

## Announcement of the Winners of the Ireland France Business Awards 2017

NetworkIreland and the France Ireland Chamber of Commerce are pleased to announce the winners of the Ireland France Annual Business Awards 2017.

The Jury was chaired by Gerry Halpenny, Senior Partner, LK Shields and composed of Sinead Lonergan (Director France, Enterprise Ireland), Isabelle Charmeil (Director – Dublin Office, Business France Ireland), Catherine Slowey (Technology Group Manager - Europe, IDA Ireland), Pierre Mongrué (Chef du Service Economique, Ambassade de France en Irlande), Hubert Levesque (Managing Director, Morgan McKinley France), Donal O’Riain (Founder and MD, Ecocem), Derek Kehoe (CEO BNP Paribas Group, Ireland), Jim Rice (Chartered Engineer & Business Consultant) and Anne Marie Ronayne (MD, Terra Connecta).

The Jury was very impressed by the quality of this year’s entrants, and by the large number of applications submitted.

The Jury has selected **Axway** as the **Best French Company in Ireland**.

Axway is a catalyst for transformation. With Axway AMPLIFY™, their cloud-enabled data integration and engagement platform, leading brands better anticipate, adapt and scale to meet ever-changing customer expectations. Their unified, API-first approach connects data from anywhere, fuels millions of apps and delivers real-time analytics to build customer experience networks. From idea to execution, they help make the future possible for more than 11,000 organizations in 100 countries.

Axway is registered in France with headquarters in the United States and offices in 19 countries. With its unique position in the field of data exchange, from 2015, Axway started transforming its positioning towards the digital commitment. The acquisition of Vordel (Ireland, 2012), Systar (France, 2014), Appcelerator (USA, 2016) and Syncplicity (USA, 2017) enabled the Group to integrate the new API, Analytics, mobile and enterprise file synchronization and sharing technologies.

Axway Ireland creates the outputs from their API research and development resulting in new and improved API software products that are sold to Axway Software customers worldwide. Founded in 1999 in Dublin, Axway Ireland formally Vordel increased its revenue by 32% till 2016.

Axway has hired 29 researchers in the last 3 years to its Dublin R&D centre reflecting the strategic engagement of the company in the region.

**Amarenco** has been awarded the **Best Irish Company in France 2017**.

Amarenco was established in Ireland mid-2013 and invested in its first solar plant in Avignon, France in early 2014. Since then Amarenco has been responsible for €260m of asset investment in France, all in

Solar PV technologies. Amarenco has also a significant development programme for Solar PV (200MW) in Ireland which has been enhanced by the close interaction of the French and Irish teams. Due to their recent joint venture with Infracapital, and partnerships with Total, Lumo and local developers in France, Amarenco expect to significantly increase their investment to over €500m in France and the French Territorial Islands. They intend to invest €100m in Ireland in Solar PV in the next twelve months. In addition, we are branching out to look at developing and acquiring wind assets in both the French and Irish markets, expecting to invest €250m with our partner Infracapital in the next twelve months.

Amarenco turnover as a start-up in 2014/15 was €1,784,000 with a profit of €181,000. In 2016/17 their turnover was €7.2m with a net profit of €2.7m. Amarenco own and operate over 100MW of solar power in France and are creating jobs in construction as well as in our core businesses. Amarenco currently employs 48 people (up from 6 in 2015 and 15 in 2016) across offices in Cork, Dublin, Gaillac, Nice, Toulouse, Bordeaux and London. Amarenco recently took majority ownership of Groupe Carre in Gaillac.

### **Transdev Ireland has won the special award for Impact on Climate Change**

Transdev is one of the largest public transport operators globally, with a reputation for delivering high quality local public transport. With operations in 19 countries and staff of over 83,000, Transdev is active in all aspects of public transport provision from the organisation and management of major projects to the development of passenger services and the operation of networks. Every year 3.3 billion passenger's travel on Transdev's tram, metro, train, ferry, transport on demand, bus, bike and coach networks.

Transdev are spear- heading a future for transport worldwide. Mobility as a Service is one such vision that is emerging as best practice and puts public transport at the heart of the integrated urban mobility system. Transdev's operations in France and in Ireland are positioned to take advantage of this and already Transdev are pioneering innovations that will help strengthen their position in this area. By providing a more fluid public transport system, more people move to public transport, taking pressure off already congested road networks and producing fewer emissions due to the efficiency of our modern public transport vehicles.

Transdev also predict that the mobility of the future will be personalised, autonomous, connected and electric (PACE). Transdev are at the cutting edge when it comes to the provision of 100% electric public transport vehicles. From the autonomous vehicles that are in operation on Nuclear facilities in France through to the various electric tram and bus fleets in operation in France and Ireland, Transdev are showing what can be done to make public transport in cities climate resilient and adaptable.

These awards recognise the contribution of three successful companies to the development of trade and investment between Ireland and France.

The Jury commended the high quality of the candidates which included runners-up **Airbus Helicopters, Chanelle Group, Combilift, Eazysafe, Greenval Insurance, Schneider Electric, Sodexo and Sogeti** .

The winners will receive their Awards at a Ceremony and Gala Dinner on **23<sup>rd</sup> November** at the **Westin Paris-Vendôme** in Paris. Contact Ann Garvey ([admin@networkirlande.com](mailto:admin@networkirlande.com)) to register.

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