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Irish architects in €42 million British university project



Elaine O'Regan

Company:
Scott Tallon Architects
Done Deal:
€42 million

The clincher: "It's an exciting vision of what promises to be a very important centre not only for the university, but for the whole of the UK and beyond"
– Prof Rahim Tafazolli, director of the University of Surrey's 5G Innovation Centre

Irish architects Scott Tallon Walker have unveiled plans for a €42 million British university research centre for mobile technology.

The world's first centre for research into the fifth generation of mobile cellular systems, or '5G', will be based in the University of Surrey.

The University of Surrey launched an international competition to design the 5G Innovation Centre last year, having received funding of €42 million from several sources, including the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the British government and corporate sponsors from the mobile communications industry.

Scott Tallon Walker's concept for the building, which has been given urgent status and is expected to open before the end of next year, will ac-

commodate the university's researchers and visiting researchers representing industry partners, with scope for 130 researchers and 90 PhD students in total.

"Our concept for this building was informed very much by



An artist's impression of architect Scott Tallon Walker's design for the new 5G Innovation Centre at the University of Surrey

how our own architects work," said Peter Dudley, director of science and technology, Scott Tallon Walker.

"We see the new centre at the University of Surrey as a place where some of the finest minds in mobile communications from around the world will be sharing their visionary ideas.

"Our team has watched and studied how creative groups share ideas in the workplace and our design will mean that people will have a strong sense of contact, visual and/or aural, with colleagues during the working day.

Established in 1928, Scott Tallon Walker has its headquarters in Dublin and offices in Cork, Galway and London.

The firm was recently appointed joint architect on a Queen's University Belfast contract to design consolidated accommodation for the School of Biological Sciences.

It was also the joint architect, along with Populous, on the €310 million redevelopment of the Aviva Stadium at Lansdowne Road in Dublin 4 for the Irish Rugby Football Union.

NEW THIS WEEK



Joanna Gardiner, managing director of Ovelle Pharmaceuticals

Elave in cancer partnership

Irish skincare brand Elave, which is manufactured in Dundalk by Ovelle Pharmaceuticals, has extended its partnership with the Irish Cancer Society's Survivorship Programme for a second year.

The company made the announcement amid plans to strengthen its export position as it opens up new markets in China, Russia, Moldova and Libya.

Joanna Gardiner, managing director of Ovelle, said the company's sales in 2012 were €5.3 million.

"With a strong market presence already established in Britain and the US, we increased our export sales by 39 per cent in 2012 and Irish sales by 10 per cent between 2010 and 2012, despite the difficult retail environment in this company," said Gardiner.

Elave's partnership with the Irish Cancer Society will mean that, throughout the months of May and June, €1 from every Elave shower gel, shampoo and intensive cream sold will go to the Cancer Society's survivorship programme.

The survivorship programme provides practical and emotional one-to-one support for people who have been newly diagnosed with cancer, provided by people who have undergone cancer treatment themselves.

"We're delighted to have Elave on board again this year for the survivorship programme," said Emma Barrett, corporate partnership manager with the Irish Cancer Society.

"One of our key goals for 2013, as we celebrate our 50th birthday, is to expand our survivorship programme. Making this type of support available has made such a difference to people who have just been diagnosed and the partnership with Elave helps us to raise awareness about the programme and also contributes to the much-needed funds, which allow us to keep it up and running."

Since the survivorship programme started in 1979, it has helped thousands of newly diagnosed cancer patients. All volunteers are carefully selected and trained to give support, practical information and reassurance to those newly diagnosed with cancer.



Sarah Furno, managing director, Cashel Farmhouse Cheeses and Paul Gleeson, category manager, SuperValu

SuperValu seals cheese deal

SuperValu has signed a deal worth €160,000 with Cashel Farmhouse Cheesemakers to stock its cream cheese product.

A combination of Cashel Blue, cream cheese and fresh cream, Cashel Blue Cream Cheese is sold in 200g resealable tubs.

"We have been making cheese on our farm for over 30 years using local, natural ingredients and are delighted to offer our new Cashel Blue Cream Cheese exclusively to SuperValu customers," said Sarah Furno, managing director of Cashel Farmhouse Cheesemakers.

"Produced using only 100 per cent natural ingredients, our aim is to make a spreadable and smooth blue cream cheese which will make speciality cheese accessible to everyone."

SuperValu has 196 stores nationwide.

Wellington acquires Octagon

Wellington IT Solutions has acquired the business and assets of Octagon Computer Services. An IT provider to credit unions, Wellington said the Octagon acquisition would make it the biggest supplier in the market, representing some 150 credit unions and 1.2 million members with a combined asset base of around €6.5 billion.

"This investment is a very important step in the development of our software and services and it follows on from a successful year's trading for Wellington, particularly with the release, last year, of the CuAnywhere mobile app to credit unions nationwide and this year's unveiling of our new Core Credit Union product SCION," said Alex Dunne, director of Wellington IT Solutions.

Production under way in Gaeltacht studio

By Elaine O'Regan

Company:
Telegael Teo

Done Deal:
€1 million

The clincher: "It is very exciting to see that what began as a pipe dream has now become a reality. We have a fantastic team working here and I look forward to seeing the business develop and expand" – Siobhán Ní Ghadhra, chief operations officer, Telegael

A state-of-the-art stop-motion animation studio has opened in Galway at a cost of €1 million, creating 40 jobs.

Filming is already underway at Telegael Teo's new Beochan studio in Casla is the second series of Igam Ogam, a 26-part animated programme for children produced for broadcasters Five, S4C, TG4 and ZDF Enterprises, the series' international distributor.

"This piece of production will continue until the end of the year and we hope that this will be the first of many stop-motion series and feature films to be made in this state-of-the-art facility," said Telegael's chief executive Paul Cummins.

Igam Ogam is a co-production between animation and television production house Telegael and Cardiff's Calon TV.

Production has moved from Wales, where the first series

was produced, to the Beochan studios, where animation and post-production work is under



Siobhán Ní Ghadhra of Telegael Teo; Steve Ó Cúláin, chief executive, Údarás na Gaeltachta; Paul Cummins, chief executive, Telegael, and Ben Halliwell, director of Igam Ogam

way. Siobhán Ní Ghadhra, Telegael's chief operations officer, is responsible for the new op-

eration. "The director and some of the animation staff who worked on the first series are now located in Casla and

are in the process of training young Irish animation artists in the production of the animation series," said Ní Ghadhra.

"It is very exciting to see that what began as a pipe dream has now become a reality. We have a fantastic team working here and I look forward to seeing the business develop and expand."

Telegael is an animation and television production house. Established in 1988, the studio works with international producers, distributors and broadcasters to develop, co-produce and finance animation and live-action content for the global market.

Its clients include Disney, Discovery Kids, France Television, Super-RTL, KIKKA, BBC, Nickelodeon, PBS Sprout, ITV, ZDF and Cartoon Network.

Telegael has co-produced more than 600 hours of television. Its work has been distributed to more than 140 territories around the world and translated into more than 40 languages.

Telegael Teo established the new studio, Ireland's first stop-motion facility, with support of Údarás na Gaeltachta.

Lifes2Good gets €0.8m investment fund boost

By Elaine O'Regan

Company:
Lifes2Good

Funding: €777,500

The clincher: "Lifes2Good's products are stocked in over 30,000 outlets internationally, including Boots, Doc Morris, Sam McCauley chemists and McCabe's pharmacies in Ireland and Harrods, Asda, Tesco and Superdrug in Britain" – Andrew Bourg, director of BES Management Limited and BDO

The Galway manufacturer behind a hair-growth supplement and other 'nutraceuticals' has secured funding of €777,500 from the Davy Employment & Incentive Investment (EII) tax relief fund.

Ballybrit's Lifes2Good received its first €1 million funding boost from BES Limited, the manager of the Davy EII tax relief fund, in 2007.

A joint venture between Davy and BDO, BES Ltd made the investment in 2007 under the Davy BES Fund it has since replaced with the EII fund.

Lifes2good makes and distributes the Vivascal range of hair growth supplements and haircare products.

The company also sells nutritional supplements for the anti-ageing and weight-loss markets in Europe, the US, the



James Murphy, Lifes2Good

Middle East and Asia. It has 60 staff and had revenues last year of more than €20 million.

Andrew Bourg, director of BES Management Limited and BDO, said Lifes2Good's

Davy EII tax relief funding would be used to "finance further product development and working capital requirements to enable it to continue its growth in international

markets." Lifes2Good's products are stocked in over 30,000 outlets internationally, including Boots, Doc Morris, Sam McCauley chemists and McCabe's pharmacies in Ireland and Harrods, Asda, Tesco and Superdrug in Britain," said Bourg.

"Online retailer Amazon ranks Vivascal in third spot among 588,000 different beauty products.

"Another brand marketed by Lifes-2good, Emjoi M1-CRO Pedi, has also created mass demand, selling at a rate of three per minute in Europe."

Lifes2Good's chief executive James Murphy said the company recently closed a major deal to supply Vivascal Man to 8,000 Walgreen and 500 Rite Aid pharmacy outlets in the US.

Murphy estimated the value of the contracts at €3 million

over 12 months. "Securing these retail deals means we will soon see Vivascal Man stocked in phenomenally popular pharmacy outlets all across the US and it is our aim to support these deals and drive our US sales to new heights," said Murphy.

"Thinning hair and hair loss is a major issue globally amongst men and consequently the US is a major growth market for Lifes2Good. Hair loss is a sensitive subject and with Vivascal Man now entering the market, we hope to cut through the taboo and scepticism associated with the topic."

BES Limited recently announced that it had raised a new €3.2 million investment fund under the Employment & Incentive Investment (EII) Scheme, introduced by the government in 2011 to reform its predecessor, the Business Expansion Scheme (BES).