

# Women Captains of Industry- Leading with Heart and 'Giving to Gain' for International Women's Day



**Shannon**  
Chamber  
Advancing business together

Supporting International  
Women's Day

## Meet the Panelists:

Anchor Sponsor:

**Aerogen®**

**Marie Clifford**

Managing Director  
**ATC**



Marie Clifford has always been drawn to the space where people, culture and possibility meet.

Early in her career, she learned there's always more than one way to see a challenge and more than one way to lead. That mindset continues to shape how she builds teams, removes complexity, solves problems and creates systems that last. As Managing Director of ATC Group, she has spent over 15 years growing a small engineering company into a trusted partner to world-class clients. The journey has been hands-on, entrepreneurial, sometimes scrappy, and always rooted in learning by doing.

The real transformation began when ATC moved beyond tools and certifications and placed behaviours and culture at the centre of its Lean approach. Simple rituals like 3S, meaningful morning meetings and "tour ready" standards now anchor how the business works and grows.

Marie believes organisations should reflect the pride of their people. That improvement should be part of the everyday rhythm, not an initiative. And that leadership should be clear, human and consistent - committed to growing people who are willing to learn, ready to change and unafraid to simplify.

**CORE**  
**OPTIMISATION**  
THE RESULTS AGENCY



**Caroline Dunlea**

Chief Executive Officer  
**Core Optimisation**

Caroline co-founded the award-winning digital growth and transformation agency Core Optimisation in 2015, which supports digital transformation and digital performance growth for businesses within the Irish and UK markets.

Caroline brings over 15 years of experience in the Digital sector, was a 2022 finalist in the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Emerging category and won the Entrepreneur Award from Dublin Tech Summit, Women in Tech in 2019.

Caroline is the outgoing Chairperson of lobbying and representative body Digital Business Ireland, is a regular speaker and panellist at business, marketing and digital transformation events and leads Core Optimisation's management of the ground-breaking Digital Transformation Programme "Digital that Delivers" for Failte Ireland.

The Core Optimisation group also includes international tourism benchmarking and digital strategy company Wheresight and the recently acquired global PR company Clearstory International.

# Women Captains of Industry- Leading with Heart and 'Giving to Gain' for International Women's Day

5th March | 8.30 am - 10.30 am | Westpark Innovation Campus, Shannon

## Meet the Panelists:

**Denise  
Mangan Fahy**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
**SES**



**SES**  
**Fly Certain**

Denise was appointed CEO of Shannon Engine Support (SES) in September 2025. She brings over 35 years of aerospace experience, combining technical expertise with senior leadership in engine leasing, portfolio planning, and operations.

Previously, she was Head of Engine Portfolio & Rental Operations at AerCap Engines, following its acquisition of GECAS, where she advanced to Senior Vice President after joining in 1998. She began her career with Shannon Aerospace in 1990 as an ICAO-licensed Aircraft Maintenance Technician on the CFM56-3.

Denise holds an MBA (First Class Honours) from the University of Limerick.



**Marianne  
Checkley**

*Chief Executive Officer*  
**Kinia**



Through experience in cross-sector partnerships, Marianne's work focuses on shaping and scaling education strategies that deliver measurable social impact. With an emphasis on technology, STEM, and future-focused skills, she applies systems thinking to support inclusive and sustainable learning pathways at scale.

Bringing a business informed, outcomes-focused approach to the non-profit sector, she works to align stakeholders, contribute to system level change, and support organisations to navigate transformation, growth, and contribute long-term value to communities.



**Shannon  
Chamber**  
Advancing business together

*Supporting* International  
Women's Day