**Information Leaflet**

**Women’s Experiences in Engineering in Ireland Focus Group**

1. **What is this focus group about?**

The focus group is intended to gather information from female engineering employees and former employees on their experiences working in engineering in Ireland.

1. **What will happen if you decide to take part in this research study?**

Participation in this study will first involve answering a short questionnaire pertaining to your background, e.g. years worked in engineering, ethnicity, age etc. You will then be provided with a date and time to participate in an online focus group, held over zoom. The focus group will consist of between 4 and 8 other women working in a similar field of engineering. The moderator will lead a discussion on topics relating to experiences working in engineering. The focus group will take approximately 60 – 90 minutes and the conversation will be recorded via Zoom for the sole purposes of transcribing. The recording will be destroyed after the transcript has been written.

1. **How will your privacy be protected?**

All respondents will pseudonymised and any data collected will not be associated with you or the company you work/worked for.

1. **Why are we conducting this focus group?**

The aim of the focus groups is to better understand women’s experiences working in engineering, the issues they may face in the workplace, their positive experiences and to assess whether and why women may leave a career in engineering. With the findings of the focus groups, in addition to surveys and interviews being carried out with engineering managers, we hope to be able to identify how to increase retention rates of women in engineering.

1. **Why have you been invited to take part?**

We are inviting women who work, or previously worked as an engineer in Ireland to speak about their experiences in the industry in Ireland.

1. **What are the benefits of taking part in this research study?**

Our aim is to identify any necessary policy or industry changes that would foster better workplace experiences for women in engineering careers and to therefore increase retention rates of women in engineering. By participating in this focus group, your views and experiences can be included.

1. **What are the risks of taking part in this research study?**

Participation in this focus group poses minimal risks to information security which are mitigated by pseudonymising collected data, maintaining approved controls over access to the data set and key, publishing findings only in pseudonymised format and by the limitations placed on our retention period, see (11).

1. **How will you find out what happens with this project?**

Findings from this research will be documented in publications at a later stage. If you have any questions about the research project, or would like to stay informed on the future of the project and the research findings, contact: deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie

1. **Data Protection**

The legal basis under which we are processing your information is based on your consent and that it is in the public interest.

1. **How will your data be used?**

Data collected from the focus groups will be used to assess experiences relevant to working in and remaining in engineering as a woman in Ireland. Data from the focus groups may be used to identify topics to be discussed in interviews with engineering managers at a later stage. Once the focus group data has been fully analysed, along with other materials (survey data and interviews with engineering managers), the results will be used as part of research publications. It is also hoped that our findings will be presented back to interested stakeholders, including employers, professional bodies and government.

1. **Can you change your mind at any stage and withdraw from the focus group?**

Your participation is voluntary. If you do not wish to take part, you have the right to withdraw your participation at any time, prior, during, or after the focus group.

All participant responses will be pseudonymised prior to publication. Pseudonymised data will be archived in an appropriate repository until June 2025. After June 2025, data will be fully anonymised and personal data will be destroyed, it will therefore no longer be possible to withdraw consent as we are unable to identify your data. If your consent is withdrawn prior to June 2025, any data already analysed will be retained and may be used in publications, however going forward your data will no longer be used.

As a result, you can exercise the following rights under the GDPR regulations until June 2025: Right of access (article 15), Right to data portability (article 20), Right to rectification and erasure (articles 16, 17 and 19) and Right to object and restriction of processing (articles 18,19 and 21).

1. **Who do I contact if I have further questions on data protection?**

If you have any further questions, please contact the UCD Data Protection Officer gdpr@ucd.ie

1. **The Retaining Women in Engineering project is conducted by the research team:**

Prof Aoife Ahern, Assoc Prof Aideen Quilty and Dr Deirdre Brennan.

If you have any questions in regard to the research project, or the Smurfit Kappa Newman Fellowship on Women in STEM, please contact Deirdre Brennan: deirdre.brennan3@ucdconnect.ie