Galway Technology Centre

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AN BORD PLEANALA
TIME _____ BY pat
27 FEB 2014
LTR-DATED _____ FROM _____
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An Bord Pleanala
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
REF: 61.PA.0033

26th February 2014

27/2/14
CQ ESD
8123369

Re: Galway Port planning application reference no. 61.PA.0033

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please note that the board of Galway Technology Centre, which is a Community Enterprise Centre of 32 companies, have passed a unanimous resolution supporting the above planning application. Some of the key reasons why Galway Technology Centre is supporting this worthy project are as follows:

- Galway has been a port city for over 500 years
- Existing port is no longer suitable as access is restricted to only four hours in every 24hr cycle. Cargo Ships can no longer afford to wait around for the high tide access.
- Existing Port is restricted to ships of max size of 5,000 tons and approx 120m length. The cargo ship trend is rapidly moving to much larger cargo ships.
- Good quality infrastructure is an essential ingredient for economic development. Galway has already lost its airport and now in danger of loosing its Commercial Harbour.
- Galway Port is the only realistic commercial port from Killybegs (230km north of Galway) and Foynes (132km South of Galway).
- Killybegs is currently only a fishing harbour and doesn't have general cargo facilities. The nearest cargo facility north of Galway is Londonderry Harbour (274km).
- Galway's strategic location is recognised as a gateway under the provisions of the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020, which is defined as "a city having a strategic location nationally and relative to their surrounding areas and providing national scale social, economic infrastructure and support services". Following on from the national strategy, the Regional Planning Guidelines for the West 2012-2033 acknowledge that Galway sea port is of strategic importance to the west region.

- The successful completion of the Port extension will allow the Port develop new streams like Marine Tourism, Ocean Energy and Ocean/Marine Science Exploration and Commercialization.

- This new infrastructure will allow the West of Ireland to be able to deploy full scale renewable energy devices in the ocean between Slyne Head and Achill Head where 80% of Ireland's renewable energy lies. Ocean energy is Ireland's greatest energy resource. Our ocean territory extends to an area ten times our land area, and includes seas with some of the strongest wave energy content in the world. Our enviable geography makes the world's highest wave energy site at Galway's doorstep.

- With The Irish Marine Institute, The Martin Ryan Institute for Environmental, Marine & Energy Research at NUI Galway and the Marine & Freshwater Research Centre at GMIT, Galway has already developed a solid infrastructural research base in marine, which has supported the development of current marine industries and has engendered in the last decade a growing number of marine based industries in embryonic sectors of Ireland's Ocean Economy.

- In line with two key Reports: 1) The Irish Shipping and Ports Requirements for the Ocean Energy Industry Report (2011) and more recently the Report On Strategy For Renewable Energy 2012-2020, a strategic objective of Galway Port Extension is be to provide the infrastructural platform and facilities to support the creation and development of an Ocean Energy Hub.

All of the above will form the creation of a revitalised hub in the heart of Galway and The West of Ireland creating substantial, and badly needed further employment and enhancing the economic contribution being made to Galway City and the Western Region.

We as a Board have no hesitation in supporting the planning application of Galway Harbour Board. Please find attached our cheque for €50 in respect of the above submission.

Yours faithfully,

Frank Greene

Frank Greene
Chairman – Board of Directors

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