration to a SaaS application, harmonising conflicting priorities among stakeholders and developing an optimal strategy focused on

client needs and maximum value delivery. This achievement was recognised as a best-in-class solution and served as a benchmark for other projects within the organisation. Ian's leadership was further exemplified in the centralisation of a client's global IT plan. Taking the helm of a critical Investment Book of Record implementation project facing challenges due to fragmented oversight, Ian's exceptional performance led to his expanded responsibility for all 11 workstreams. His ability to adapt and implement effective strategies has consistently delivered successful outcomes, establishing him as a trusted leader in the project management community.

### **Rachel Hovenden Keane** **PMO Manager at Cully Automation**

Rachel Hovenden Keane, a distinguished leader and innovator in project management, has consistently driven efficiency and excellence throughout her career, spanning prominent organisations such as Amazon and Maersk Logistics. At Cully Automation, a pioneering water automation company, Rachel was brought in to spearhead the standardisation of their new Project Management Office (PMO) strategy.

Her transformative leadership resulted in a more efficient and cost-effective PMO, significantly enhancing delivery timelines and customer satisfaction. Leveraging her deep understanding of Lean methodologies, Rachel streamlined processes, reduced waste, and optimised resource allocation, creating a PMO that surpasses industry standards.

Rachel's strategic vision and hands-on approach have not only elevated Cully Automation's operational efficiency but also positioned the company as a leader in the water automation sector. Her ability to balance technical demands with the need for standardised, scalable processes has set a new benchmark for project management excellence. Beyond her technical expertise, Rachel is a recognised leader who inspires teams to achieve ambitious goals. Her commitment to continuous improvement and value delivery has left a lasting impact on the organisations she has served, demonstrating the power of strategic, standardised approaches in driving business success.



# Ireland Chapter of PMI Volunteer of the Year Award

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Morgan McKinley



**Morgan  
McKinley**

The PMI Volunteer of the Year award recognises one individual within the Ireland Chapter of PMI who has provided outstanding service, commitment and leadership over the last year. They embody the values of PMI and set an example across the Ireland Chapter for others to follow. A leader amongst peers. The recipient of the award will be announced this evening.

# Ireland Chapter of PMI Special Achievement Award

Sponsored by Ireland  
Chapter of PMI



Ireland Chapter of  
**Project  
Management  
Institute.**

This award recognises an outstanding commitment to the Chapter through exceptional achievement as a volunteer or a leader. It embodies the values of PMI and represents a significant contribution to the success of the Ireland Chapter. The recipient of the award will be announced this evening.

# Thank You

The Ireland Chapter of PMI would like to thank our distinguished judging panels, both the shortlist judges and the finalist judges, for their contribution to the Awards and to thank Donal Twomey from RDJ for providing independent oversight of the judging process.

The individual judges are:

**Donal Twomey**  
**Dina Werstak**  
**Martina Ryan**  
**John Haran**  
**Martin Buckley**  
**Seamus Collins**

**Cleo O'Beirne**  
**James Loutit**  
**Claire Gately**  
**Kieran Heffernan**  
**Mark Banchansky**  
**Aine McCarthy**

**Roy Champ**  
**Katie Kearns**  
**Andrew Kelso**  
**Sophie Quayle**  
**Paula Flanagan**

The Chapter also wishes to acknowledge the gracious contribution and proactive involvement from the sponsors of the National Project Awards, who are demonstrating a real commitment to Project Management in Ireland, namely PwC, our headline sponsor and host, plus our award sponsors:

**Expleo**  
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**Morgan McKinley**  
**Cornmarket**  
**Ireland Chapter of PM**  
**Irish Emergency Alliance**

The Chapter would also like to thank all of the volunteers from across the profession who have made the National 2024 Project Awards possible. Their contribution is invaluable.

Special thanks to the:

## **Ireland Chapter of PMI Awards Committee**

**Jamie O'Toole, Director of National Awards**  
**Avery Allman, National Awards Lead**  
**Sepideh Hooshafza, National Awards Volunteer**  
**Peter Glynne, President**  
**Jonny Mooney, Director of Sponsorship**  
**Sinead Harding, Director of Membership**  
**Ali Erol, Director of Technology**  
**Daniel Eagling, Vice-President**  
**Sinead Gallagher, Director of Marketing**  
**Oleksandra Sira, Deputy Director of Technology**  
**Linda Romeri-McDermot, Director of Finance**

## **PwC Team**

**Keiran Barbalich, Partner, Portfolio and Programme Management Lead**  
**Darren D'Arcy, Director, Portfolio and Programme Management Consulting**  
**Rose Seller, Senior Manager, Portfolio and Programme Management Consulting**  
**Orla Herron, Manager, Clients & Markets**  
**Louise Kearns, Associate, Clients & Markets**

# Your Participation

Thank you for your participation in the National Project Awards. Please consider further involvement with the Ireland Chapter PMI, as a member, a sponsor, or attendee at our National Conference in 2025. Please contact Peter Glynne at [pglynne@pmi-ireland.org](mailto:pglynne@pmi-ireland.org) if you'd like to follow up on any collaboration opportunities with the Ireland Chapter of PMI.

