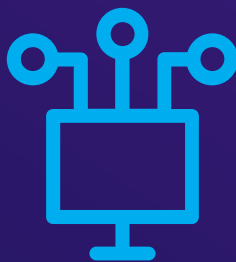
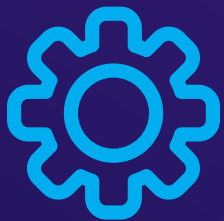


Engineering a better future

# Budget Submission 2024

July 2023



**Engineering  
Industries Ireland**  
Ibec

# About us

Engineering Industries Ireland is the Ibec sector representing the engineering manufacturing and engineering services companies in Ireland. The Association is comprised of over 150 member companies spanning industrial automation, precision engineering, agriculture machinery, material handling, energy and environment, automotive, metal fabrication and processing, paper & print and engineering services.

Established in 2021, Engineering Industries Ireland (an Ibec trade Association) supports the development of the engineering industry both domestically and internationally. Our vision is for Ireland to be a global engineering centre of excellence, where multinationals and home-grown companies collaborate strategically to help companies become more sustainable, innovate, prosper, and drive economic growth.

Ireland's engineering sector is composed of 10,800 individual enterprises, employing over 50,000 people with annual exports of €8.8 billion (representing 3.6% of Ireland's total exports). 65% of these enterprises are indigenous Irish-owned companies.

Engineering Industries Ireland, under the careful stewardship of our Board of industry leaders, brings these discrete engineering subsectors together, into a powerful new advocacy voice for the sector.

Our network is structured around core working groups, taskforces and campaigns, which are the primary enablers of our strategy.

In 2022, we launched our four-year strategy - the main objective of which is for 'Ireland to become a global engineering centre of excellence'. To achieve this objective, Engineering Industries Ireland's work focuses on four key pillars, Innovation, Sustainability, People and Regulation.

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# Executive Summary

Ireland's engineering business sectors are highly integrated in global value chains. In the face of disruption, this globalised business model presents both opportunities and risks for Ireland's engineering enterprises.

Whilst Ireland's economic model remains fundamentally strong, and we undoubtedly retain a demographic competitive edge relative to international peers, challenges and opportunities to our competitiveness remain. Now more than ever, it is imperative Ireland is focussed on enhancing our competitiveness to ensure that our engineering industries can continue to grow at home and compete abroad.

Over the past two years, Engineering businesses have been increasingly focussed on the resilience of their supply chains amidst a range of geopolitical challenges. Today much discussion is concentrated on the complex relationship between climate change and trade.

At a time of high inflation, the government needs to ensure that budget 2024 delivers for business and society. Long term investment is needed for infrastructure matching private sector investment. Sufficient resources are required in the public and private sector to cope with the administrative burden of increased regulation and, to adequately and appropriately support the twin transition, digital and green, leaving little room for unexpected situations.

If 2030 targets on emissions and renewables are to be met additional government investment needs to be channelled urgently into supporting Irish businesses to meet national energy and environmental targets. Decisive action will be essential to support the development and adoption of green technologies, as well as and growing the talent pool of qualified individuals who can deploy these environmentally innovative solutions.

Engineering Industries Ireland members remain committed to providing innovative, high-quality, and safe products that are efficient, affordable, last longer, and are designed for reuse, repair, and high-quality recycling.

Infrastructural constraints are undermining Ireland's current competitiveness performance, with housing supply the most serious of several problem areas. In terms of productivity and export growth, Ireland is dependent on a few foreign-owned multinationals who greatly outperform the domestic engineering firms and leave the economy vulnerable to external shocks in these areas. The Government needs to invest now and support the growth of our innovative indigenous sector.

In this context, the Board of Engineering Industries Ireland have made a range of recommendations to support our strategy, Engineering a better future, for inclusion in Budget 2024.

Pauline O'Flanagan,  
Director, Engineering  
Industries Ireland



Niall Fay,  
Director, Grant Engineering  
Chairman



## Summary of Measures for Budget 2024



**To support competitiveness of engineering business, government should:**

**Measure 1:**

Put in place a State backed export credit insurance scheme and an Export Credit Agency to ensure Irish engineering businesses can compete on a level playing field on the international markets.



**To support the development of an innovation ecosystem for engineering industries and encourage companies to play a leading role in Industry 5.0 and the development of new technologies and sustainable products and processes and services, government should:**

**Measure 2:**

Simplify and improve R&D tax credit scheme to allow engineering firms to participate.

**Measure 3:**

Put in place an accelerated capital allowance scheme to support business for industry 5.0 and digitalisation.



**To support Engineering Industries Ireland ambition to play a leading role in climate change to achieve Ireland's 2030 emissions targets of 51% (from 2018 levels) and in the development of new sustainable products and processes, government should:**

**Measure 4:**

Support the adoption of biofuels to help decarbonise heat and transport sectors.

**Measure 5:**

Increase the support for capital allowance for energy efficient equipment.

**Measure 6:**

Support business decarbonisation through the full roll out of the Microgeneration Support Scheme (MSS) and National Smart Metering Programme (NSMP).

**Measure 7:**

Move quickly to a low carbon economy with investment in the Hydrogen sector.

## Summary of Measures for Budget 2024



**To develop and attract talent to the sector and to foster engagement and lifelong learning, government should:**

**Measure 8:**

Improve gender balance, equity and inclusion in Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education, targeted towards higher percentages of women and under-representation in engineering and technology professions.

**Measure 9:**

Put in place “a fit for purpose” agile Irish employment permit scheme to meet the needs of the present and future labour market.

**Measure 10:**

Secure a sustainable funding model for National Apprenticeship Programme.

**Measure 11:**

Increase the digital literacy and digital learning proficiency of the labour force to enhance labour market performance and agility.



**To encourage and embrace a progressive and value-driven regulatory ecosystem that sustains the evolution of the engineering industries in Ireland, government should:**

**Measure 12:**

Embrace Ireland’s role in EU sustainability and digitalisation regulation, strengthen regulatory capacities and lead on all policy issues at an EU and national level.

**Measure 13:**

Improve the overall business and investment climate by addressing the cumulative regulatory burden, while implementing a comprehensive competitiveness check on all future legislation.

**Measure 14:**

The proposal under REACH, to restrict use of all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the European Union (EU), should be evaluated and considered according to a risk-based approach.

# Industry Outlook

The Ibec Quarterly Economic Outlook Q1 2023, points to some easing of inflationary pressures across the global economy, less volatility in wholesale energy prices and signs that global demand is proving resilient despite sharp increases in interest rates. Ireland's major economic and social challenges within our control continue to be ones of capacity – in housing and broader public infrastructure.

Engineering Industries are committed to providing innovative, high-quality, functional and safe products that are efficient and affordable, last longer, and are designed for reuse, repair, and high quality recycling.

The Irish engineering industries are very dependent on their international trading partners. Supply chain resilience is a top priority for engineering businesses to maintain business continuity and protect their reputation. Our ability to deploy advanced manufacturing technologies rapidly and at scale is critical to its future success and a precondition for Ireland's energy, climate and environmental transition.

Engineering businesses have already faced higher interest rates in Ireland compared to the euroarea average, and these rates could rise further. Faced with more costly financing options and slowing global growth projections, firms may curtail or delay investment decisions.

The Irish labour market will remain tight with a June 2023 unemployment rate of 3.8% and with employment growing strongly, despite challenges in some sectors. Employment figures are strong for most engineering sectors with the greatest skills shortages reported for Welders, Field Service Technicians, Electricians and Engineers.

Most engineering businesses recognise the overwhelming commercial and societal imperative to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and limit their impacts on the environment. These businesses recognise that a business-as-usual approach and a failure to end poor ESG practices like environmental mismanagement, could create financial risks, regulatory burdens, and liabilities in the coming years. Identifying a starting point remains a challenge for most small and medium businesses. High energy prices throughout 2022 has accelerated the conversion by engineering businesses to greener alternative with solar panels the technology of choice.

# Measures for Budget 2024

## Competitiveness

### Support the competitiveness of engineering business.

At the heart of Ireland's national competitiveness is capitalising on cultural advantages and creating an environment in which Irish engineering businesses are able to compete successfully in international markets. As a small open economy, we are particularly vulnerable to external shocks such as pandemics, wars and trade wars. Consequently, we cannot afford to be complacent about our performance and must continuously strive for improvement, so that we remain a highly competitive economy, especially for small and medium enterprises. We need to encourage companies to export and grow beyond the Irish market. Ireland's GDP growth continues to be driven by strong exports of multinational enterprises in a few key sectors, therefore, Ireland should broaden the corporation tax base and support the growth of small medium enterprises to reduce reliance on the tax receipts from the highly concentrated multinational sector. We are also acutely aware of the role the SMEs play in adding value and in job creation and the need for Ireland to remain competitive and remain an attractive place for SMEs and entrepreneurs to establish and grow their own businesses.

#### Measure 1:

### Put in place a State backed export credit insurance scheme and an Export Credit Agency to ensure Irish engineering businesses can compete on a level playing field on the international markets.



With international trade facing many new barriers and previously stable economies looking increasingly risk-sensitive, the lack of an export credit agency is becoming even more of a serious problem for Irish engineering exporters. As the only material EU country that does not have a state-backed export credit insurance or agency, Ireland is putting itself at a competitive disadvantage against other EU competitors that can access such schemes and we are at risk of losing, long established engineering multinationals with a base here. We are also making it more difficult to diversify our economy; more difficult to develop a thriving home-grown green engineering sector, and more difficult to have a thriving sector of exporting SMEs. This is unlikely to cost any significant amount – the UK equivalent has in the last five years supported over £29 billion worth of business transactions with an average claim paid as a proportion of the average amount at risk of only 0.1%, including COVID-19. Total claims paid in their scheme were only £125 million over 5 years and were offset by premia income resulting

in a positive operating surplus. The estimated set up cost is €20 million from the Brexit Adjustment Reserve. We would also encourage flexibility in this area with consideration given to other forms of Credit guarantee such as the availability of Government backed Advance Payment and Performance Guarantees which would serve as credit support to banks which provide Bank Guarantees. These are a common feature of contracts for high value capital equipment export orders for Engineering technology whereby the foreign purchasing company is willing to make an Advance Payment provided they receive an Advance Payment Guarantee and Performance Guarantee. Currently these Guarantees are only available from the exporting company's Bank and the process of getting them approved is very onerous and time consuming. In particular, they are treated by banks as equivalent to an overdraft and rapidly use up an exporter's credit facility headroom. In other countries the Export Credit Agencies have increased the amount of such support for exporters in response to more stringent capital requirements at the banks.





Support the development of conditions for innovation for engineering businesses and encourage companies to play a leading role in the development of new markets, technologies and sustainable products and processes and services. It is widely regarded that most of the growth in Europe's technology industries is stemming from the innovative products, processes and systems developed by companies in the EU and commercialised worldwide. R&D and innovation in the sectors takes many forms: companies can carry out research in-house or through contracted projects, or they can participate in collaborative projects with universities, research institutes or other companies and start-ups or via evolving processes through highperforming team. Engineering Industries Ireland promotes these connections across domains and sectors, as it is the diversity of R&D and innovation strategies that makes for such a rich innovation ecosystem within Ireland and the EU. Ireland also provides a tax credit of 25% of capital and revenue spend on qualifying R&D which is critical to support innovation in the engineering sector. We are living in an age of unparalleled technological disruption and accelerated business transformation. Expected growth is in engineering and industrial technologies with opportunities among companies in industrial automation, circularity, packaging and engineering design and among companies that support digitisation across the wider economy. The renewable energy space will present growth opportunities, as will activities linked to IoT, electrification and connected and autonomous vehicles. The very real threat of climate change around the globe requires flexibility and agility from the Government and the engineering sector, collaborating to reduce the dependency on carbon and manage industry activities in a more sustainable way.

## Measure 2:



### **Improve R&D tax credit scheme to allow smaller firms to participate**

The existing Irish R&D Tax relief scheme has a lot of uncertainty, professional services costs, and administrative burden for SMEs and therefore take up is low. Small companies should be provided with clear simple guidance like the UK's Research and development tax relief for SMEs. The tax treatment is more generous (particularly if you have outsourced your R&D), but the key advantage for small operators is that you only need to file the claim with your tax return and a short form outlining how you qualify. There are no additional record keeping requirements, and you receive 'advanced assurance' for the first three times you claim it. Many engineering SMEs do not have the resources to employ a dedicated R&D team on site unlike larger companies and therefore engage third party expertise to assist with innovation projects. The threshold of €100k for outside contractors is limiting R&D investment and therefore should be increased to €500k for engagement of third-party expertise. For companies with tax losses carried forward, the 25% claim is spread over three years. Consideration should be given to have the full credit refunded in line with the related expenditure. Finally, it is necessary to continually review R&D qualifying activities to ensure they keep pace with ongoing scientific progress.

### Measure 3:

## **Put in place an accelerated capital allowance scheme to support business for industry 5.0 and digitalisation**



Ireland has the second-lowest density of industrial robots in the EU15, despite them being strongly linked with increased productivity. Research has shown that growth in robot density (robots per worker) accounted for about one-sixth of productivity growth between 1993 and 2007. This growth in robot density increased wages significantly and did not hit overall employment. To maintain competitiveness and increase productivity, business needs to accelerate the transition to digitalisation in manufacturing and ensure that all of our critical manufacturing processes and machines are connected. Budget 2024 should put in place an accelerated capital allowances schemes for advanced manufacturing similar to the UK for investments in connected machines advanced automation, robotics and digital technologies in manufacturing to drive digitalisation.



## **Support engineering industries to play a leading role in climate change to achieve Ireland's 2030 emissions targets of 51% (from 2018 levels) and in the development of new sustainable products and processes**

Irish Engineering firms are playing a leading role in climate change to achieve Ireland's 2030 emissions targets of 51% (from 2018 levels) and in the development of new sustainable products and processes. Access to secure, clean and affordable energy is essential for business and the future development of the Irish economy. We are ideally placed to become a major player in the areas of wind-generated electricity and hydrogen and have the natural resources needed to be a major exporter of green energy as well as generating 100% of our own energy requirements. The Government publication in July of the Hydrogen Strategy is welcome to support green energy storage, however we need to accelerate our ambition by setting targets similar to other European countries like Spain, who have plans to have 78 public hydrogen filling stations by 2030 in line with EU's Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulation.

### **Measure 4:**

#### **Support the adoption of biofuels to help decarbonise heat and transport sectors:**



Biofuels will play a critical role in the decarbonisation of energy sectors that cannot easily electrify like HGV transport and aviation. The Biofuel Obligation Scheme (BOS) has proved an enormous success, achieving more than 99% of Ireland's renewable energy share in transport (RES-T) target, removing millions of litres of petrol and diesel from the market each year and is largely unnoticed by end consumers. It offers a relatively low resistance path to decarbonisation without relying on large volumes of individual consumer decisions. However more advanced biofuels like Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) are now needed to overcome technical limits. As more electric vehicles enter circulation, greater volumes of these biofuels can be directed towards those hard to transition sectors. The effectiveness and necessity of biofuels needs greater Government recognition. To support increased local biofuel production and end-user adoption, Government should change the classification of HVO from a substitute fuel to a renewable fuel and extend the diesel rebate scheme to HVO.

## Measure 5:

### **Increase the support for capital allowance for energy efficient equipment**



The accelerated capital allowance for energy-efficient equipment which is due to end in 2023 should be maintained to ensure the uptake of low-carbon technologies. The capital allowances should be increased to a super deduction of 130% of capital outlay including other costs such as retrofitting to bring forward investment in our low carbon future.

## Measure 6:

### **Support business decarbonisation through the full roll out of the Microgeneration Support Scheme (MSS) and National Smart Metering Programme (NSMP):**



Microgeneration provides significant opportunities for homes and businesses to decarbonise energy use and better manage energy costs. The accelerated uptake in microgeneration, especially rooftop solar PV, since the start of 2022 European energy crisis indicates that small scale distributed renewables could play a more significant role in the energy transition than previously expected. Budget 2024 must drive increased uptake through the full roll out of the MSS, the Clean Export Guarantee (CEG), the Clean Export Premium tariff, the NSPM, and ancillary informational supports and resources for end users.

## Measure 7:

### **Move quickly to a low carbon economy with investment in the Hydrogen sector :**



Over the past number of years, there is a rapid development of renewable hydrogen technology globally. Ireland has one of the best offshore wind resources globally and has the potential to develop a decarbonised industrial opportunity in proximity to this resource, and to become a net exporter of renewable hydrogen in the longer term. The recently launched National Hydrogen Strategy is very welcome but without investment and funding commitment, Ireland cannot harness the opportunities and rewards that will come from moving quickly to a low-carbon society. The European Union has invested heavily in supporting hydrogen related research and development initiatives and Ireland needs to leverage these resources and apply them in long term hydrogen research. An immediate focus is required to fix the gaps in regulations, licensing and permitting across the entire hydrogen value chain as well as investment in Hydrogen infrastructure and hydrogen related skills development.



## **Develop and attract talent to the engineering sector and foster engagement and lifelong learning.**

Ireland has an excellent skills base, a first-class education system, a thriving R&D sector, and a track record of bringing innovative products and services to market quickly. However, in the skilled labour market, an overheating of the market can be observed, with lack of specialised or niche skills holding back the upswing of the engineering industries in Ireland. There is also an underrepresentation of certain groups progressing into engineering, particularly females and those from socioeconomically disadvantaged backgrounds. Engineering is a varied, stimulating and rewarding career choice and we need to work harder than ever to ensure that it is accessible for the current and future generations of young people so that we have a diverse and insightful workforce that enables the engineering sector to thrive. We need to work together to foster the critical engineering and technology skills needed for Ireland to be a leader in innovation and improve societal and economic resilience and environmental sustainability. As a small open island economy, our ability to withstand shocks into the future will depend on helping businesses improve productivity and strategically develop talent using innovative learning tools and technologies. Strategic workforce development places businesses ahead of the curve by boosting creativity, ideation and innovation and helps workers adapt to the new world of work by future proofing their skills. If we get this right, we can look forward with renewed confidence.

### Measure 8:



### **Improve gender balance, equity and inclusion in Technology, Engineering and Mathematics education, targeting higher percentages of women and the under-representation in engineering and technology professions.**

Government should accelerate the implementation of the STEM Education Policy Statement 2017-2026 and the Recommendations on Gender Balance in STEM Education in March 2022 which acknowledges that there is an urgent need to increase broader participation in STEM Education and to enhance STEM learning for learners of all backgrounds, abilities and gender, with a particular focus on increasing participation in engineering and technology. The implementation of the recommendations needs to be closely monitored and a review and evaluation process put in place urgently focussing on engineering careers from craft level 6 to Master level supported by the engineering sectors most affected. In addition, a more targeted approach is required to improve the diversity of the engineering workforce both at early-stage and in multi-tracked careers if we are to achieve our ambitious climate targets.

### Measure 9:



## **Put in place “a fit for purpose” agile Irish employment permit scheme to meet the needs of the present and future labour market.**

Engineering industries Ireland welcomes the planned revision of the Employment Permits system and critical skills listing to allow us to compete for global talent, to fill urgent market gaps e.g. engineering, technical welding, fabricating in line with the evolving labour market. We urgently need an agile, responsive employment permit system that can adapt rapidly to changes in Irish labour market to reflect hyper-specialisation and shorter skill life-cycles.

### Measure 10:



## **Secure a sustainable funding model for National Apprenticeship Programme**

A new funding model for apprenticeships must be introduced which allows for long-term strategic development of apprenticeship programmes and supports employer engagement especially for small medium enterprises. There is a striking policy inconsistency between craft apprenticeships and consortia apprenticeships regarding the funding for off the job training and funding to support the management and development of apprenticeship programmes. There is an opportunity to address these concerns by leveraging the surplus of the National Training Fund (NTF).

### Measure 11:



## **Increase the digital literacy and digital learning proficiency of the labour force to enhance labour market performance and agility**

It is now time to invest in digital literacy, digital inclusion, and digital skills. Invest, promote, and provide access to the necessary digital skills that enable organisations especially in manufacturing and individuals to engage and succeed in a more digitalised Ireland. This is imperative if we are to enhance labour market performance.



## **Engineering Industries Ireland seeks to encourage and embrace a progressive and value-driven regulatory ecosystem that sustains the evolution of the engineering industries in Ireland.**

The planned auto enrolment, the living wage, pensions, statutory sick pay, and other leave proposals already announced will add 9% to total labour costs in Ireland over the coming decade. Whilst many of these additions to the so-called Social Wage have merit on their own terms, they come at a time of heightened sector-based regulation for most goods and services supporting the circular transition. Government must intensify work through with sector-based representatives and the Labour Employer Economic Forum to ensure better coordination of policies that can address inflationary pressures in the run-up to Budget 2024. Harmonisation of taxation measures has the potential to reduce pressure on housing provision and attract more part-time workers back into full-time employment yet maintain flexible practices.

### **Measure 12: Embrace Ireland's role in EU sustainability and digital regulation, strengthen regulatory capacities and lead on policy issues at an EU level.**



To support our ambition as a global engineering hub, we should deepen our capacities as a sustainability and digital hub. Ireland should ensure its capacities in the governance of digital and sustainability innovation are adequately resourced to match its role and provide for a responsible and proportionate regulatory environment. Ensure adequate resources are provided for the Data Protection Commission and expected EU regulatory and enforcement requirements for new markets and services.

### **Measure 13: Improve the overall business and investment climate by addressing the cumulative regulatory burden, while implementing a comprehensive competitiveness check on all future legislation.**



As our industries work to absorb an unprecedented number of new legal requirements for products intended to accelerate the Green and Digital transition, greater political attention on preserving the competitiveness of the Ireland's industrial base is needed. This includes ensuring that the implementation of all the new rules that are being put in place is manageable, particularly for smaller companies. A lack of feasibility for data management to meet reporting obligations should not be allowed to become a disincentive for innovation. Poor harmonisation of standards jeopardises manufacturers' competitiveness and can lead to anti-competitiveness based on differing interpretation and applications for example in the proposed Green Claims Directive. It is critical, therefore, that policy makers realistically consider the time required to develop robust standards, allow adequately for transition periods and fully understand the role of the various actors in the implementation chain (standards organisations, manufacturers and market surveillance authorities) in achieving proper implementation.

## Measure 14:



### **The proposal under Reach to restrict use of all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the European Union (EU) should be considered according to a risk-based approach.**

On 7 February 2023, the competent authorities of five countries in the EEA made a proposal under REACH to restrict the use of all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the European Union (EU). This includes fluoropolymers, an important subset of PFAS. The phase-out of fluoropolymers will impact strategic considerations on the global competitiveness of EU industry. Fluoropolymers are used in a wide range of industrial applications including critical applications and are an essential component of many technologies and industrial processes central to the delivery of the Net-Zero Industry Act. The proposed REACH restriction undermines investment decisions and innovation to deliver this objective. Fluoropolymers have been identified as strategic processed materials in a recent report published by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) "Supply chain analysis and material demand forecast in strategic technologies and sectors in the EU – A foresight study". The report highlights the role fluoropolymers play in strategic technologies including fuel cells, electrolyzers, batteries, data transmission networks, energy transmission and distribution, robotics and drones, and details concerns about potential supply chain vulnerabilities. Alongside those technologies, fluoropolymers are an integral element in energy production, transportation, automotive (including e-vehicles), hydrogen, semiconductor, electronics, 5G, medical, clean water, defence & aerospace, and various industrial applications. For your information, by enabling efficiency and supporting safety, fluoropolymers play an important role in supporting economic activity in Irish and European industry and aiding its global competitiveness. For example, just over a billion Euros worth of fluoropolymers are produced in the EU28/EEA, with the value of exports (€550 million) more than twice the sales value of imports (€270 million). While the durability afforded by fluoropolymers (which is vital in many of the applications in which they are used) does mean that they are persistent, unlike other PFAS they do not exhibit hazard end points. They are non-toxic, not bioavailable, non-water soluble and non-mobile molecules and are deemed as such to have no significant environmental and human health impacts. In summary, the following should be considered with regard to ECHA's restriction proposal are as follows:

- Instead of a general restriction, PFAS should be evaluated according to a risk-based approach.
- A derogation must be sought for Fluoropolymers that do not pose a risk to humans or the environment
- A phase-out of fluoropolymers will impact strategic EU policies such as REPowerEU, the production of clean energy including renewable energy generation and distribution, energy transmission and distribution, the European hydrogen and battery economy, energy saving and EU climate change targets and the European re-industrialisation policies
- The impact of a PFAS ban on all of Europe as a business location must be considered if the EU wants to increase its resilience and reduce dependencies on non-European manufacturers and suppliers.



# Engineering Industries Ireland Strategy 2022-2025

Engineering Industries Ireland's vision is for Ireland to be a global engineering centre of excellence, where multinationals and home-grown companies collaborate strategically to help companies become more sustainable, innovate, prosper and drive economic growth. To realise the vision, in February 2022, the Association launched its strategy *Engineering a better future 2022 – 2025* which sets out the key objectives below under four pillars Innovation, Sustainability, People and Regulation. The Strategy highlights key goals to support the development of an innovation ecosystems for engineering industries and encourage companies to play a leading role in the development of new technologies and sustainable products and services. It also commits to support engineering companies to play a leading role in climate change to achieve Ireland's 2030 emissions targets of 51% (from 2018 levels) and in the development of new sustainable products and processes. The strategy also sets out key objectives to develop and attract a diverse talent to the sector and to foster engagement and promote lifelong learning.



## Pillar 1 Innovation

Support the development of an innovation ecosystem for engineering industries and encourage member companies to play a leading role in the development of new technologies, and sustainable products, processes, and services.

Key deliverables:

1. Develop the engineering sector as a global centre for engineering excellence and innovation.
2. Accelerate the pace of digital transformation and realise new business opportunities as we transition to a low carbon economy through funding supports.
3. Increase the number of engineering businesses engaging in innovative activities.



## Pillar 2 Sustainability

Support engineering industries to play a leading role in climate change to achieve Ireland's 2030 emissions targets of 51% (from 2018 levels) and in the development of new sustainable products and processes.

Key deliverables:

1. Encourage the engineering sector to lead in the circular economy and climate neutral manufacturing.
2. Support the engineering sector in targeting sustainable grants for investment and innovation activities using the EU's taxonomy for sustainable activities.
3. Support sustainable and resilient supply chains.



## Pillar 3 People

To develop and attract talent to the sector and to foster engagement and promote lifelong learning

Key deliverables:

1. Develop and attract engineering talent for the future.
2. Create deeper linkages between the engineering sector and further and higher education and technology centres.
3. Foster engagement and life long learning to ensure a sustainable workforce.



## Pillar 4 Regulation

To encourage and embrace a progressive and value-driven regulatory ecosystem that sustains the evolution of the engineering industries in Ireland.

Key deliverables:

1. Develop a reputation as the go to place for insight and expert opinion on sector specific regulation.
2. Improve the performance of Irish business and protect consumers through the development and roll out of compatible industry-led standards in the quality and safety of goods and services.

# Board of Engineering Industries Ireland



**Niall Fay**  
Grant Engineering  
Ltd,  
Director  
Chairman



**Ed Byrne**  
Galco Steel  
Group Managing  
Director  
Vice Chairman



**Barry Morrissey**  
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**Claudia Binder**  
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# About Ibec

Ibec is Ireland's largest lobby and business representative group. Our purpose is to help build a better, sustainable future by influencing, supporting and delivering for business success. With over 280 employees, Ibec engages with key stakeholders in Ireland and internationally through our six regional offices and our Brussels office, along with an extensive international network in the UK and US.

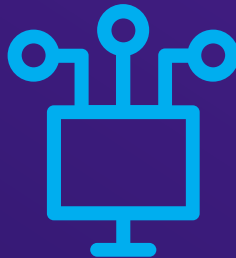
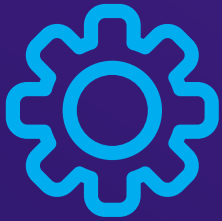
Ibec positions are shaped by our diverse membership, which range from small to large, domestic to multinational and our 39 trade associations cover a wide range of industry sectors.

As well as lobbying, Ibec provides a wide range of professional services and management training to members on all aspects of human resource management, occupational health and safety, employee relations and employment law.

[www.ibec.ie](http://www.ibec.ie)



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