

Minister for Research and Innovation Officially Opens Two New €28.6M Facilities at MSD's Site in Brinny, Co. Cork

Brinny, Cork, June 22nd, 2011: “Continuous innovation plays a central role in Ireland’s future as a knowledge-based economy. The harnessing of the skills and creativity of the people here at Brinny has been instrumental in the decision by MSD to base these two facilities here, representing a financial investment of €28.6 million and the provision of 70 jobs,” according to the Minister for Research and Innovation, Séan Sherlock TD at the official opening of two new state of the art facilities at the existing MSD Brinny site in Co. Cork. The new facilities include the Brinny Bioassay Centre of Expertise and the Brinny Pneumococcal Vaccine Conjugation Facility.

This event is the first the Brinny facility (previously known as Schering-Plough) has celebrated as part of global healthcare leader MSD. The company is known as MSD worldwide, except in the United States and Canada where it is Merck.

The Minister joined with Dr. Mike Kamarck, President Merck BioVentures and Senior Vice President, Vaccines and Biologics Manufacturing at Merck & Co. Inc., other senior MSD representatives and CEO IDA Ireland, Barry O’Leary at the event.

Welcoming the announcement, Barry O’Leary said “This IDA supported investment demonstrates MSD’s continued commitment to Ireland and adds to the strategic importance of the Irish operations within the parent company. The company’s decision is a significant vote of confidence in Ireland’s international reputation and standing as an excellent investment location.”

“MSD in Ireland employs 2,300 people through our operations in Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Tipperary and Wicklow,” according to Dr. Mike Kamarck. “We have an excellent relationship with the IDA and we are grateful to the Minister and the IDA for their ongoing support of MSD in Ireland.”

“The opening of the two new facilities here at Brinny is a tangible manifestation of the site business transformation plan we announced last year,” said Mr John Howell, General Manager, MSD Brinny. “As a site we are continually focussed on our costs and our operational excellence. The locating of these two facilities at Brinny underlines the strategic importance of this site within the MSD global network.”

MSD is committed to leading the industry in the development and commercialisation of biologic medicines that improve human health. A bioassay measures the biological effect of a test substance on a living cell and is an essential tool for research and development in biologics manufacture. The new Brinny Bioassay Centre of Expertise will focus on

bioassays for therapeutic protein products and will support other MSD sites including Carlow. Brinny has 20 years expertise in bioassay which was a major contributing factor in MSD's decision to base the Bioassay Centre of Expertise at Brinny. Ten highly qualified individuals will work at the Bioassay Centre.

MSD is the leading supplier of adult pneumococcal vaccine globally, having distributed more than 140 million doses worldwide. Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) will protect infants from this life-threatening disease which is the leading cause of vaccine-preventable death in children less than 5 years old worldwide. The Brinny Pneumococcal Vaccine Conjugation Facility will produce vaccine for clinical trials in immunisation against pneumococcal disease for pediatric use. The Brinny facility will employ 60 people initially through construction, commissioning, qualification and clinical supply phases and 30 highly qualified technicians long term, subject to clinical trial success. The facility will have the capacity to produce 100 million doses of pneumococcal conjugate vaccine a year.

MSD's site in Brinny, Co. Cork is an Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) and sterile manufacturing centre of expertise. Established in 1980, 511 people are currently employed at the site. The products made at Brinny have approvals in over ninety markets worldwide.

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Notes to Editor

Today's MSD is a global healthcare leader working to help the world be well. Following the completion of Merck & Co., Inc's merger with Schering-Plough Corporation the company is known as MSD worldwide, except in the United States and Canada where we are Merck. 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 through its operations at sites in Carlow, Cork, Dublin, Tipperary and Wicklow.

In the last five 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 manufactures or packages many of its leading products for the world market in Ireland.

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