

DRIVING IRELAND'S MMC TRANSITION THROUGH SKILLS, INNOVATION AND INDUSTRY COLLABORATION



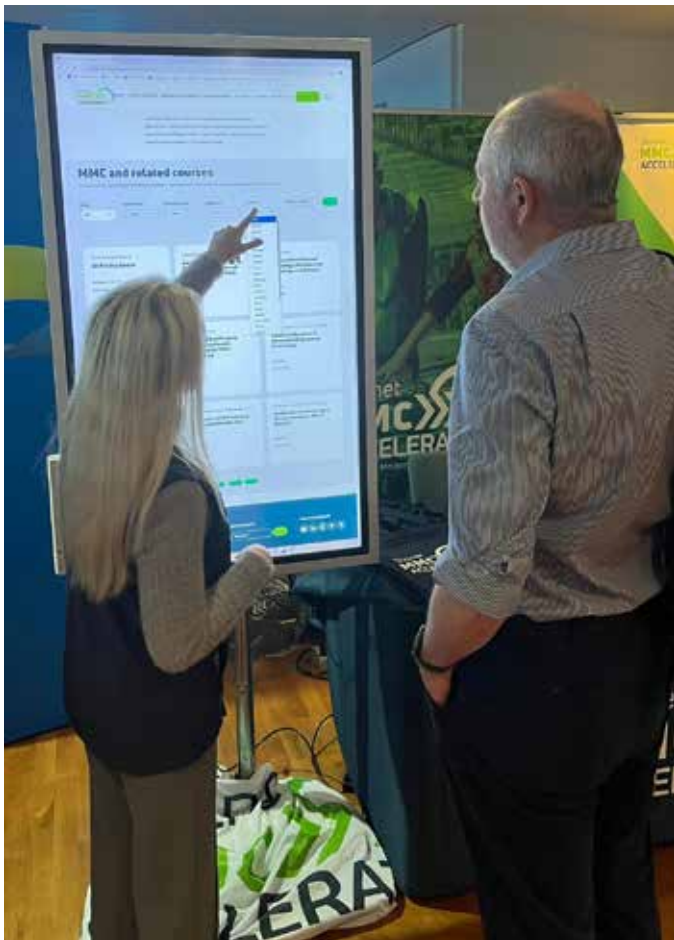
Ireland's construction industry is continuing to experience a significant transformation as Modern Methods of Construction (MMC) increasingly shape how buildings and infrastructure are planned, manufactured, and delivered. With growing demand for housing, improved productivity, sustainability targets, and digital integration across the sector, MMC is now viewed as a key part of the future of Irish construction. Supporting that transition is the Skillnet MMC Accelerate Initiative, a national programme designed to help businesses, education providers, industry bodies, and construction professionals strengthen their understanding of MMC while developing the practical skills required for long-term adoption.

Delivered through a partnership between Skillnet Ireland and Construction IT Alliance (CitA), the Initiative combines

a national online platform with a programme of regional Business Support Events hosted at MMC manufacturing facilities across Ireland. Together, these resources are helping companies, particularly SMEs, access practical industry insights, upskilling opportunities, career pathway information, and direct engagement with businesses already implementing modern construction methods.

Since its establishment, the Initiative has continued to build strong momentum across the sector, attracting engagement from contractors, manufacturers, educators, Government stakeholders, technology providers, and individuals exploring new career opportunities within construction.

According to Dr Alan Hore, CitA Director and Project Lead of Skillnet MMC Accelerate, the Initiative has



evolved from an early development phase into a broader industry support programme focused on practical implementation and collaboration.

"The Initiative was developed to create stronger connections between industry, education, and innovation," he explained. "The focus now is on continuing to deepen engagement across the sector, helping companies understand how MMC can support business growth, competitiveness, and future workforce development."

A central element of the Initiative is the online Skillnet MMC Accelerate platform, which has become an important information hub for construction professionals and organisations seeking to understand the opportunities associated with MMC.

The platform includes dedicated sections focused on education and upskilling, career pathways, research, industry insights, Business Support Events, and training opportunities linked to Lean, green, and digital construction practices. It also signposts national MMC-related courses delivered through higher education institutions, training organisations, and Education and Training Boards throughout the country.

Industry engagement with the platform has continued to increase steadily, with users accessing content not only



from Ireland but also internationally. Interest has emerged from returning Irish professionals abroad, overseas organisations monitoring Ireland's MMC progress, and individuals considering careers in modern construction and offsite manufacturing.

A key objective of the Initiative is to support the development of future-ready skills throughout the sector. Research underpinning the programme identified growing demand for competencies in areas such as advanced manufacturing, digital construction technologies, automation, Lean operational practices, sustainable building methods, logistics, and integrated onsite-offsite delivery processes.

To support these evolving requirements, the Skillnet MMC Accelerate platform provides access to a wide range of national training opportunities, educational resources, industry insights, and indicative career pathways linked to MMC. The platform continues to expand its offering, helping businesses and individuals identify relevant learning opportunities and develop the capabilities required to support the industry's transition towards modern construction practices.

The Initiative also highlights the broad range of career opportunities emerging within construction as MMC adoption continues to grow. From manufacturing and engineering to project management, digital construction,

sustainability, and design coordination, MMC is helping to create new pathways for people entering or progressing within the sector.

Alongside the online platform, regional Business Support Events continue to play a major role in industry engagement. Hosted at MMC manufacturing facilities around Ireland, these events allow attendees to experience modern construction processes first-hand while connecting directly with industry experts, technology providers, and businesses already implementing MMC solutions.

Skillnet MMC Accelerate has partnered with companies such as O'Reilly Precast and Kirby Group Engineering to host Business Support Events to date this year, with additional regional industry visits and collaborative engagement sessions planned throughout the year. "These events provide businesses with a practical understanding of how MMC works in real environments," Alan Hore explained. "People can ask questions, see technologies operating first-hand, and learn directly from organisations already integrating these methods into their operations."

The events have also strengthened collaboration across the sector by encouraging knowledge-sharing between SMEs, manufacturers, educators, and policy stakeholders. "For many SMEs, the conversation is now moving beyond awareness and into implementation," Alan said. "Companies are increasingly focused on understanding how they can adopt MMC in a realistic and manageable way without taking unnecessary risks."

The Initiative has also invested significantly in communications and storytelling to support wider industry engagement. Through social media campaigns, video content, company profiles, case studies, and 'day in the life' features, the programme aims to showcase the real experiences of people and businesses operating within MMC environments.

"We want to make the sector more visible and relatable," Alan explained. "Real stories and practical examples help people understand that MMC is already happening across Ireland and that there are many different ways to become involved."

This communication strategy is helping to highlight the role SMEs play within Ireland's evolving construction landscape. Many of the businesses engaging with the Initiative are smaller firms exploring how MMC can improve efficiency, competitiveness, sustainability, and project delivery.

Government policy and national housing priorities are also contributing to the growing momentum around MMC adoption. Industry representatives believe

increased focus on housing delivery, sustainability, and innovation is creating strong long-term opportunities for businesses willing to invest in new technologies and modern construction processes.

"There is clear recognition that MMC will play an important role in the future delivery of housing and infrastructure," Alan noted. "The conversation is no longer theoretical. Businesses are now actively exploring how these methods can support productivity, quality, and long-term sector resilience."

The Initiative is also exploring future-focused educational supports, including the development of new micro-credentials and training pathways in collaboration with higher education institutions and industry partners. At the same time, emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence are beginning to influence conversations around the future of construction, manufacturing efficiency, digital workflows, and project management. "AI and digital technologies are becoming increasingly relevant across the industry," Alan added. "Like MMC, these developments will require careful planning, governance, and industry collaboration to ensure businesses can adapt successfully."

As Ireland continues to expand its MMC capability, Initiatives such as Skillnet MMC Accelerate are helping to create stronger connections between industry, education, technology, and workforce development. By combining practical industry engagement with accessible learning opportunities and collaborative support networks, the Initiative is contributing to a more innovative, inclusive, and future-ready construction sector.

Ultimately, the continued growth of MMC in Ireland reflects a wider shift taking place across the industry one focused on collaboration, innovation, sustainability, and long-term skills development. Through ongoing engagement with businesses, educators, and construction professionals, Skillnet MMC Accelerate is helping to ensure that companies across Ireland are equipped to participate in the next generation of construction delivery.



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MMC EXPERTISE**
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