



The Ireland-U.S. Council

— A Business Organization —

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

For Further Information

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Denis O'Brien, Chairman & Founder of *Digicel*, to Receive the Ireland-U.S. Council's 2019 Award for Outstanding Achievement at 57th Annual Dinner in New York

New York, NY; October 7, 2019: *The Ireland-U.S. Council* will present its *Award for Outstanding Achievement* in 2019 to Denis O'Brien, Chairman & Founder of *Digicel* to mark his distinguished and successful business career and to underline his notable and important achievements in building bonds between America and Ireland.



Denis O'Brien
Chairman & Founder
Digicel

The Ireland-U.S. Council Award is also presented to celebrate his significant and generous philanthropy over many years to causes aimed at improving the lives of poor people and those less-fortunate especially in the fields of education and healthcare. For example, in Haiti the *Digicel Foundation* has invested over \$60 million in building 178 schools with over 60,000 students in attendance. Other major philanthropic projects are ongoing in Jamaica, Papua New Guinea and in Ireland.

The Award will be a centerpiece of the Council's 57th Annual Dinner to be held at the Metropolitan Club in New York City on Wednesday, November 13, 2019. David O'Sullivan, the Executive Director of the Council based in New York, said "We are delighted this year to present the *Ireland-U.S. Council's Award for Outstanding Achievement* to Denis O'Brien who throughout his remarkable career has done much to build, sustain and improve the bonds between America and Ireland. We are pleased to mark the unique and positive contributions which he has made to improving the historic and deep relationships between Ireland and the United States. Throughout his successful career, he has displayed an unmatched commitment to excellence in his business dealings. The members and directors of the Council are delighted to honor such an outstanding and worthy recipient with an award which he greatly deserves."

NEW YORK

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Denis O'Brien is a self-made billionaire and serial entrepreneur who is Ireland's wealthiest native-born citizen. Born in Cork, he was raised in Dublin and learned business from his father who was engaged in veterinary pharmaceutical sales. He is a 1977 graduate of *University College Dublin* and earned an MBA degree from *Boston College* in 1982. He worked in banking and aircraft leasing in his early career and struck out on his own first in radio broadcasting and then in mobile cellular telecommunications.

He was awarded Ireland's second national cellphone license in open competition in 1995 and made a huge success of the business building it from scratch. He eventually sold the *Esat Digifone* enterprise, to *BT - British Telecom*. He reinvested the capital proceeds in other businesses, especially a second cellphone business – *Digicel*, of which he is the majority owner. This company has operations in 32 markets in the Caribbean, Central America, and the Pacific Islands with a combined 12.8 million subscribers and 5,500 staff.

He is also the founder of *Communicorp Group*, which has 42 radio stations in nine countries. His business interests also include healthcare, energy, real estate, professional sports, aircraft leasing and other enterprises. His net worth has been estimated by *Forbes Magazine* at over \$4 billion.

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