

### **Exciting line-up for Roscommon Enterprise and Innovation Week 2011**

Presidential hopeful and Dragon's Den panellist, Seán Gallagher, renowned economist Marc Coleman and business & marketing strategist Pearce Flannery are amongst the confirmed speakers who will participate in a range of events taking place throughout Co. Roscommon during Enterprise and Innovation Week, taking place from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Hosted by Roscommon County Enterprise Board and Roscommon Integrated Development Company, these important events are aimed at encouraging and promoting innovation and growth of enterprise in the county.

The events include a flagship half-day conference, to be held in Roscommon town on Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> May, with guest speakers on selected topics of applied innovation concepts and approaches; and development opportunities for micro-enterprises in the region. Important Speakers will include entrepreneur and Dragon's Den Panellist Sean Gallagher, renowned entrepreneur John Concannon from JFC Manufacturing in Tuam, David O'Sullivan from the ideas School at NUI, Galway, who will speak about Developing and Managing Creativity and Innovation in Businesses and Liam Birkett a recognised speaker and commentator at National Level on IP, copyright and trademarks as a form of protection and competitive advantage for innovative enterprise.

A range of organisations will also be present with display stands and information points to facilitate the next steps in the innovation process for participating enterprises, including Roscommon County Enterprise Board, Roscommon Integrated Development Company, WESTBIC, Enterprise Ireland, InterTrade Ireland, Roscommon County Council Business Support Unit and the Midland Innovation and Research Centre/Athlone Institute of Technology.

During the week, a new initiative called Roscommon Innovation House will also be launched by renowned business and economics writer, Marc Coleman, at the Athlone Springs Hotel in Monksland, hosted by Roscommon Integrated Development Company. The aim of this initiative is to provide the best possible innovation advice and support for new/existing entrepreneurs, in a seamless one-stop-shop format across all relevant agencies. This initiative will tap into existing resources where possible and introduce access to new innovation experts/supports where necessary. A client-centred approach will be adopted to ensure that specific needs are identified and addressed in the most efficient manner possible, with the best advice and assistance sourced to support innovation in eligible enterprises.

Additionally, as part of Enterprise and Innovation Week, a range of specialist information and advisory sessions, including one-to-one mentoring sessions will be provided, by appointment, at various locations throughout the county, including Roscommon town, Monksland, Boyle and Ballaghaderreen. This will include advisory sessions on IP/patents and trademarks, innovation supports through third level institutions, business and marketing strategy, finance and financial supports available for innovative enterprise. Specialist advisory sessions will be by appointment only, so participants should contact the relevant organisations to book same. More information is available at [www.roscommon.ie/news](http://www.roscommon.ie/news) or from Roscommon County Enterprise Board (Tel 090 6626263) and Roscommon Integrated Development Company (Tel 090 6630252).