

MSD seeks Irish investment and commercialisation opportunities

70 Irish executives to 'pitch' for MSD funding and access

(13th October 2010) MSD, the global pharmaceutical company is today hosting a licensing and partnership event in collaboration with Enterprise Ireland with the aim of identifying partnership opportunities with Irish companies who are developing world-class healthcare technology and medical solutions. The event is also being addressed by Minister for Trade & Commerce, Billy Kelleher TD.

Speaking at the event, Minister Kelleher said:

"The pharmaceutical industry is a critical sector in the Irish economy that has continued to grow despite the global economic recession. Strong industry integration and collaboration is key to future success. Ireland's most innovative life science companies and research community leaders are here today. Collaboration between these and MSD can further develop Ireland as a global centre of excellence for lifesciences."

"MSD is pursuing collaborations with the best research and technology organisations worldwide and we are pleased to be here in Ireland today to see what Irish indigenous companies have to offer" said Barbara Yanni, Vice President and Chief Licensing Officer who is visiting from the company's New Jersey headquarters.

Ms Yanni was speaking today at the Licensing and Partnership event which was hosted by MSD, where the company shared information on their licensing strategy with over 70 executives from the Irish biotechnology, research, life sciences and academic organisations. This session is being followed by 30 one to one meetings with Irish organisations which Enterprise Ireland has identified as having projects with partnership potential.

Dr Brian O'Neill, Manager of Lifesciences with Enterprise Ireland added:

"Strategic partnerships with leading multinationals such as MSD are a critical element in the development of Ireland's lifesciences industry. This event allows MSD and these Irish companies to explore the potential for collaboration in areas such as research, technology and licensing agreements. Such partnerships can be the next significant step in the international development of these important Irish companies."

"This event provides Irish companies with an opportunity to showcase the excellent innovation taking place here. Projects identified by MSD as having potential could benefit from the support of a world leader in healthcare to then bring a technology to market. MSD has a strong history of partnerships which have successfully accelerated the availability of a number of technologies which have delivered significant benefits to patients across the world" said Dr Neil Boyle, Managing Director of MSD's sales and marketing operations in Ireland.

MSD employs over 2,300 people in Ireland across several manufacturing sites, an animal health commercial operation, a sales, marketing and clinical research centre and a recently announced new Shared Business Services centre.

The company has a broad portfolio of highly innovative products in areas such as heart disease, asthma, arthritis, infectious disease and osteoporosis. The company is also actively recruiting for new people to join its new Shared Business Services Centre in Dublin and the recently completed new biologics and vaccines manufacturing plant in Carlow. For further information see www.msd.ie or for Carlow jobs www.msdcarrow.com

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Notes to Editor

Today's MSD is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. MSD is known as Merck in the United States and Canada and MSD elsewhere. Through our prescription medicines, vaccines, biologic therapies, and consumer care and animal health products, we work with customers and operate in more than 140 countries to deliver innovative health solutions. We also demonstrate our commitment to increasing access to healthcare through far-reaching policies, programs and partnerships. For more information, visit www.msd.ie.

MSD in Ireland

MSD employs 2,300 people directly in Ireland and provides an additional 9,000 indirect jobs through its operations at sites across Ireland.

In the last four decades the company has invested over €2.2bn in Ireland. MSD is one of Ireland's leading exporters and contributes significantly towards making the pharmaceutical industry the country's leading export sector. MSD is a member of Guaranteed Irish and manufacturers or packages many of its leading products for the world market in Ireland.

Enterprise Ireland

Enterprise Ireland is the Irish government organisation responsible for the development and internationalisation of Irish enterprises. Innovation is

critical and Enterprise Ireland is strongly focused on supporting industry-led R&D and the commercialisation of third-level research to deliver new technologies and products and ensure that commercially viable knowledge is fully exploited..

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