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Waterford family business.”

What makes the shortlist even more remarkable is the level of competition involved. “In October we will travel to Istanbul, to compete alongside three global multi-billion euro manufacturers and international industry leaders - companies operating on a completely different scale. To see a small independent Irish business recognised on the same stage is something we are incredibly proud of,” said Seán.

“For us, the project is about creating a modern training environment that Waterford can be proud of,” he added.

BACKGROUND

Seán is a Ballygunner man, and was part of the successful All-Ireland winning Senior Club Hurling team last year.

He attended St. Mary’s NS, Ballygunner and De La Salle College. After his Leaving Cert, Seán attended WIT (later SETU) studying business, specialising in economics and finance.

Clem is Seán’s dad and growing up, he was always involved in the business in some way.

“I always had a background in here, and it’s where I grew up,” said Sean.

Seán worked at the front counter for a couple of years, before he naturally progressed into the training side of it.

“I loved it straight away. I started off just doing the manual handling, and then I became an IPAF (International Powered Access

Federation) instructor as well.

“When I first started doing the training I got a lot of help from Stephen Bradley who has been an instructor here for about 15 years. He’s an excellent trainer, he’s very well experienced and he gave me a lot of time in helping me to understand training and what is expected of us as trainers in that area.”

Seán said there is training going on in the centre all the time, “whether it’s first aid, forklift training, or any sort of courses we can provide now”.

Seán said the sustainability part of the building is really important to his father, Clem, and to the rest of the team.

“He’s really passionate about that, and he really drove it on in terms of the sustainability project,” said Seán.

Seán described working in his father’s company as a “special place to be part of”.

“It’s very easy to stay still, but they strive to be better here all the time and trying to improve all the time. That’s something that’s really driven by Clem – that we never want to stay still. We always want to improve as much as we possibly can whether it’s sustainability or the training we provide and the facilities.”

Seán said he loves coming into work every day, meeting new people attending the courses and seeing them improve and helping to make a difference in their lives through the training.

He said the team working at Clem Jacob Hire are close and described it like “a big family”.



Hard working brothers, John and Liam King. Both have worked in Clem Jacob Hire for almost 18 years.



Sean pictured delivering classroom-based training.

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