



## Skillnet Training Programme to Be Launched

**SHANNON Marine & Leisure Skillnet, - A new training and development initiative for enterprises in the Marine & Leisure sectors along the Shannon River - is delighted to announce the date for the official launch of its 'First of a Kind' 2008-09 industry specific training programme in Glasson Golf and Country Club, Glasson, Athlone, Co. Westmeath by Deputy Mary O' Rourke, on March 7th at 3pm.**

Skillnets is an enterprise-led support body dedicated to the promotion and facilitation of learning as a key element in sustaining Ireland's national competitiveness. Shannon Marine & Leisure Skillnet is a network training initiative funded by Skillnets Ltd and member companies from the Marine and Leisure sectors through the National Training Fund of the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment. This injection of training funding is the 'First of Its Kind' for the Marine and Leisure sectors and allows all member companies to nurture employee and management potential through delivery of a robust training and development programme during 2008-09.

The purpose of the new funded training project will be to

provide support to the Shannon Marine and Leisure sectors to

- β Deliver customised, local, professional, value for money enterprise – led training
- β Support members in maintaining a competitive edge in increasingly challenging sectors through increased management effectiveness
- β Facilitate networking among members as part of a dynamic business forum
- β Empower and motivate employees to work 'Smarter' not 'Harder' through advanced knowledge and improved skill levels.

This training and development programme offers a comprehensive list of courses designed to deliver specific learning outcomes and relevant tangible benefits to both employees and management levels across the Marine and Leisure sectors namely:

- β Cost effective subsidized government funded training for employees
- β Relevant commissionable training to suit Marine & Leisure companies' needs and strategies with flexible delivery times and locations
- β A fully managed training network that decides all aspects of the networks strategy, plans and activities
- β Networking opportunities to receive new information,

share ideas and develop new relationships in an inter-sector Network

The training programme includes a broad diverse range of courses spanning the following key business disciplines: Customer Care Skills, Sales & Marketing Skills, Emergency Care Training for boating, Boat Instructor Course, English for Tourism, International Competency Certificate in Boat Handling, Pool Plan Operations, On-line Hotel Reservations, Introductory Food Hygiene and Client Induction to Boats.

Announcing the launch date Mr. Paddy Gilboy Director of Shannon Marine Leisure Ltd. stated "This is the first funded training programme for the Marine and Leisure Sectors under the Skillnet initiative which underscores the significant growth and importance of these dynamic sectors" says Paddy "Our success is due to the dedication and commitment of its member companies and we invite all employees and managers to JUMP ON BOARD and take advantage of this robust and practically focused training and development programme. It undoubtedly serves as the developmental catalyst in continuing to advance the knowledge and learning of employees at all levels within these sectors".