



MIT Selects First Irish Company for Unique Programme

MSD's facility in Ballydine Partner of Choice for MIT

Wednesday, June 3rd 2015: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has chosen leading Irish pharmaceutical company, MSD, as its first Irish partner for the innovative engineering programme *The Practice School*.

Eight international graduate students from Asia, US and India, arrived to MSD's facility in Ballydine, Tipperary to take part in the programme as part of their studies with MIT. The Ballydine facility was selected given its cutting-edge role in healthcare technology and innovation and for the key role it plays in the commercialisation of new treatments for patients.

The students, based at MSD's facility, under the supervision of their MIT Station Director worked on live intensive projects of real strategic value to MSD all the while learning and leveraging the skills of the Irish MSD team. In return, the graduate students gain exposure to a wide variety of real-world problems, technical ability and professionalism.

Ger Carmody, Site Lead at MSD's facility in Ballydine, said: “*MSD have a bespoke graduate and intern programme with various technology and chemistry schools in Ireland. We are extremely proud that our site was chosen, out of our global network, to take part in this unique programme with such an esteemed institution as MIT.*”

“Not only will the students gain invaluable experience but we as a company benefit from having a unique perspective on our day-to-day operations. We have a complex and exciting pipeline here in Ballydine – across MSD’s Global network our site is recognised as a world class site for innovative medicines.”

MSD globally has been host to the programme before including sites in Belgium and Singapore, however this is the first time the prestigious institution has ever chosen a host company for the programme in Ireland.

MSD's facility in Ballydine is the premier site for the research and development of new products, it is recognised as an industry leading supplier of leading-edge products across complex treatment areas. Over 30 years MSD's facility in Ballydine has moved from a manufacture and exporting site into a leading technical and cutting-edge chemical engineering site. By investing in the people, and research and development across the site, Ballydine's technical capabilities have played a pivotal role across the MSD network in the development of breakthrough products that meet critical medical needs.

Robert Hanlon, Station Director, MIT said, “*We deeply appreciated the technically challenging projects that MSD provided us. They offered my students a great opportunity to learn how to apply their classroom skills to real world problems. We hope that MSD has garnered some high-impact benefits from this partnership with MIT.*”

The Practice School has more than 32 US stations and 15 international stations in a variety of industries such as pharmaceuticals, food, energy, chemical materials and finance and is the largest third level institution for chemical engineering graduates in the US.

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For media information please contact:

Caroline Collins,
Corporate Communications Manager MSD - Keira Doyle/Karina Dooley, ReputationInc
Ireland 01 412 0500
087 188 0185 kdoyle@reputationinc.com
kdooley@reputationinc.com
caroline.colins@merck.com

Notes to the Editor

About MSD

MSD, known as Merck in the United States and Canada, has operations in more than 140 countries. In Ireland, MSD employs over 2,000 people across its five sites in Dublin, Carlow, Cork, Tipperary and Wicklow. Its extensive Irish operations encompass manufacturing, commercial and marketing facilities.

MSD is a leader in healthcare, dedicated to helping the world Be Well through a wide range of innovative health solutions. This includes the development, production and distribution of prescription medicines, vaccines and biologic therapies as well as animal health products.

MSD's commitment to research and to increasing access to healthcare across the world is demonstrated by clearly focused policies, far-reaching programmes and life-enhancing partnerships.

About David H. Koch School of Chemical Engineering Practice at MIT

The David H. Koch School of Chemical Engineering Practice at MIT is like no other educational experience as the Practice School internship replaces the research thesis required in conventional master's programs. The programme is unique in that no other engineering internship requires such intense effort on multiple company projects at an advanced technical level. It challenges its students to hone their interpersonal and communications skills to this degree as they learn how to deal with day-to-day interaction with company personnel and management teams. Since 2009, stations have operated in Europe, Asia, South America, and all over the US. These locations, which include Switzerland, Italy, India, Singapore, Brazil, California and Colorado (just to name a few), cross several industrial sectors: pharmaceutical, food, energy, chemicals and materials, and financial.

For more information visit, <http://web.mit.edu/cheme/academics/practice/index.html>