



# 2018 Women in IT AWARDS IRELAND



For immediate release

**Women in IT Awards Ireland in association with AWS, Dublin, 21 November 2018** First ever Women in IT Awards held in Dublin celebrates the vital role women play in an integral sector to the Irish economy

With just under 19% of Ireland's tech sector being female, the Women in IT Awards programme has come to the region for the first time to celebrate the contribution that women are making in the Irish technology sector and to highlight issues they still face.

Since its launch in 2015, the Women in IT Awards have showcased women in technology in London and New York, with new launches planned in Asia, San Francisco and continental Europe. Organised by business- technology site Information Age, a Bonhill Group plc title, the Women in IT Awards Ireland in association with AWS acts as a flagship and high-profile platform to support the industry in its mission to move the dial on gender, celebrating both the work that women have done and the work that needs to be done in order to advance women in technology

*"Irish women in tech have made big strides towards equal pay in the workplace, and we celebrate this. However, they still lag massively behind their male counterparts, who still dominate the sector in Ireland, by almost a fifth when it comes to pay," commented Niki Dowdall, Managing Director – Events & Marketing and main Board Director at Bonhill Group plc.*

*"To help promote more understanding of the importance that women do and can play in the technology sector in Ireland, we also organised community outreach to local schools to coincide with our conference and gala awards dinner. We are very grateful to the support provided by partners such as AWS, AIB, Airbnb, Docusign, Google, Hays, Mace, Oracle, Red Hat, Salesforce, Ulster Bank, and Women to Watch."*

*"We were delighted that four local schools have today presented at the The Top Tech Tip Challenge in association with our partner AWS. The schools were; Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School in Dublin, BAMETech Innovators (a foundation which aims to increase the number of people of colour in the Irish digital space), Presentation College in Carlow and Mercy Secondary School in Waterford," she added.*

These schools each presented their top tech tips for today and the short-term future. Each school presented for 20 minutes, after which there was a 5 minute Q&A session. The audience was made up of the Women in IT Awards Ireland shortlist, and judged Mercy Secondary School to be the winning school.

Technology is a traditionally male-dominated field, but the Women in IT series' mission is to change that. The first step to do so, is to draw attention to the women who work in the field and especially those who excel.

Last night's showcase event held in Mansion House in Dublin, culminated with Dr Michelle Cullen of Accenture Ireland winning the night's flagship award, 'Woman of the Year'.

**Group Chief Operating Officer at Bank of Ireland, Jackie Noakes, gave the headline address. Commenting on the award she said:**

*"Dr Cullen's talent speaks for itself, she is an amazing advocate for women in the tech industry. Not only has she campaigned for gender parity in Accenture, but also across the whole of Ireland. It is these kinds of champions that we take pleasure in celebrating. The 'Women In' series is much more than a stage to highlighting winners. The sheer number of candidates and nominees has been remarkable, and this has been a unique opportunity for women in tech to come together and discuss the issues that they face."* She also highlighted the enormous contribution of the IT industry to the Irish economy and that many women are the key drivers behind this.

Caroline Glackin, Senior Site Leader for the Premium Support organization of AWS also delivered a welcome address. She called on all men present to be vigilant of unconscious bias against women and to ensure that it does not enter their organisations.

Roisin Ingle, columnist, editor and podcaster with The Irish Times, hosted the event.

**Award winners as follows:**

Advocate of the Year	<i>Paula Harrington, PH Training</i>
Young Leader of the Year	<i>Kara Crinion, Together Digital</i>
Employer of the Year	<i>Vodafone Ireland</i>
Future CIO of the Year	<i>Seainin McCoy, BT</i>
Digital Leader of the Year	<i>Vicky Godolphin, Accenture Ireland</i>
Business Role Model of the Year	<i>Barbara McCarthy, HubSpot</i>
Business Leader of the Year	<i>Aisling Keegan, Dell EMC</i>
Innovator of the Year	<i>Sara Philpott, Openet</i>
Rising Star of the Year	<i>Ellen Brady, Accenture Ireland</i>
Security Champion of the Year	<i>Jacky Fox, Deloitte</i>
Data Leader of the Year	<i>Medb Corcoran, Accenture's The Dock</i>
Transformation Leader of the Year	<i>Olean Redrugina, Vizor Software</i>
CIO of the Year	<i>Myra O'Neill, Vodafone Ireland</i>
Woman of the Year	<i>Dr Michelle Cullen, Accenture Ireland</i>

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**About Bonhill Group plc**

Bonhill Group plc is an AIM-quoted leading B2B media business specialising in three key areas: Business Information, Live Events and Data & Insight in three key sectors: Technology, Financial Services and Diversity. Bonhill's ambition is to create content that informs, communities that engage and brands that inspire in order to enable a better business environment for our sponsors and clients. Flagship titles include: InvestmentNews, SmallBusiness.co.uk, Growth Company Investor, Information Age, GrowthBusiness.co.uk and What Investment. Bonhill is also responsible for a growing portfolio of high-profile events, including The Quoted Company Awards, Women in IT Awards and British Small Business Awards, amongst others.

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