

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**“QPANI MEMBERS CARRY OUT IRELAND’S LARGEST CONCRETE POUR”**

IN A JOINT VENTURE, QPANI MEMBERS STONEYFORD CONCRETE AND CES QUARRY PRODUCTS HAVE COMPLETED THE LARGEST EVER CONTINUOUS CONCRETE POUR IN IRELAND. IT MARKED A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE IN CONSTRUCTION WORK ON THE £97 MILLION TITANIC SIGNATURE PROJECT AT BELFAST’S TITANIC QUARTER. THE POUR WAS COMPLETED OVER THE WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 5 FOR HARCOURT CONSTRUCTION. DESPITE EXTREMELY WET WEATHER, MORE THAN 4,200 CUBIC METRES OF CONCRETE WERE DELIVERED BY 50 DIFFERENT TRUCK MIXERS FROM 5 DEPOTS.

THE CONCRETE WAS POURED FOR THE FIRST BASEMENT SLAB OF THE TITANIC SIGNATURE PROJECT AT A CONTINUOUS RATE OF 250 CUBIC METRES PER HOUR FOR MORE THAN 16 HOURS. IT INVOLVED THE CONCRETE BEING LAID 8 METRES BELOW GROUND LEVEL ACROSS AN AREA OF 3,800 SQUARE METRES. A LOW CARBON CONCRETE WAS USED WHICH HAS A RANGE OF ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS. UP TO 726 TONNES OF CO<sub>2</sub> WILL BE SAVED BY USING THIS CONCRETE, THE EQUIVALENT OF WHICH WOULD REQUIRE TAKING 234 CARS OFF THE ROAD FOR ONE YEAR.

THE BENEFITS WHICH THE TITANIC SIGNATURE PROJECT WILL BRING TO N IRELAND WILL GO FAR BEYOND TOURISM. IT WILL ALSO PROVIDE A MUCH NEEDED SHOT IN THE ARM FOR THE LOCAL CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. AT ITS’HEIGHT, THERE IS EXPECTED TO BE OVER 600 WORKERS ON THE SITE AND MORE THAN 200 PEOPLE EMPLOYED WHEN THE FACILITY OPENS.

MIKE SMITH, CEO OF TITANIC QUARTER LIMITED SAID “WE BELIEVE THIS CONCRETE POUR IS THE BIGGEST THE ISLAND OF IRELAND HAS EVER SEEN AND MARKS A MAJOR PROGRESSION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TITANIC SIGNATURE PROJECT, THE LARGEST TOURIST DEVELOPMENT EVER UNDERTAKEN IN N IRELAND. WHEN COMPLETED IN 2012, THE PROJECT IS EXPECTED TO ATTRACT OVER 400,000 VISITORS A YEAR AND GENERATE OVER £30 MILLION FOR THE N IRELAND ECONOMY”.

DARREN MCMILLAN, GENERAL MANAGER OF STONEYFORD CONCRETE, SAID “ TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE A CONCRETE POUR OF THIS SIZE WITHIN A SPECIFIED TIMESCALE TOOK MANY WEEKS OF CAREFUL PLANNING AND PREPARATION BY THE PROJECT TEAM AND A PHENOMENAL EFFORT BY ALL THOSE INVOLVED ON THE NIGHT”.

