

SFA National Small Business Awards 2022



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Bernard Lee, operations director, Packaging Laundry

The complete package

Bray-based Packaging Laundry is making a significant contribution to the circular economy by reconditioning empty bulk packaging for re-use

Packaging Laundry was established in 2017 by father and son Norman and Bernard Lee who identified a gap in the market for reconditioned bulk packaging. With over 40 years' experience in the packaging manufacturing sector between them, they realised that there

was a far more environmentally-friendly way of dealing with intermediate bulk containers (IBCs) and drums than just sending them for recycling after a single use.

Now with five full-time and two part-time staff, the company provides a full end-to-end bulk packaging inspection,

“Studies have shown that using a reconditioned IBC or drum compared to a new one results in 70% less carbon being released into the atmosphere.”

leak testing, reconditioning, storage and sales/rental service to a growing number of clients nationwide.

“Our mission is simple: to provide the best environmentally-compliant reconditioned packaging and reconditioning service in Ireland,” company operations director Bernard Lee explains. “In doing so, we hope to divert thousands of IBCs and drums from recycling to re-use every year and make a significant contribution to the circular economy and global sustainability. Studies have shown that using a reconditioned IBC or drum compared to a new one results in 70% less carbon being released into the atmosphere.”

IBC expertise

Packaging Laundry's Bray facility is the largest IBC cleaning and storage site in the country and home to the only IBC cleaning line that meets food industry

safety and hygiene standards. Suitable for both plastic and stainless steel IBCs, the company's 'laundry service' starts with external power wash and label removal before an internal triple wash using the only 400-bar internal pressure washer in Ireland.

This is followed by internal vacuum and drying to remove all moisture before the bottle and valve are subjected to rigorous leak tests. New valves and sealing pins are fitted if required before a final outer clean and shine.

IBCs for reconditioning are collected free of charge from customer sites, with a small fee charged for drums containing hazardous materials or which are considered beyond repair and fit only for recycling. “Our main focus is on re-use. However, in some instances there is no choice but to send them for recycling,” Lee explains. “We are also the only company in the country that offers a re-bottled IBC service where the original inner is cleaned to UN standard before being fitted with a new outer bottle.”

The company's commitment to sustainability is evident in its own production and waste management practices. “We are in the process of installing solar panels on the factory roof to minimise energy consumption,” Lee says. “We currently re-use around 98% of our waste material and hope to increase that further this year. Of the remainder, everything is recycled – absolutely nothing goes to landfill.”

www.packaginglaundry.ie

MASTERCLASS

Learning from the best

As part of the SFA National Small Business Awards programme this year, finalists came together for a special masterclass weekend

A masterclass was provided to all finalists of the SFA National Small Business Awards this year on 18 and 19 February in the Hodson Bay Hotel in Athlone, Co Westmeath. Part of a prize package, the aim of the weekend was to immerse business owners in an entrepreneurial environment to stimulate new ideas for growth.

Participants were able to share experiences with contemporaries, learn from the success and mistakes of others and hopefully build working relationships that will last into the future.

Sponsored by the awards' training partner Skillnet Ireland, this management programme was designed to help business owners to take a more strategic approach to managing their business and to develop their own personal skills.

The format comprised firstly of media, negotiation and presentation skills training for business owners and managers. Following this, Emma Crawley, SFA HR executive provided HR guidance for small businesses and an update on the latest



developments in employment legislation. Business owners also got the opportunity to explore how to manage their own wellness and take part in a practical session on cybersecurity for small business.



GUEST SPEAKERS

Barry McLoughlin

A senior consultant in the Communications Clinic's Training Clinic, Barry McLoughlin joined the company having worked for a number of years as a solicitor in private practice. He now provides training in the areas of job interviews, CV preparation and pitching, negotiating and influencing as well as media and general communication skills. He has worked with a wide range of individuals and organisations, including the GAA, Invesco, Concern, Chartered Accountants Ireland and the Central Bank.

David Casey

David Casey is the wellness and health promotion manager for DeCare Dental for Ireland and Europe. With over 10 years' clinical experience in health-care, he has worked over the past seven years designing, building and

implementing wellness and education programs for over 500 companies, organisations and healthcare settings across Ireland and the UK. Casey has an MA in Health Promotion and is currently studying for his doctorate in the School of Nursing, Midwifery and Medicine in Trinity College Dublin.

Patrick O'Callaghan

A subject-matter expert in data protection and cyber security markets for over 15 years, Patrick O'Callaghan's career began with research into encryption in micro devices in the early 2000s. From there he moved to Citi Bank to lead the Sarbanes Oxley implementation for its European life assurance business. O'Callaghan led the security consulting teams for top global consulting firms before founding Kontex Security in 2015. He has designed the security systems for multiple large utilities across the UK and Ireland.