

Press release

Dusseldorf, June 18, 2025



FKF Award presented to “Na Fianna Force” at Emerald Park

On Saturday, June 14, 2025, the FKF Award was ceremoniously presented at Emerald Park in Ireland for the new roller coaster “Na Fianna Force.” Since 2003, the German funfair and theme park enthusiast organisation Freundeskreis Kirmes und Freizeitparks e. V. (FKF) has been awarding this prize to outstanding new attractions launched by European amusement parks and showmen. Each year, the winners are chosen by the association’s more than 1,700 members.

With the launch of “Na Fianna Force” on May 22, 2024, in the themed area Tír na nÓg, Emerald Park unveiled Ireland’s first Suspended Thrill Coaster. Supplied by Vekoma, the coaster reaches a height of 31 meters, accelerates to speeds of up to 90 km/h, and features three inversions – including a zero-g roll, a corkscrew, and a heavily overbanked turn. This modern family coaster merges intense ride elements with a smooth, dynamic layout.

The official handover of the FKF Award took place directly in front of the “Na Fianna Force” attraction. Thorsten Eden (Chairman of FKF) and Sven Lakemeier (Board Member of FKF) presented the award to park owner Charles Coyle. Coyle expressed his honor in receiving the award and emphasized his excitement about the recognition for “Na Fianna Force.” A dedicated spot has already been found for the high-quality plaque and the striking award block, making the win tangible and visible to all. Thorsten Eden highlighted how impressively “Na Fianna Force” stands out as another Vekoma Suspended Thrill Coaster – a category that saw “Hals über Kopf” win the FKF Award back in 2020. The fluid ride experience, dynamic layout, and immersive theming convinced not only him but also the over 1,700 voting members of the FKF. Eden expressed his pride in being able to present the first FKF Award on Irish soil. It marked a significant milestone for the association and further underscored the European reach of this special recognition.

Alongside “Na Fianna Force,” another roller coaster – “Ziegelblitz” at Jaderpark – was also honored in the same category. This year’s result was unique in that the vote yielded no clear winner, leading to the first-ever tie and dual award in this category. The other winners are “Danse Macabre” from Dutch theme park Efteling in the “New Park Attraction” category, and “Evolution,” a high-thrill ride from the Fackler showman family, in the “New Fairground Attraction” category. Further information about the award winners and voting process is available at www.fkf-award.de.

High-resolution images and additional media can be accessed at:
<https://drive.fkfev.de/s/BMjBDgRDTiaiT9r>

Der Freundeskreis Kirmes und Freizeitparks e. V. ist Deutschlands mitgliederstärkster Verein für Kirmes- und Freizeitparkfans. Der Verein wurde im Dezember 1997 auf dem Hamburger Winterdom gegründet. Der FKF e. V. organisiert laufend eine Vielzahl von Treffen und Veranstaltungen in Freizeitparks und auf Kirmessen, wobei die Gemeinschaft der Vereinsmitglieder im Vordergrund steht.