

SUPPORT AGENCIES

The Exploration and Mining Division of The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources is the key reference point for the exploration and mining industry, providing data and available for advice and assistance from arrival in Ireland through to the opening and operating of a mine.

There are also a number of other Agencies which provide support services to the exploration and mining industries. These Agencies include:

The Geological Survey of Ireland. This is a Division of the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and is Ireland's national geoscience agency whose mandate is to acquire and disseminate geoscience data and information. The work programmes of the Geological Survey are divided into Bedrock Mapping, Quaternary Geology and Geotechnical, Groundwater, Minerals, Marine and Heritage.

The Minerals Programme comprises two principal activities, namely, Minerals Databases and Minerals Potential Mapping. The primary Minerals Databases are Mineral Occurrences (5500 sites), Mineral Assessment Reports (7000 sites) and Mine Records (200 sites). Minerals Potential Mapping is a programme in development. It will draw on data already in the Geological Survey as well as the focused acquisition of new information. Data integration and output will be through geographic information systems. There are two sub-programmes, one focusing on aggregates (sand and gravel as well as crushed stone) and the other on metallic and industrial minerals.

Enterprise Ireland co-ordinates all services and supports needed to ensure that exploration and mining companies have a trouble free and efficient start-up or expansion. It helps local industry to build competitive advantage and provides an experienced and professional 'one stop shop' to anticipate and meet companies tax, financial, legal, employment and marketing needs.

Within Europe Ireland is the ideal location for Shared Services Centres. Operating costs are amongst the lowest in Europe. Ireland, as a full member of the European Union, affords companies open access to a market of 370

million people. By consolidating corporate administration and support services in Ireland, cost savings of up to 50% can be achieved.

The Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC) represents and provides economic, commercial, employee relations and social affairs services to exploration and mining companies through its Irish Mining and Exploration Group (IMEG). The Confederation represents its members' interests to government, state agencies, the trade unions and the general public. Through its Brussels office, the Irish Business Bureau, it works to ensure that European minerals policy is compatible with the interests and objectives of its members.

The International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) was established in Dublin in 1987 and has developed into a significant world financial centre. The Centre is serviced by an extensive network of major international banks, brokerages and professional advisors. IFSC operations benefit from a 10% Corporation Tax rate, supported by an excellent tax treaty network and efficient regulatory environment. Over 400 of the world's leading financial institutions, including Merrill Lynch and Citibank, have set up new operations in the IFSC.

There are also several active geological organisations in Ireland which provide stimulating technical fora for exploration and mining company personnel. These include the Irish Association for Economic Geology, which has published seminal works on Irish mineral deposits and organised major international symposia, the Irish Mining and Quarrying Society, catering primarily for the extraction industry, and the recently formed Institute of Geologists of Ireland which is affiliated to the European Federation of Geologists and has a reciprocal arrangement with the American Institute of Professional Geologists.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was established in 1993. The Agency's task is to protect the water, air and land of Ireland in partnership with others assisting Ireland to achieve sustainable economic growth which takes account of environmental and social needs. Its mandate covers a wide range of activities including mining. The EPA implements European Community (EC) Directives on behalf of the Department of the Environment



and Local Government and is also the national focal point for all European Environment Agency (EEA) activities in Ireland.

Since 1994 it is obligatory for mining developments to obtain Integrated Pollution Control Licences (IPCL) from the Agency. All aspects of air and water pollution, noise and waste are covered by this single integrated licence. In granting an IPC licence, the EPA must be satisfied that 'best available technology not entailing excessive costs' (BATNEEC) will be used to prevent or limit emissions. The Agency has compiled BATNEEC Guidance Notes for mining.

In the wider European interest, Euromines is a Belgian registered federation of European mining companies and national European mining associations. Euromines promotes the interests of the mining industry, metal ores and industrial minerals sectors at all levels of EU authority. Euromines also provides a network of information and co-operation among its membership and with mining interests outside the European Community.

Addresses

Contact information on the Agencies is provided below

Exploration and Mining Division (EMD)
Department of the Energy and Natural Resources
Beggars Bush
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Website: www.emd.ie

Geological Survey of Ireland
Beggars Bush
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Dublin 4
Tel: +353-1-6782000 Fax: +353-1-6782549
Website: www.gsi.ie

Enterprise Ireland
Wilton Park House
Wilton Place
Dublin 2
Tel: +353-1-8570000 Fax: +353-1-8082020
Website: www.entreprise-ireland.com

Irish Business and Employers Confederation (IBEC)
Confederation House
84-86 Lower Baggot Street
Dublin 2
Tel: +353-1-6601011 Fax: +353-1-6601717
Website: www.ibec.ie

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle Estate
Co. Wexford
Tel: +353-53-60600 Fax: +353-53-60699
Website: www.epa.ie

Euromines
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Institution of Geologists of Ireland
c/o Department of Geology
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