



## PRESS RELEASE

Dublin, Ireland, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020

### **Making the “Digital Building” a Reality for Construction & Facilities Managers in Ireland**

**Two leading Irish organisations, Integrated Facilities Solutions Ltd. (IFS) and GS1 Ireland, are to collaborate to make the digital exchange of building information a reality for building owners, designers, contractors and operators.**

The two partners are to work together to address the problems associated with the lack of visibility, traceability and certainty in building information management in Ireland; from planning and design, through to handover and close-out, to operations and maintenance.

Many of the current challenges in the industry surrounding construction costs, timescales and quality, together with future operating costs can be readily addressed by adopting existing standards and technologies that provide visibility, certainty and assurance around design, construction and facilities management.

IFS is an award-winning Irish company that has developed a structured methodology and software platform for managing building information for the entire building & asset lifecycle. The IFS solution enables everyone to store, share and update all building and project information on a secure platform, accessible online from any location and on multiple devices.

GS1 Ireland is the local office of the international standards organisation that specialises in the development and implementation of open, global standards for item identification and tracking, enabling the sharing of data about objects, their history, location and maintenance needs.

The partnership will focus on bringing together interested industry stakeholders from across the supply chain, to learn about, and adopt, best-in-class standardised data sharing practices. The resulting added value from the use of standardised digital data will be delivered through resource efficiency and productivity gains throughout the lifespan of a building.



The construction and facilities management sectors in Ireland currently lag significantly behind the standards and technology adoption levels seen in other European countries, particularly Scandinavia, where item identification is already a mandatory component of national procurement and building management practices.

During the course of the partnership the two organisations will identify, develop and implement global standards for the identification, recording, management and maintenance of all components and assets that a building contains. Digitising and sharing that information in line with open, data standards is a key part of the collaboration, to ensure that all players in the construction and building management life cycle can access, share and utilise that information.

At the launch of the partnership today, George Harold, CEO of IFS, said that “IFS are very excited about our partnership with GS1, putting a strategic focus on the processes and standards to improve and assist owners and operators with their building & asset information for the entire asset lifecycle. Working with GS1 will allow us to develop and provide great opportunities for the implementation of GS1 global standards for asset information to the construction and facilities management industries.”

Mike Byrne, CEO, GS1 Ireland, commented, “GS1 Ireland is delighted to welcome Integrated Facilities Solutions Ltd. (IFS) as a Platinum Partner. GS1 standards can provide the needed visibility of all products, parts and components used in building. The GS1 *Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)* standard is now recognised as an essential element for meeting the emerging demands for unique identification and traceability of building components throughout the ‘cradle-to-cradle’ life cycle of construction projects.”

The demand and the necessity for change by introducing visibility, traceability and certainty in building and asset information is now urgently required for the construction and facilities management industries.

## **Ends**

### **Further Information, Resources and Links**

[Statsbyggs BIM Manual 2.0 requiring use of GTIN](#) (in Norwegian)

[buildingSMART Norway announcement of GTIN requirement](#) (in Norwegian)

Case Study Video from Norway <https://vimeo.com/333318985>.

[McKinsey: The Construction Productivity Imperative Report 2015](#)



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## **About IFS Partner Company**

Founded by Kieran Beggan and George Harold, IFS is an award-winning company that has pioneered digital transformation in building information management. IFS has developed software and a methodology for managing building information for the entire asset lifecycle - from planning and design stage, through construction and handover, to operations and maintenance.

IFS has achieved independent recognition through Regional and National Enterprise Awards, the most recent including IWFM Facilities Management Award for Innovation in Products and Services and Public Sector Award for Services to Business Management. IFS is an approved supplier under the Financial Services Supplier Qualification System (FSQS) and holds the Acclaim Certificate of Health & Safety Accreditation (SSIP).

The IFS cloud-based application for Digital Construction Collaboration and Handover Coordination & Close-out enables everyone to store, share and update all building and project information in a secure repository, which is accessible online from any location and in multiple devices.

Central to IFS' on-going service delivery and support is the set-up, coordination and management of their clients' building and project information delivering standards-based solutions to meet those challenges and drive efficiencies in their organisations.

IFS is 20 years in business and has built up significant experience assisting blue-chip customers across mission critical sectors in international markets, including Ireland, UK, Germany, Netherlands, US and Bahrain. Sectors served include but are not limited to: Transport, Financial Services, Pharmaceuticals, Education, Sports Stadia, Health, Data Centres, Commercial and Residential.

[www.ifacsolutions.com](http://www.ifacsolutions.com)

## **About GS1 Ireland**

**Business is easier when you speak the same language as your customers, suppliers and partners.**

GS1 global standards are the most widely used supply chain standards in the world. Over 2 million organisations across the globe use GS1 standards today, to identify, capture and share information about their products,



services, locations and assets. GS1 is a not for profit organisation and is recognised by the International Standards Organisation (ISO), the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) and the American National Standards Institute.

GS1 Ireland serves more than 3,500 organisations across all industry sectors administrating GS1 standards, facilitating supply chain development locally, providing education and support, and connecting business communities through collaborative industry initiatives and events.

[www.gs1ie.org/about](http://www.gs1ie.org/about)

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