

IRISH FRIDAY CLUB

INSPIRING TALKS - BREAKFAST - NETWORKING

NOVEMBER 2
WITH

PROF CONOR MCCARTHY
CONFIRM CENTRE - UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK &
CHRISTIAN BLOBNER

FRAUNHOFER IFF

ON

FACTORIES OF THE FUTURE



EMBASSY OF IRELAND
JÄGERSTR. 51, 10117 BERLIN

08:30-10:00 AM

FUELLED BY Kerrygold

Join us at the Irish Friday Club
- Factories of the Future -

Special for Berlin Science Week
on
2nd November 2018
with



Prof Conor McCarthy
Director at Confirm – Smart
Manufacturing,
University of Limerick



Christian Blobner
Head of International Research
Networks at
Fraunhofer IFF

on

- Launch of the new Irish-German research cooperation between Science Foundation Ireland's Confirm – *Smart Manufacturing* and Fraunhofer Institute for Factory Operation and Automation IFF
- Factories of the Future

[Register now](#)

**Friday, 2 November 2018
at Embassy of Ireland, Jägerstr. 51, 10117 Berlin.**

08:15 am

Registration & stand-up breakfast

08:30 am

Talk by Prof Conor McCarthy, Confirm, & Christian Blobner, Fraunhofer IFF

08:50 am

Official launch of Partnership between Confirm and Fraunhofer IFF

09:00 am

Q&A

09:15 am

Casual networking

09:30 am

Get to work!

Prof Conor McCarthy

Professor Conor McCarthy is the Centre Director for [Confirm – Smart Manufacturing](#), a new €47M national Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) *Research Centre* with 8 academic and 42 industrial partners. Confirm aims to fundamentally transform industry to a smart manufacturing eco-system where smart products are communicating with smart machines and production systems and into the supply chain, and making smart decisions based on real-time data.

Prof McCarthy is Chair of Lightweight Structures at the University of Limerick, and his main area of research is in joining lightweight materials, mostly for high performance structural applications, where he has published over 150 papers and four book chapters, with over 2,500 citations to these works. He currently leads a large [research group](#) investigating novel joining methods.

He is also a SFI Principal Investigator and leads major research programmes in Engineering Science, with a total budget exceeding €53M. His interests include cyber-physical systems, factory automation, bolted, bonded and thermally joined composites and metals, multi-scale damage mechanics and non-linear finite element analysis.

Christian Blobner

Christian Blobner is the Head of International Research Networks within the International Business Development section of [Fraunhofer Institute](#) for Factory Operation and Automation - IFF.

Blobner earned a Diplom-degree in International Economics from Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg in 2006. He also earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Management from Napier University in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 2005.

In 2006 he started working for the Fraunhofer IFF as a project manager in the Logistics and Factory Systems business unit. There he was responsible for the acquisition and management of international research projects of the business unit in various EU-funding programs. As Head of International Research Networks within [Fraunhofer IFF's](#) International Business Development, Blobner coordinates the institutes international engagement and cooperation with international partners. He is the institute's representative in various high-level networks and initiatives, such as EFFRA, ALICE and EERA.

Blobner is also the responsible manager for the Fraunhofer IFF's Digital Innovation Hub "The VDTC of the Fraunhofer IFF".



Ambasáid na hÉireann
Embassy of Ireland

