

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Kerry Airport Becomes First Heartsafe Airport in Ireland**

#### **Kerry Airport receives Heartsafe Community Award from the Irish Heart Foundation**

**Dr. Brian Maurer, Medical Director, the Irish Heart Foundation, will present the Award to DJ O'Callaghan, Kerry Airport's Health & Safety Officer, at a presentation in Kerry Airport on Monday 13th of August at 1.30pm.**

#### **13th August 2007, Kerry Airport, Farranfore, Killarney, County Kerry**

Kerry Airport has today been awarded the prestigious Heartsafe Community Award by the Irish Heart Foundation, making it the first Heartsafe Airport in Ireland. The Heartsafe certificate, means that Kerry Airport has completed the recommended steps to provide an optimum emergency response system, should someone suffer a sudden cardiac arrest on site. The award acknowledges Kerry Airport's commitment to staff training in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Dr. Brian Maurer, Medical Director, Irish Heart Foundation (IHF), presented the Award to **DJ O'Callaghan**, Kerry Airport's Health & Safety Officer, at a reception in the Airport on Monday (13th August). The Heartsafe Community Programme is an Irish Heart Foundation initiative which aims to encourage all communities and workplaces to strengthen every link in the ***"Chain of Survival"***.

Kerry Airport has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on site and all Operational Staff at Kerry Airport are trained in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). Kerry Airport has instigated a whole programme of training and development over the past three years and included in this programme is *Occupational First Aid, Manual Handling, Disability Awareness and Basic Life Support/ Automated External Defibrillator courses*. Furthermore, Kerry Airport is a recognised Training Site by the Irish Heart Foundation

**The Medical Director of the Irish Heart Foundation, Dr. Brian Maurer, congratulated the Airport on their groundbreaking achievement and called for other organisations throughout the country to follow their example.**

*"This is a great achievement for an organisation like Kerry Airport who handle in excess of 400,000 passengers per year. The travelling public should take comfort in the fact that the staff at Kerry Airport have been trained to a very high standard in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and in the use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). We are very pleased to recognise their commitment to training by awarding this award.*

**ends**

**For more information, contact: Orla Diffily, Upfront PR. Telephone: 066 7117704 or email: [orla@upfrontpr.eu](mailto:orla@upfrontpr.eu) or Mobile: 086 8399115. Don Mac Monagle will be attending the photo-call and will syndicate a photograph to you.**

**Notes to Editor**

11,000 people die in Ireland each year from cardiovascular disease, and, of these, it is estimated that 6,000 are from sudden cardiac arrest. 70% of Cardiac arrests occur out of hospital. *(Ref: IHF)*

While all statutory emergency ambulances are now equipped with defibrillators, there is a need for more defibrillators strategically placed throughout the community to enhance coverage and to meet recommended response times. Early defibrillation can be achieved through the delivery of well structured and coordinated first responder programmes. *(Taken from the Report of the Task Force on Sudden Cardiac Death)*

**Kerry Airport**

Kerry Airport currently has four daily direct flights to Dublin; two daily flights to London; four times weekly flights direct to Manchester; a daily flight to Frankfurt Hahn and weekly flights to Lorient, France. The Airport also offers a weekly sun charter series direct to Majorca with Falcon / JWT and a sun charter series with Slattery's Sun to Lanzarote. Kerry Airport won the prestigious Irish Airport of the Year in 2005 from the CCI.