

Colmcille's Skye Connection Renewed Press Release 6-7-06

Colmcille, the initiative set up to foster links between Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, has selected a Sitekit CMS as the technology platform for its multi-lingual web site.

The aim of the web site, which will be presented in three languages, Scottish Gàidhlig, Irish Gaeilge and English, is to foster support for the Celtic languages and develop closer links between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland. The initiative provides a channel for interaction, cultural exchange and relationship building over complex geographical and political boundaries. Supported activities include community exchanges, cultural events, language courses and an annual youth parliament.

The new site will be informative and interactive to improve online engagement with the Gaelic speaking community. Three Skye-based companies combined forces to win the contract from the Belfast-based organisation. Skye Media, a Sitekit Content Partner is leading the project with Ronan Martin, a Sitekit Design Partner providing the creative design input. The site will be built on the Sitekit CMS web site management system to take advantage of its built in multi-lingual, community-building and e-marketing features. Engaging with the site's target audience of Gaelic speakers will ensure the success of the project.

"We selected the Skye Media consortium because of the unique combination of rich content, exciting design and advanced CMS technology from Sitekit" said Deirdre Nic An tSionnaigh, Colmcille CEO

Cailean Maclean, proprietor of Skye Media said "Many place names on Skye are named after ColmCille. There is a St Columba's Island in Portree bay and also on Snizort River, so we are delighted that the historical connection is renewed with this contract. Skye Media's partnership with Sitekit will enable us to communicate the wonderful message of Colmcille and engage a much wider audience on the World Wide Web. Skye Media can focus on the message, safe in the knowledge that the web technology is taken care of".

Ronan Martin also said: "This project will bring together the unique strengths of each company in the creation of a very individual website for Colmcille".

Campbell Grant, CEO of Sitekit added, "We are delighted to be a part of this important project. We have worked hard to make the multi-lingual feature of Sitekit CMS both powerful and easy to use and are confident the finished site will enable Colmcille to meet its ambitious targets".

Colmcille (www.colmcille.net)

Colmcille, was inspired by the demand from Gaelic speakers in Scotland and Ireland for the chance to meet each other more often, and in so doing to learn more of the language, heritage and lifestyles of one another. This interaction is intended to support Gaelic-speaking communities in Ireland and Scotland in the present and future.

Colmcille is named after Colm Cille (Calum Cille or St Columba 521-597AD), whose monasteries shaped and spanned the Gaelic world of Ireland and Scotland. It was launched in 1997 by the President of Ireland, Mary Robinson and Brian Wilson MP, Scottish Minister of State for Education, Industry and Gaelic: “to foster support for the Gaelic language and develop links between Gaelic Scotland and Ireland”.

Skye Media (www.skye-media.com)

Skye Media offer a range of media resources drawing on the cultural and environmental riches that the Scottish Highlands and Islands have to offer, including photography, Film/Radio/TV broadcasting & location support., consultancy and research, including Gaelic, sociological, environmental, educational & cultural projects.

Ronan Martin Design (www.ronanmartin.com)

Ronan Martin Design is a Skye-based creative design company working in a wide range of media including print and web. Two of his specialisms are Gaelic and music (Ronan is also a Scottish traditional fiddler) and his experience in music has led to him working with a number of local as well as international clients to increase their profile amongst larger audiences.

Sitekit Solutions Ltd (www.sitekit.net)

Sitekit provides its customers and partners with powerful and user-friendly software tools that enable the development of visually rich and accessible websites. Currently, Sitekit's CMS technology powers more than 300 brands on-line from small energetic start-ups to government departments and multi-national companies.