



# €8.5 million investment for Glenisk plant

**GLENISK, the family-operated organic dairy, has invested €8.5 million in its Killeigh plant, where it has created 30 jobs. It is also seeking 100 new organic dairy farmers, introducing new products, new-look packaging, a new website and new partnerships in a major re-launch.**

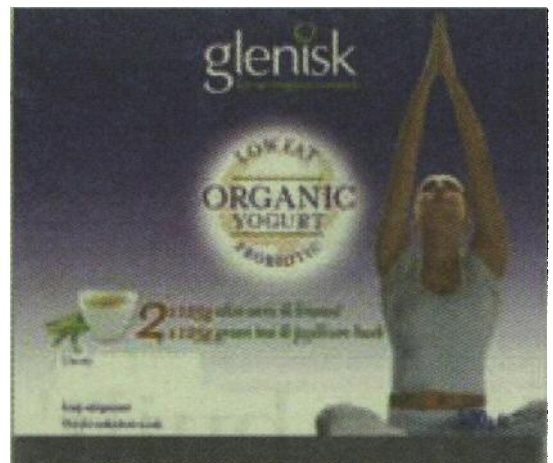
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The company has doubled its plant volume by supplying a new line of yogurts and fromage frais products called Stony, which is being distributed across Britain. Last year a subsidiary of French dairy group Danone **Terry Fahy reports** called Stonyfield bought a 37pc stake in Glenisk. Working with small organic farmers on both sides of the border, Glenisk procures 90% of

the organic milk produced in Ireland, using more than 5,000 kilotonnes annually. Vincent Cleary, managing director at Glenisk, said that €2.5m of the investment came from the Government Dairy fund while €5m was as a result of the equity investment last year. "This partnership allows us to grow our business and to pursue our vision," he said. This year, the company will produce more than

5,300 kilotonnes of yoghurt. With strict adherence to fair trade practices, the Cleary's point out that they pay farmers the highest milk premium in Ireland. Glenisk's plant is powered using Airtricity, prior to a planned switch to its own wind turbines. Pdraig Fahy, president, Irish Organic Farmers and Growers Association, said it shares the company's vision of an organic

Ireland and is delighted to see it grow and expand its range. The company, which now employs 55 people and is the biggest organic dairy in the country, established by the Cleary family in 1987

and was converted to organic production in 1995 under the leadership of twin brothers Vincent and Brendan Cleary. In 2006, Glenisk had sales of over €8.5m.



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