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Infrastructure summit to focus on cutting overruns

02 April 2006

The inaugural National Infrastructure Summit takes place next May 16 and 17 at the IMI Conference Centre on Sandyford Road in Dublin. The event is organised and promoted by The Sunday Business Post and iQuest.

Sponsored by Project Management Group, the summit is aimed at people working in the planning, delivery and financing of public infrastructure. It will examine the key issues facing government and the private sector in the delivery of efficient and reliable infrastructure services.

Issues to be discussed include how to deliver public infrastructure efficiently, how to manage the construction of major capital investment projects and how cost overruns can be avoided.

There will be a number of case studies from home and abroad on major project delivery and financing.

Speakers include the Minister for Transport, Martin Cullen; the Minister for Finance, Brian Cowen; well-known business leader Ulick McEvaddy; Anne Counihan, chief executive of the National Development Finance Agency; and Dr Sean Barrett from Trinity College, Dublin.

Bent Flyvbjerg, Professor of Planning at Aalborg University, Denmark, will speak on his research into "mega projects" – large infrastructure investment projects where cost overruns are common.

Professor Manuel J Melis, president of Metro de Madrid, Spain, the man behind Madrid's metro system, will be speaking on this theme at the summit.

Melis told the government in 2003 that the Dublin Metro could be built at a fraction of the proposed time and cost.

International case study presentations will include the Saudi-Aramco Haradh Gas Pipeline, winner of the 2004 Project Management Institute Project of the Year.

The project's director, Salem H Shaheen, will present this case study on how the €2 billion gas terminal in the Saudi Arabian desert was completed six months ahead of schedule and 27 per cent below budget.

Further case studies on project financing will be delivered by Finn Lyden of SIAC Construction, Iain Salley of Bovis Lend Lease and Mike Davis of Catalyst Lend Lease in Britain.

For further information, please call Miriam McEvitt in The Sunday Business Post on 01-6026015, e-mail conference@sbpost.ie or visit www.thepost.ie/event to view the full agenda and to book online.



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