

**Polymer Technology  
Ireland**  
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**Iom<sup>3</sup>**  
The Institute of Materials,  
Minerals and Mining

# Polymer Processing Conference 2022

Thursday, 28 April 2022  
Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone

[www.athlonopolymerconference.com](http://www.athlonopolymerconference.com)

# Conference Programme

Thursday, 28 April 2022

8:30	Registration + Coffee & Scones, Exhibition Viewing
9:00	<b>Welcome Address</b> Lorna O’Gara, Ultrapolymers

## Session 1 / Chair: Lorna O’Gara, Ultrapolymers

9:10	<b>An Era of Transformation and Growth</b> Pat Beirne, CEO, Mergon Group
9:50	<b>A Sustainability Strategy for the Polymer Sector</b> Dr Shirley Gallagher, IMR
10:10	<b>Plastic and Packaging Recycling in Ireland 2020–2030</b> Colm Munnely, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Repak
10:50	Coffee Break
11:30	<b>Redefining competitiveness: Delivering on the ESG agenda</b> Fergal O’Brien, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, Ibec
12:10	<b>Conformal Cooling? Feeling the Heat!</b> Colin Meade, Additive Manufacturing Technologist, Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR)
12:40	<b>Update on the Apprenticeship scheme</b> Trish Breen, Ibec
12:50	<b>Introduction to TUS</b> Sean Lyons, Dean of Engineering, TUS
13:00	Lunch

## Session 2 / Chair: Mark McAuley, Polymer Technology Ireland, Ibec

14:00	<b>Liquid Silicone Rubber – An insight into the processing of this versatile material</b> Dimitri Gunzdase, International Technical Services (ITS) Arburg Germany
14:30	<b>Present Day Mould Making - Standards and Expectations</b> Damien Dowd, Designer/Director, Galway Tool and Mould
15:00	<b>Total Solution for Manufacturing Syringes through Collaboration – From Granule to Finished Packaging</b> Thomas Hoerl, KraussMaffei
15:30	Summary & Close

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# Seminar speakers



## Lorna O'Gara

Lorna has a B.Sc. in Polymer Technology from Athlone IT, now TUS and has many years' experience working in the polymer industry. After graduating, she started her career working with Irish Customer Extruders, then spent time working in the UK and Europe in Technical sales roles for Polyurethane systems and Conductive Coatings for plastics. She then worked for Trend Technologies as Key Account manager working with global OEMs of computers, telecoms, consumer goods and healthcare products. After a career break to spend time with her family, including a relocation to Brazil for 4 years, she joined the Ultrapolymers team in 2015. Her current role is European Business Development Manager for Healthcare.

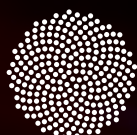
## Pat Beirne

Pat Beirne is Mergon Group's CEO. Under Pat's leadership, Mergon has grown from a 12 people facility in Castlepollard to a 700 employee, multi-million-euro global business. In November 2019, Mergon secured a significant investor to futureproof its ambitious growth strategy and Mergon won IMR Manufacturing Company of the Year in January 2020. Reflecting on his own personal beliefs, the company is built on the core values of care, confidence, and curiosity. Pat holds a degree in plastics engineering at Technical University Shannon. He received the AIT (now TUS) Alumni Award in 2016 for his lifetime contribution to the polymer industry and AIT Alumni Distinguished Fellowship in 2018.



## Dr Shirley Gallagher

Dr Gallagher is a Researcher with IMR, chairperson of the Cork based Environmental charity, CEF and a EU Climate Ambassador and a Climate Reality Leader. She is a natural self-starter, networker and collaborator. She is a trained auditor, having worked as both an internal and external auditor for UK/Irish governments and private industry. She has expertise to ISO standards in energy, environmental, quality, water and health and safety as well as sustainable tourism. Shirley has regulatory knowledge, project management skills with a strong focus on quality and continuous improvement in a challenging, customer-focused environment. Shirley is an analytical chemist who has specialised in certain areas including sustainability, calibration, validation, quality and IT support systems. Her PhD from Ulster University investigated software and analytical solutions in 'An Investigation of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons in a Belfast Gasworks Site'. One of her strengths is to empower organisations and societies to create competitive strategies, using a unique set of tools and IT solutions.



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## Colm Munnelly

Colm joined Repak Ltd in 2007 as a Packaging Technologist and now has overall responsibility for Regulatory Affairs. Colm holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Trinity College Dublin, an MSc in Packaging Technology from Loughborough University and is a Chartered Scientist and

Environmentalist through the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. Colm has extensive experience in production related industries, particularly in Packaging Technology with Food and Drink businesses such as Danone and the Jacob Fruitfield Food Group. At Repak, Colm's primary responsibilities now include monitoring and tracking of developments at EU level of the Circular Economy Package and the revised Waste Directives, and assessment of the potential impact on Repak and its operations, from both a strategic and policy perspective.

## Fergal O'Brien

Fergal O'Brien is Director of Policy and Public Affairs with Ibec. He leads and coordinates the organisation's activity across a range of business policy issues and public affairs activity. He represents Irish business on a number of areas at both national and EU level and is currently the Chair of Business Europe's Economic Policy Committee; a member of the National Competitiveness Council and a council member of the Foundation for Fiscal Studies. Fergal is a regular commentator on the economy and domestic and international policy issues. Prior to joining Ibec in 2005, Fergal worked for 5 years as an Economic Consultant with Fitzpatrick Associates, where he delivered a large number of consultancy assignments for a range of public and private sector clients. He also worked as an economist with the Irish Dairy Board. Fergal holds his primary and masters degrees from the University of Limerick.



## Colin Meade

Colin Meade is an Additive Manufacturing Technologist at IMR. He has a B.Eng in Mechanical Engineering and after graduating worked in the medical devices area. Colin has extensive experience in Concept Generation and Refinement, Prototyping, CAD and Design for Additive Manufacturing and has a number of patents at various states of approval.

He is currently exploring the potential for adoption and integration of Additive Manufacturing technology into Irish industry. Colin has extensive experience in designing moulds for medical devices and so brings a great deal of analytical and statistical based design to this project. Colin also lectures in Injection Mould Design at AIT.

## Trish Breen

Trish is Apprenticeships Project Manager in Ibec and has a history of working in the education and training sector. Skilled in project management, business planning, operations management in Medtech and Engineering sectors. Trish currently leads on Ibec Polymer and Manufacturing Apprenticeships, working closely with industry and educators.



## Sean Lyons

Sean is the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering & Informatics at TUS having previously held roles such as the Centre Manager for Applied Polymer Technologies (an Enterprise Ireland Funded Technology Gateway) in addition to Engineering and Materials Science positions in Companies such as Bausch & Lomb, The Tech Group and Perlos Oyj.



## Mark McAuley

Mark McAuley is Director of Polymer Technology Ireland. PTI is the national representative organisation for the polymer industry within Ibec. PTI supports the entire polymer supply chain and polymer converters. It runs the polymer technology apprenticeship and the First Polymer Skillnet in Athlone. 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. Prior to joining Ibec, Mark worked in corporate finance and management consulting in the tech sector. He holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin and a MSc from The University of Edinburgh.



## Dimitri Gunzdanse

In 2002 Dimitri commenced his career in plastics in education at Fischer fixing systems in Tumlingen as a plastics processing technician. This was followed as a plastics processing technician in Fischer automotive systems. He completed a Masters degree in polymer technology in Industrie und Handelskammer Freudenstadt. In 2015 he transferred to the Liquid silicone rubber department in Arburg. He now works in the international technical support department in the LSR Arburg. His role takes him around the world.



## Damien Dowd

Damien Dowd graduated from Sligo IT in 1992 with a Diploma in Tool Design. Since graduating Damien has acquired nearly 30 years experience in the mould making industry, 27 of which working with Galway Tool and Mould, currently as its design manager. The majority of his experiences lies in the manufacture of injection moulds relating to the medical and pharmaceutical industries. A combination of high quality and precision are crucial in this specialised area, which is seen in the new state of the art facilities based in Galway City.



## Thomas Hoerl

Work: Head of Expert Sales & Key Account Management Medical at company KraussMaffei; Key Account Management Medical at company KraussMaffei; Project management for mold maker in packaging industry at company Schoeller Allibert; Technology manager for Medical industry at company KraussMaffei; Project management for global medical customers at company Krauss Maffei. University career: Master of Business Administration and Engineering; Master Mechanical engineer.



# Exhibitors

- Arburg
- Billion
- Bray Engineering
- ECMS
- Engel
- European Patent Office
- First Polymer Training Skillnet
- Gunther
- Harp Technology
- Hasco
- HB Therm
- In Touch Moulding
- JL Goor
- Manufacturing and Apprenticeship Scheme Ibec
- NCC
- Plasticus
- Sepro
- Sumitomo Demag
- Technological University of the Shannon
- TSM Polytech
- Waldorf Technik
- Zenith Adhesive Components

To make a delegate booking, see [www.athlonepolymerconference.com](http://www.athlonepolymerconference.com)

To book an exhibition stand contact Paul Blackie  
Email: [p2blackie@yahoo.ie](mailto:p2blackie@yahoo.ie). Mobile: 087 287 3405

# Fee

Delegate	Extra delegate from same company	Student	Exhibitor
€180	€120	€30	€300

Fee includes coffee, lunch and documentation.  
Substitutions may be made at any time.



The Institute of Materials,  
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The Irish South Polymer Group is an Affiliated Society  
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