

Galway Port Development:

My name is Patrick Walsh, General Manager of the ClearCircle Metals Group, and Galway Metal Company.

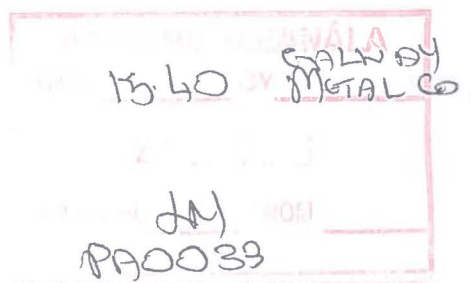
Galway Metal Company exports scrap steel, sourced in Connacht, from our facility at Oranmore, County Galway, through Galway Port, to a number of steel mills in Spain and Portugal.

We employ some 30 people at our plant at Oranmore.

Our company has been using the facilities offered by the Port of Galway for over 40 years.

When we started first in the early 1970s, we were loading cargo sizes of 800 to 1000Mt; now, we are loading 3,000 to 3,500Mt ships. However the size of the cargo vessels that we require are now being replaced with much larger vessels of 5,000 and 10,000 tonnes and bigger. At present, these vessels cannot come into the port due to the size of the inner dock, and we are restricted with quay space.

As part of Galway Metal Company's expansion plans into new markets, we also hope to add new processing technology to our site in Oranmore. The end product will be a high density, clean scrap metal to be loaded into 20ft containers for export to the Far East. The Harbour Company's plans to build a container facility with loading facilities are essential for the future growth of our company.



Galway Metal Company sees great potential to increase tonnage over the coming years and, by the end of this decade, we expect to double the tonnage we export from Galway Port from 45,000 tonnes up to 90,000 tonnes. We also expect to increase our employment numbers.

However, this can only occur if we can get the larger ships into Galway Port; we will also need berthing and storage facilities to store increased volumes of scrap metal.

A failure to develop the harbour extension will find ourselves using road haulage which is not environmentally sustainable, increase our costs which will make us less competitive and will make it difficult for us to reach our carbon footprint targets.

It may also mean that the expansion plans we have for Galway Metal Company may go elsewhere thereby endangering local jobs.

Using the New Port of Galway as a gateway to our global markets is our preferred option.