

20 December 2018

Industry leaders gather for ICC Wales’ ‘Taste of Christmas’

Secretary of State for Wales, the Rt Hon Alun Cairns MP joined top level meetings and events professionals for ICC Wales’ ‘Taste of Christmas’ event at the prestigious Lancaster House in London’s West End last night for festive cocktails, delicious canapes, and updates from Welsh government and the venue’s senior management team on the progress of Wales’ first international convention centre.

The evening was compered by former BBC Political Correspondent Guto Harri and speeches were given on the night by Alun Cairns MP; Rob Holt, Deputy Director - Tourism Development and Major Events, Welsh Government; and Jill Manley, Commercial Director, ICC Wales and the Celtic Manor Resort, who all spoke of the huge opportunity for Wales presented by the opening of ICC Wales next year.

Attendees got a taste of ICC Wales’ ‘mind, body and soul’ food and beverage philosophy, with innovative sweet and savoury Christmas canapes and cocktails, using Welsh produce and delivered on the night by the venue’s culinary team.

Jill Manley said: “We are delighted to be joined in such a magnificent venue by so many distinguished guests and influential industry professionals to celebrate the end of an exciting and productive year. ICC Wales has reached a point of near fruition thanks to a joined-up Team Wales approach. We have secured more than £4million in contracted revenue so far, and our clients have confidence in what we deliver. Wales is truly open for business.”

Alun Cairns MP said: “It is a great privilege to be here tonight at Lancaster House, and from one of the most historic venues I’d like to talk about one of the newest. ICC Wales is an excellent facility, modern and flexible and in close proximity to London. The UK industrial strategy is focused on growing the economy but also on spreading economic prosperity throughout the UK, and so we look forward to building a great Western powerhouse.”



When it opens, ICC Wales will provide total floor space for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and events of 26,000sqm – the equivalent size to nearly four international rugby pitches.

An £84m joint venture between Celtic Manor and Welsh Government, ICC Wales will accommodate 5,000 delegates and includes a 4,000sqm pillar-free main hall, a 1,500-seated auditorium, 12 flexible meeting rooms, a double-height glass atrium and a 2,500sqm outdoor plaza.

-Ends-

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Notes to editors

ICC Wales is managed by the Celtic Manor Resort's expert leadership team responsible for the successful delivery of the 2014 Nato Summit and the 2010 Ryder Cup.

Opening in 2019, the ICC Wales is located within the grounds of the Celtic Manor Resort in Newport just two minutes from the M4.