

SM Morris – setting new standards for the construction industry



Civil Engineering firm awarded with NSAI Certification, to add to its INAB Certification

John McGuinness TD, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment with special responsibility for Trade and Commerce, today (**November 6, 2008**) presented **SM Morris** with three **NSAI** certificates which validate the civil engineering company's commitment to quality and excellence.

In a ceremony at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment on Kildare Street, Dublin, Minister McGuinness presented SM Morris with **I.S. ISO 9001:2000** Quality Management System Certification for the Manufacture and Supply of Road Making Materials, Asphalts and Macadams, Readymixed Concrete Products, in addition to two **I.S. EN 206-1:2002** Certificates in Concrete Specification, Performance, Production and Conformity for two SM Morris sites – **Greystones Marina** and **Ballinclare Quarry**.

“The evident commitment of SM Morris Ltd to investment in quality systems is a very encouraging response to the difficulties of these uncertain times” said Minister McGuinness, speaking at the presentation. “In committing to quality, the best construction companies will emerge from this period leaner and more competitive in their ability to provide quality-assured services.”

Stephen Morris, Managing Director of SM Morris, spoke of how the Certification would allow the company to tender for even larger projects into the future, saying “the presentation of these certificates is the result of a lot of hard work by our staff and investment by SM Morris Ltd in quality management systems which will add value to our products and services

and provide our extensive customer base with increased confidence in difficult market conditions.”

While high standards will always be an important benchmark for any business, they become even more crucial for any company tendering for large construction projects or public works.

This is why SM Morris has also sought and received independent verification of its products and systems from both **NSAI**, the National Standards Authority of Ireland, and **INAB**, the Irish National Accreditation Board. SM Morris Ltd is one of only a few select road construction materials producers in Ireland to currently hold an accreditation award from the **Irish National Accreditation Board**. It received its INAB accreditation in June 2008 for its **permanent testing facility, located at Ballinclare Quarry in Wicklow**.

INAB provided SM Morris’ **Construction Materials Laboratory** with **ISO 17025 Certification**. INAB’s certification allows SM Morris to offer in-house testing to other companies in concrete, soil, tar/asphalts and aggregates.

In addition, the company is currently working on achieving **ISO 14001 Environmental Certification**.

NSAI and other certifications are now an essential element in tendering for public contracts, such as those designated under **Transport 21** or projects under the remit of the **National Roads Authority (NRA)**. SM Morris is currently involved in two of the largest contracts in the South Eastern Region, testing the concrete, soil and tar and stone for the **Wicklow Port Access Road** as part of a joint venture with Coffey Construction; and manufacturing concrete on site and supplying aggregates for the **Greystones Marina** project which has been undertaken by Sisk Lagan.

“In the current economic situation, standards can help play a key part in helping Irish businesses reach an international market by attracting and assuring customers, demonstrating professionalism and creating a competitive advantage,” said Maurice Buckley, CEO, NSAI. “As the construction sector comes under increasing pressure, the quality and consistency of construction products and processes becomes ever more important. Through the achievement of I.S. EN 206-1:2002 certification and ISO 9001, SM Morris is part of a group of companies in the construction sector that are leading the way in standards excellence.”

NOTES FOR EDITORS

NSAI is Ireland’s official standards body, providing Certification in Management System Standards, Health and Safety Standards and Environmental Standards, in addition to a number of industry-specific Standards.

The Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) is the national body with responsibility for accreditation in accordance with the relevant International Organisation for Standardisation ISO 17000 series of standards and guides and the harmonised EN 45000 series of European standards.

SM Morris is a leading independent Civil Engineering firm, a Tarmacadam/Asphalt Contractor and a producer of top quality Readymix Concrete Products, with quarrying included in the core business.

A wholly owned Irish family business, SM Morris' range includes Macadam, Asphalt, Readymix Concrete, high PSV road chippings, crushed stone and gravel. The company has a combined workforce of 138 permanent staff and 110 regular sub-contractors.