**Irish Academy of Engineering award prestigious 2017 Parsons Medal to Dr Edmond Harty**

Thursday 30th November 2017 – The Irish Academy of Engineering is awarding its highest honour, the Parsons Medal, to leading Irish engineer and businessman Dr Edmond Harty.

The Academy awards the Parsons Medal for Engineering Sciences to engineers or engineering scientists of exceptional ability in research or engineering technology. Dr Edmond Harty is CEO and Technical Director of Dairymaster.

The Parsons Medal commemorates the work of Sir Charles Algernon Parsons, the inventor of the steam turbine. Sir Charleswas an [Anglo-Irish](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anglo-Irish) [engineer](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Engineer), best known for his invention of the compound [steam turbine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steam_turbine). His father built the great telescope at Birr Castle and his mother was a famous photographer. He worked as an engineer on [dynamo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dynamo) and [turbine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turbine) design, and [power generation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_generation), and had a great influence on the naval and [electrical engineering](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electrical_engineering) fields. Previous winners of the medal include: Dr Tony Fagan, Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, UCD; Dr. Patrick Prendergast, Provost of Trinity College Dublin and; Professor (Michael) Peter Kennedy, Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University College Cork.

Dr Harty has a strong background in engineering and holds a B.Eng in Mechanical Engineering and a Ph.D from UCD. He is also currently full Adjunct Professor in the School of Biosystems and Food Engineering at UCD College of Engineering and Architecture.

He is also an award-winning businessman. Dairymaster is one of the world’s leading dairy and agri-tech companies and exports to over 40 countries and has direct operations in Ireland, UK and USA. The company employs over 350 directly in Kerry. Dr Harty has filed over 96 innovative patents relating to his business which have led to highly innovative products and services for his business. These are applied commercially on farms around the world and have brought about great efficiencies on dairy farms. His approach to innovation in his business is to use a multi-disciplinary approach and most of the output of the company is produced within the company.

Eoin O’Driscoll, former President, the Irish Academy of Engineering commented, “Dr Edmond Harty is an outstanding choice for this year’s Parsons Medal. The award recognises engineers of exceptional ability in research or engineering technology. Not only is Edmond an accomplished engineer with an outstanding research background, he is also an award-winning businessman who has grown a global enterprise.”

“Through Edmond’s leadership, and in particular, the engineering advances and innovations he has introduced, Dairymaster is now a world leader in technology for dairy farming. He has made an exceptional contribution to the practice of engineering nationally and internationally through the innovative application of engineering and advanced manufacturing technology.”

“He has also had a considerable impact internationally, making farmers’ lives easier and their businesses more profitable, efficient and sustainable, through reduced energy consumption and automation.”

“He is also to be commended for the valuable contribution he makes to Irish society and the economy through the numerous public service roles he fulfils. These include the Irish Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas, the Government’s Action Plan for Jobs and Teagasc’s Education Strategic Vision Steering Committee.”

Dr Edmond Harty commented, “I am honoured to be the recipient of the Irish Academy of Engineering’s Parsons Medal for 2017. The Academy is a body of national importance, providing a valuable, expert unbiased advice on the development of policies and programmes to government, state agencies and other important stakeholders. To receive this level of recognition from my peers of my academic and business achievements is both humbling and inspiring.”

Dr Harty is the recipient of many other awards for his innovative approach to business, including the EY Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2012 and the Agribusiness Leader of the Year 2015.

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**About the Irish Academy of Engineering**

The Irish Academy of Engineering is an all-island body which seeks to make an expert contribution to economic, social and technological development issues on the island of Ireland.