



The Summit to be seen by millions in US

Norma Prendiville

THE Summit, the feature-length documentary which tells the story of Kilcormac mountaineer Ger McDonnell's tragic death on K2 along with ten other climbers, is about to be available for screening in millions of US homes shortly.

The film, directed by Nick Ryan is also in contention for an award at this year's Sundance International Film Festival and the judges' are expected to announce their result this Saturday.

Meanwhile, Sundance Selects, a subsidiary of IFC which is owned by American media giant AMC, secured the US distribution rights for the film over the weekend. Sundance Selects is a new theatrical and video-on-demand film label and provides a national platform in the US for independent films and documentaries and will be available in approximately 40 million homes.

Nick Ryan of Image Now Films said earlier this week that negotiations for an European distribution of the documentary are now ongoing. But he was unable to say when The Summit would be screened commercially in Europe or here at Ireland. The film had its premiere last October at the London Film Festival and is also expected to appear in the programme of the Dublin Film Festival next month.

"Sundance Selects are the perfect partners and home for our film - I am genuinely happy to be a part of the IFC



Ger McDonnell at Camp 2 on K2

family," Nick Ryan said.

"The Summit is a thrilling, beautiful documentary that kept us on the edge of our seats," Jonathan Sehring, president of Sundance Selects/IFC Films, said after the deal was announced.

The Summit focuses on two days in early August 2008 when 24 climbers from several international expeditions were preparing to summit the world's deadliest mountain, K2.

Among them was Ger McDonnell, who made history when he became the first Irishman to scale K2. But on the descent, Ger lost his life, having bivouacked overnight in the "death zone" and then returned up the mountain in a bid to save the lives of two other climbers and a Sherpa. Within 48 hours, 11 climbers in total had died in the world's worst ever climbing disaster.

The film includes never before seen footage of the climb and interviews with Ger who was posthumously awarded for bravery as well as with other climbers including his friend, Sherpa Pemba Gyalje.

Limerick's D the 'most cri

■ Dell executive and Castleconnell m

Nick Rabbitts

ONE of Dell's most senior figures in Europe has said the Raheen plant remains one of the firm's "most critical" operations in the world.

Castleconnell resident Tom Kitt, vice-president of global operations, engineering at Dell, addressed the Thomond branch of Engineers Ireland, at UL's Kemmy Business School.

His talk focused on the transformation of the Limerick site, the importance of engineering roles in Dell, and the interaction the firm has with third level institutions.

Mr Kitt was drafted in after Sean Corkery, who runs Dell Ireland, was called to America on urgent business.

Once a bulk manufacturer, Dell Ireland's approach in this country has shifted. The company remains one of the largest employers in the county, with more than 1,000 people on its payroll.

Although no manufacturing takes place in Raheen any more, Mr Kitt says this still plays a key role in the operation here.

"We don't make any products in Limerick any more. But we oversee, and manage the making of all of Dell's hardware products globally, from this little place in Raheen. We are still utilising the skills, knowledge and expertise we have built up over 30 years in Raheen," he said.

Gone are the days where thousands of people descended on Raheen for shift work at Dell.

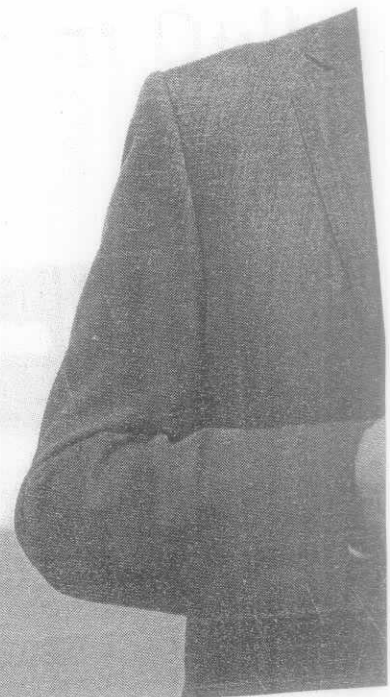
Although there are fewer jobs in the company, they are better paid, and at a higher level.

Castleconnell resident and vice-president of meeting of Engineers Ireland, held in the K

Mr Kitt says the remaining staff have had to adapt their approach accordingly.

"We had process engineers looking after manufacturing processes. There is none of this anymore: these people have had to upskill, grow their capability, and get into project management. We had people looking after our technology processes. There are no processes like

this any more. working in laboratory, and develop solutions," Mr Kitt achieved success than in 'Time' approach. This lets purchase components they are r



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