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## **ICC Wales named as headline sponsor of M&IT awards 2019**

International Convention Centre Wales (ICC Wales) has been revealed as the headline sponsor of the next M&IT Awards in 2019, bringing the brand new state-of-the-art convention centre to the attention of over 1,200 meetings and events professionals from across the UK.

The industry's largest awards show will this year take place on St David's Day on 1 March 2019, three months before the £84 million South Wales venue officially opens. Held at Battersea Evolution, next year's awards are expected to be inspired by the country of Wales.

ICC Wales Chief Executive Ian Edwards said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as headline sponsors of the M&IT Awards next year. 2019 will be an incredibly important year for us as we prepare to open ICC Wales to the global meetings and events market after many years in the making. As the only completely new venue to open in 2019, this is a fantastic opportunity to show that our venue, and the country of Wales, is very much open for business."

Ian continues: "Wales has a successful track record of hosting major events including the Ryder Cup and the NATO Summit. The opening of ICC Wales, with its world class design and facilities, and its location – adjacent to the M4 motorway, just over two hours from London and close to the international airports at Cardiff and Bristol – makes ICC Wales an accessible and attractive proposition for international and national association conferences, corporate conferences and exhibitions."

Several conferences have already been confirmed for ICC Wales, including the 2019 UK Space Conference, due to take place at the venue in July 2019. Other signed events include Alzheimer's Research UK Conference in March 2020, The British Society of Echocardiography's BSEcho 2022, and the ACT Annual Conference in both 2020 and 2023.

Building work began on the ICC Wales site in June 2017 and once complete in June 2019, the venue will provide total floor space for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and events of 26,000sqm – the equivalent size to nearly four international rugby pitches. ICC Wales will accommodate up to 5,000 delegates and includes a 4,000sqm pillar-free main hall, 1,500-seated auditorium, 12 flexible meeting rooms, a double-height glass atrium and a 2,500 sqm outdoor plaza.



An £84m joint venture between the owners of Celtic Manor and Welsh Government, ICC Wales is managed by Celtic Manor's expert leadership team.

The M&IT awards are organised by Meetings & Incentive Travel magazine and the event brings together all sectors of the business to reward excellence of service and product and to enjoy fantastic cuisine, fine wines, excellent live entertainment and raise funds for charity.

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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.