

Irish people, through their connections, introduce 36 companies to Ireland, which plan to create 1,000 jobs

Eyefinity and Clearplas bring operations to Ireland, creating 39 jobs and helping ConnectIreland reach major milestone

Wednesday, December 3rd 2014: Taoiseach Enda Kenny TD and Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation Richard Bruton TD today (Wednesday December 3) applauded the people of Ireland, at home and abroad, for helping to win 36 investments which plan to create **1,000 sustainable jobs** across the country within the next 3-5 years.

Irish men and women around the globe have answered the call to help their country and now a planned 1,000 jobs are being created in Ireland as a result.

Through the vital introductions of men and women across Ireland and beyond, ConnectIreland, the company responsible for delivering the Government's *Succeed in Ireland initiative*, in association with IDA Ireland, has helped to bring **36 companies** to Ireland which plan to create 1,000 sustainable jobs over the next 3 to 5 years.

Under the programme, the people of Ireland, at home and abroad, can earn a financial reward, up to €1,500 per job (maximum 100 jobs), for introducing expanding international companies to ConnectIreland.

Today (Wednesday) Mr Kenny welcomed the announcement by two companies to create 39 jobs in Ireland, which brings the total number of planned jobs being created under the *Succeed in Ireland initiative* to 1,000, marking an important milestone for the programme.

The jobs will be created with **Eyefinity Europe (20)** and **Clearplas Ireland Ltd (19)**.

Eyefinity is a developer of innovative e-commerce and practice management solutions, and electronic medical records software for the optical industry. The Eyefinity website links doctors directly to optical labs, frame and lens suppliers, and insurance carriers.

Eyefinity will relocate their EMEA HQ from Paris to Dublin as well as establishing a software development operation and innovation and design entity at their base in the DCU innovation campus, Glasnevin, Dublin.

The 20 positions created will be in general management, finance, administration, software engineering, and industrial design. Recruitment for these positions will begin in January.

Clearplas Ireland Ltd will open its first plastic separation, sorting and cleaning facility in Ireland. The facility, which will sort mixed dry plastics for use in manufacturing as well as reprocessing plastic products for Europe and Asia, will be located at Baile Ghib (Gibbstown) near Navan, Meath. Údarás na Gaeltachta was also instrumental in helping to bring this project to the area, which is a Gaeltacht region.

The company will use superior sorting and separation technology at its reprocessing facility in the village. The 19 positions are expected to be created in the Gaeltacht area in the coming year, with more to follow. Recruitment will begin immediately for a variety of technical and administrative positions.

ConnectIreland celebrated the announcement and the success of the programme with an event at their head offices in Stephen's Green. Organisations and individuals who have given their backing to the programme since its inception in 2012 were applauded for their invaluable support.

Addressing the attendance, the Taoiseach said:

The Taoiseach said, "Every job created in Ireland is another step on our road to recovery. It is a life transformed. It offers renewed hope and optimism for the future and helps the Government to fix the national finances while supporting better services. The value we place on every job created is why ConnectIreland's success to date is to be celebrated. It is a great credit to the diaspora and connectors worldwide that we are now looking at a potential 1,000 new jobs for Ireland. Today, I'm delighted to welcome two new companies to Ireland: Clearplas, who are bringing 19 jobs to Baile Ghib in Meath and Eyefinity Europe, who are bringing 20 jobs to the DCU innovation campus at Glasnevin, Dublin."

With an army of 40,000 connectors across the globe, ConnectIreland has mobilised the people of Ireland to play their part in creating employment opportunities at home. Simply by striking up a conversation and asking companies to consider Ireland, connectors can help create jobs as well as earning a sizeable financial reward.

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Richard Bruton TD, said:

"Succeed in Ireland is a highly innovative scheme which enables the IDA to reach jobs projects, which would otherwise go to other countries, and bring them to Ireland instead. It is one of a range of new schemes introduced by this Government to support extra job-creation, and today's results confirm that it has started very strongly. The announcement of 39 new jobs today for Dublin and Meath - jobs which otherwise would be gone to other countries - is further confirmation of the importance of this scheme. I look forward to continuing to work with Terry and his team in the future to ensure that we can continue this strong flow of job-creation over the coming years."

Michael McLoughlin, CEO of ConnectIreland said: "The success of a programme like ConnectIreland would not be possible without the invaluable support of the Irish public. The creation of these planned 1,000 jobs in the coming 3-5 years is all thanks to the connections made by Irish men and women at home and abroad. Our connectors are asking companies to consider Ireland as a place to do business and to date 36 companies have realised the benefits of such a move."

Martin Shanahan, CEO of IDA Ireland said: "The 'Succeed in Ireland' initiative, through Connect Ireland has the potential to attract smaller projects to locate in regional locations through its network of connectors. IDA Ireland works closely with Connect Ireland on winning these projects for Ireland."

Register as a connector and you could earn a reward of up to €1,500 per job created (maximum 100 jobs). For more information, log on to www.connectireland.com.

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Editor's Note:

About ConnectIreland

ConnectIreland is an innovative way to create new jobs in Ireland by harnessing the power of your connections. The aim is to attract foreign companies that are expanding internationally to Ireland. The Irish Government will financially reward those who, through their introductions, help create new, sustainable jobs in Ireland. The programme, part of the Government's Action Plan for Jobs, is delivering the Succeed in Ireland Initiative, in partnership with IDA Ireland.

To date, 40,000 connectors have signed up and helped introduce thousands of companies to Ireland. www.connectireland.com.