



ENVIRONMENTAL PRODUCTS and SERVICES

Market Overview

The average Irish household produces approximately one tonne of refuse each year, and currently 90% of this goes directly to landfill. The total generated industrial waste has increased from 6.2 million tonnes in 1995 to 9.1 million tonnes in 1998, an increase of 47%. The government has determined that, by the year 2013, half of all household and commercial waste will be diverted from landfill, while 65% of organic waste will be composted rather than dumped. Under the plan, 35% of household and commercial waste, and 85% of construction and demolition waste, will be recycled. The government has also set a target of having just 20 landfill sites by 2013. This plan is based on a 1993 EU directive on waste management.

The Irish government has included IR£650 million in the National Development Plan to cover the cost of developing the infrastructure to meet these targets. Consideration is also being given to the use of public-private partnerships. The country is divided into seven separate waste regions, which had to develop their own projections. Despite numerous plans to construct incinerator facilities since the 1980s, none has gone ahead. They have either failed to satisfy the planning authorities or have been halted by local lobby groups. As the situation deteriorates and

certain landfill sites reach full capacity, the Minister for the Environment and Local Government has indicated that he will fast-track the introduction of incinerators to meet crisis situations. The major initial project will be a 150,000 tonne per year waste-to-energy plant to be located in County Meath. This project will be a public-private partnership. A 600,000 tonne waste-to-energy project is also planned for Dublin. Some regional councillors have visited incineration facilities in Denmark and Germany during the past two years, and the authorities are monitoring the recycling-based achievements of the Province of Nova Scotia.

Due to massive industrial and housing growth, there has been increasing pressure on the country's water and wastewater infrastructure. To meet the EU Drinking Water and Urban Waste Water directives, the National Development Plan will invest some IR£3 billion in water and wastewater services. Approximately IR£1,102 million will go on wastewater schemes, IR£380 million on water-supply schemes, IR£550 million on rehabilitation and management of infrastructure, and IR£420 million for rural water programs. Some 529 schemes, whose scale varies widely, were identified: 79 are ongoing, 113 are to commence during 2000-02, and 131 are for the years 2003-06. The remaining schemes are to meet other requirements for current and future housing.

Opportunities

This market is competitive. In addition to the local contractors and consulting engineers, companies and consultants from the UK, France, Denmark and the United States have been actively chasing projects. A number of multinationals have established local offices or joined forces with local consultants. Additionally, contractors are experiencing a shortage of skilled labour, due to the economic boom and massive construction activity.

As environment-related projects are, for the most part, emerging from the public sector, the sourcing is undertaken by tender invitation. In the case of water and wastewater projects, they may be issued by up to 40 different local authorities. On the solid waste front, there are the seven separate regions, but the councils are also involved. Major tender invitations are publicized by the Canadian Embassy in Dublin through IBOC.

For further information, contact:

Department of the Environment and Local Government: <http://www.environ.ie>

Dublin Corporation: <http://www.dublincorp.ie>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.ie>

Major Shows

Irish Water, Waste, Environment Show,

November 28-29, 2001, Dublin,

E-mail: exhibit@fav-house.com

