



**Mid-West
Lean Network**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2025

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

'Empowering Every Level'

Lean Thinking Across the Organisation

Venue: Dromoland Castle Hotel

#midwestlean



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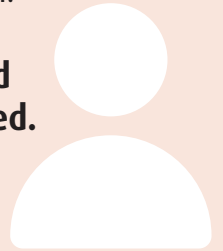
Collaborative and People- Focused

Lean transformation happens when every voice counts.

Giving people at all levels in an organisation the ability, authority, and responsibility to contribute to improvement and decision-making, ensures that lean principles are embedded.

Empowering every level means creating a culture where everyone - from the CEO to the frontline worker - is trusted and expected to drive improvement and eliminate waste. This leads to greater efficiency, stronger collaboration, and sustainable growth.

This 2025 Conference Programme has been structured to give practical examples of how this can be achieved.



LEAN = Improved Quality
+ Improved Visual Management
+ Increased Efficiency
+ An Easier to Manage Company

LEAN =
A Rewarding
Challenge



Conference Programme

Conference Chair: Jennifer Stratton, Continuous Improvement (CI) Engineer, Cook Medical

08:30 Registration and Networking
09:00 **Welcome and introductions**
 Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber
 Jennifer Stratton, Chair, Mid-West Lean Network
 Michelle O'Grady, Regional Manager Mid-West, Enterprise Ireland

09:30 **Transforming Lean Mindsets – Panel Discussion**

Panellists

Gerry Cahill, Global Operations Director, PPG Ireland Ltd, Ireland
Pat Foley, CEO and Managing Director, Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon
Kevin Quinn, CEO, CSG
Ann Sheahan, Business Owner/Manager, Entellexi

10:45 Coffee/Tea Break

Bringing Lean to Life: From Vision to Execution - 'Actual Examples of projects / initiatives'

11:00 **Impact to Performance | Tiered Daily Management Overview**

Maeve McLoughlin, Process Excellence Lead, J&J Vision Care

11:20 **Principles of Lean deployment and real-life examples**

Dr. Gerard Grace, Director of Business Excellence, Edwards Lifesciences

11:40 **Presentation title tbc**

Nicky Mullen, Process Development Manager, Ei Electronics

12:00 **Q&A with Presenters**

12:15 **Problem Solving Challenge presented by St Patrick's Comprehensive School, Shannon**

12:30 **Lunch and networking with service providers and agencies**

13:30 **Cultivating Mindset & Perspective – Panel Discussion**

Panellists

Christine Watson, HR Business Partner, Zimmer Biomet
Goda Zvikaite, Quality Assurance / Design and Compliance Quality, Penn Engineering
Kieran Stack, Plant Manager, Ballygowan Britvic Ireland
Dominic Murphy, Managing Director, Shannon Precision Engineering

14:45 **Keynote Speaker: Marie Power, Head of Leadership Development, Uppercut**

15:45 Remarks from Anchor Sponsor

Pat Burke, Vice President and General Manager, Cook Ireland

16:00 Closing Remarks – Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber



Session

1

Chair: Robert Hernan, Senior Lean Advisor, Enterprise Ireland

Session

2

Session

3

Chair: Robert Hernan, Senior Lean Advisor, Enterprise Ireland

About the Presenters

Conference Chair

Jennifer Stratton, Continuous Improvement (CI) Engineer, Cook Medical & Chairperson, Mid-West Lean Network

Jennifer joined Cook Medical Limerick in 2021 as Continuous Improvement Engineer. Her work is centred around supporting and executing the Continuous Improvement Strategy for Cook Ireland. She has previously worked in the chemical manufacturing industry and as a contract researcher for industry.



She is a Master Black Belt having graduated from the University of Limerick's MSc Strategic Quality Management, Lean System and holds a BSc in Biochemistry, MSc in Biomedical Science and Specialist Diploma in Medical Device Science, all from the University of Galway.

She is passionate that people are at the centre of all the Continuous Improvement work that we do and driven by the fact that there are opportunities to apply Lean and Continuous Improvement principles to all areas of an organisation.

Speaker Profiles

Gerry Cahill, Global Operations Director, PPG Ireland Ltd, Ireland

Gerry has over 30 years' experience in the pharmaceutical and fine chemical industries. He started his career with a degree in industrial chemistry from the University of Limerick after which he added qualifications in accountancy, strategic management, learning and development and executive coaching. His career has involved over 20 different roles at site and HQ levels having the opportunity to live and work in Ireland, Switzerland, America, Italy and Brazil. His roles have involved responsibility for global operations, site management, strategy development and execution, new product introductions, LEAN implementation and setting up a new services hub in Canada.



His most recent roles have involved the phased closure of a large pharmaceutical site and associated demolition and remediation of that site. His current is as global Operations Director for a chemical CDMO company producing industry leading materials used in display media e.g. smart phones and laptops. This involves managing a number of sites in Ireland and the US with the core role starting up a chemical development and manufacturing facility in Shannon - building a team who have been able to meet exponential growth whilst in parallel designing and building technical/engineering capability to stay ahead of product demands.

Pat Foley, CEO and Managing Director, Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon

Pat has been CEO and Managing Director of Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon, a wholly owned subsidiary of Lufthansa Technik AG since 1 August 2023. After completing his apprenticeship, Pat served in various positions at Lufthansa Technik Shannon (formerly Shannon Aerospace) in Ireland from April 1992 until December 2005. From 2005 to 2007, he was Chief Operations Officer at another subsidiary, Lufthansa Technik Budapest in Hungary. In 2007, he returned to Lufthansa Technik Shannon as Head of Production, a position he held until 2012, when he took on the role Head of Aviation Services there. He remained in this role until 2014. Pat then served as Head of Production with Lufthansa Technik Puerto Rico from 2014 before taking responsibility for the company as its Chief Executive in 2017, a position he held until October 2022. Pat then assumed the role of Senior Director, Business Development the Americas until his appointment as CEO and Managing Director of Lufthansa Technik Turbine Shannon.



Kevin Quinn, CEO, CSG

Kevin is CEO of CSG, the parent company of Chemifloc and GI Chemicals. The group delivers chemical solutions for water intensive applications and is particularly strong within water / wastewater treatment, and bulk hygiene products to dairies, food and beverage, and agriculture. The business is headquartered in Shannon, Co. Clare where manufacturing and distribution is located and has satellite sites in Foynes, Co. Limerick and Immingham, UK.

With over two decades of international leadership experience, Kevin has a strong track record in strategic growth, M&A integration, and operational excellence. Before joining CSG, he held senior executive roles in Sweden, Poland, Italy, and China — leading cross-functional teams and driving lean transformation across multiple locations. Known for creating stakeholder value, Kevin has repeatedly built a culture of continuous improvement by empowering individuals at every level to deliver sustainable results. Kevin holds a BSc in Applied Physics from the University of Limerick and an MSc in Management from Drexel University.



Ann Sheahan, Business Owner/Manager, Entellexi

Ann Sheahan is Business Owner / Manager at Entellexi, a high-technology small firm (software development). Ann has over 35 years' experience working with people and teams at all levels in organisations of all shapes and sizes, delivering operational excellence as well as lean and digital transformations. Her experience spans working with small companies with support from the LEOs, small and mid-caps through Enterprise Ireland as well as large companies through IDA Ireland. Ann also works with EU institutions monitoring funded programmes for the benefit of SMEs across the EU.

Ann lectures and mentors Masters students at Irish universities. Her specialist areas include Lean and Six Sigma (Master Black Belt), problem solving courses based on TQM methodology as well as basic and advanced courses in statistical process control.



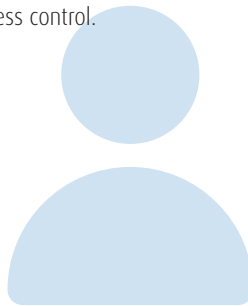
Maeve McLoughlin, Process Excellence Lead, J&J Vision Care

Maeve joined J&J Vision Care in January 2023 as Site Process Excellence Lead. Her responsibilities include focusing on improving business processes by enlisting and influencing cross-functional teams to deliver business results through the application of Lean principles & Six Sigma methodologies.

Maeve brings 20 years of industrial experience in various areas from quality, engineering and project management with particular emphasis on change management in a manufacturing environment.

Maeve has led several successful strategic business transformation programmes including performance management, productivity improvements, new product introductions, MES implementation and elimination of non-value add activities with digital solutions.

Maeve holds a BSc. in Science & Technology from the UCC, Diploma in Project Management and MSc. in Strategic Quality Management in Lean Sigma from the University of Limerick.



Dr. Gerard Grace, Director of Business Excellence, Edwards Lifesciences

Gerard (Ger) is an experienced professional in best practice deployment in operations management, lean Six Sigma, asset management, TPM and Class A in manufacturing and transactional processes. His primary degree is in industrial chemistry, and he has a PhD in chemistry from the University of Limerick. He is also an experienced Master Black Belt.



Having run and mentored hundreds of improvement projects he has learned a lot about what works (and doesn't!) in real-life situations. He transferred this experience into tailored green belt, problem solving and TPM programmes, which he delivered in multiple locations.

Ger's key strengths are in problem solving, detailed data analysis capabilities combined with clarity of communication, facilitation, and an ability to interact with people at all levels of the business. His interests outside of work include his family, mountain biking, dogs, philosophy and anything outdoors.

Nicky Mullen - Process Development Manager at Ei Electronics

Nicky is the Process Development Manager at Ei Electronics, a highly successful Irish owned company based in Shannon, Co Clare.



Ei is one of Ireland's leading indigenous multinational manufacturing companies, producing over 13 million residential fire and gas detection devices a year and exporting to 30 different countries. The company's success is based upon Innovative Product Designs, World-class Manufacturing, and a culture of Quality and Service.

Working at Ei for the past 17 years, he has held various positions within manufacturing and operations, including leading the development and implementation of numerous highly efficient lean manufacturing cells and processes.

In his current role, he now leads a team focused on delivering world-class automated assembly equipment for use within the new production areas at Ei.

With primary qualifications in both Design and Manufacturing, he also holds a Masters Degree in Strategic Quality Management - Lean Sigma Systems from the University of Limerick.

Christine Watson, HR Business Partner, Zimmer Biomet

Christine is an experienced HR Business Partner at Zimmer Biomet, a leading medical device and orthopedics manufacturer in Shannon, Co. Clare. With over a decade of experience in human resources, Christine has built her career within large multinational organisations, gaining broad and in-depth expertise across all areas of HR. Her key focus areas include employee engagement, supporting and shaping people strategies, Lean HR practices, talent development, change management, coaching, and employee relations. Christine is passionate about creating positive workplace cultures, driving continuous improvement, and aligning HR initiatives with business goals to deliver measurable impact.



Goda Zvikaite, Quality Assurance / Design and Compliance Quality, Penn Engineering

A quality and OPEX professional and certified Master Black Belt, Goda has 15 years' experience developing and integrating continuous improvement (CI) and Operational Excellence (OpEx) programmes across diverse business units (applications, supply chain, logistics, distribution, and manufacturing). Her expertise lies in Lean Six Sigma (MSc and 2022 Lean Business Ireland Award winner) and strategic quality management.



Kieran Stack, Plant Manager, Ballygowan Britvic Ireland

Kieran is a seasoned Plant Manager with extensive experience in multinational manufacturing environments. He is a passionate advocate of coach-led leadership, empowering teams to achieve operational excellence through lean methodologies and continuous improvement. Kieran holds diplomas in coaching, leadership, and change management, and brings a people-centric approach to driving performance and transformation. His leadership has delivered measurable results in cost reduction, quality enhancement, and customer satisfaction. As a former Site Operations Manager and a regular speaker at Lean Business Ireland, Kieran shares practical, actionable strategies that help organisations streamline processes and build high-performance cultures. His sessions offer valuable insights for leaders seeking to foster engagement, accountability, and sustainable growth.



Dominic Murphy, Managing Director, Shannon Precision Engineering

Dominic has been Managing Director of Shannon Precision Engineering, a leading Irish and family-owned precision machining and manufacturing firm since 2005. The company has grown from modest beginnings in 1978 to a facility of about 40,000 sq. ft., with modern CNC machining, quality systems and capabilities across automotive, aerospace and semi-conductors. ISO9001 – AS9100 accredited, and with a focus on continuous improvement – better over best – the company employs approximately 83 people.



Pat Burke, Vice President and General Manager, Cook Ireland

Pat Burke Vice President and General Manager at Cook Ireland, based in Limerick. With over three decades of leadership in electronic and medical device manufacturing, Pat brings deep expertise across engineering, operations, facilities management, customer service, supply chain logistics, and distribution. His career includes key roles at Sumicem Optoelectronics, Dell, AST Computers, and Intel, where he built a strong foundation in high-tech and regulated industries.



At Cook Ireland, Pat leads strategic initiatives that drive innovation, operational excellence, and global competitiveness. He is known for fostering collaborative teams and delivering results in complex, fast-paced environments. Pat holds a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics from the University of Limerick.

Keynote Speaker

Marie Power is Head of Leadership Development at Uppercut and the founder of MPower Consulting. She is an executive coach, team coach, and leadership development specialist with deep experience in fast-paced, values-driven and founder-led organisations. With over 20 years' industry experience and a background in psychology, psychotherapy and executive coaching, Marie brings a psychologically informed, systemic and relational approach that helps leaders and teams build clarity, resilience and authentic impact. She is passionate about aligning leadership with purpose and values, fostering psychological safety, and ensuring that change initiatives do good rather than harm.



Marie's presentation topic is:
**Lean Mindset & High Performance: Focus,
Sustainability and Next generation Leadership**

Students Have a Challenge - Can Your Lean Expertise Solve It?

D



Define

Define the problem.

M



Measure

Quantify the problem.

A



Analyze

Analyze the cause of the problem.

I



Improve

Implement and verify the solution.

C



Control

Maintain the solution.

NOTE: In a departure from our problem-solving street event format, this year, students from St Patrick's Comprehensive School will outline a problem(s) they need help to resolve. The students will give context to the problem(s) and seek a volunteer(s) from the audience to work with them to resolve the issue. The outcome(s) will be presented at a Mid-West Lean Network event in Q1, 2026. The problem (s) will be presented at 12:15.



Mid-West Lean Network

The Mid-West Lean Network has developed considerably since its formation in November 2016. There are now in excess of 130 member companies in the Network, deriving benefits from the 49 Lean-focused workshops, and 5 conferences, 2 visits to Toyota Motor Manufacturing, UK, and site visits to Seating Matters and ATC.

This Conference is the culmination of the 2025 calendar of events.

Be part of it.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

To book your place at this Conference, log onto:
www.shannonchamber.ie/events/mid-west-lean-network-conference-2025/

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