



New Glenisk manufacturing facility opened

AN Taoiseach Brian Cowen was on hand to unveil the new Glenisk Organic Manufacturing Facility last Monday afternoon.

The company, which is celebrating 21 years in business, has invested €8.5 million in the redevelopment of the facility, leading to the creation of thirty new jobs.

Glenisk is well known for its extensive range of organic yogurt, milks, yoghurt desserts and goats milk products.

Mr Cowen said the largest organic dairy in Ireland has come a long way in a relatively short space of time. "In its first

year of organic production, back in 1995, the Company produced half a million pots of yogurt. Thirteen years later, it is taking in 90% of the organic milk in Ireland and producing half a million pots of yoghurt every week."

Mr Cowen said Glenisk was an early pioneer of organic food and no one could doubt the continuing strength of Glenisk's passion for organics.

The expansion of this plant was made possible thanks to Glenisk's own innovation and resources and also to grant - aid from the Dairy Investment Fund. The Fund was targeted in particular at the efficient

production of core and value-added products and Glenisk was a perfect fit.

The Taoiseach said the organic sector in Ireland is still very small. At the end of 2007,

there were just over 1,330 organic operators in Ireland. Less than 1% of the total land area is being farmed organically.

"At the same time, the Irish organic retail market is expected to grow to 400m by 2012 and, of course, EU-wide, the demand for organic food is increasing. Given that the majority of organic food sold in Ireland is currently imported, there are clearly opportunities out there," said Mr Cowen.

Glenisk was established

by the Cleary family in Killeigh in 1987.

Last year, the Company received a Bord Bia "Food Oscar", winning the "Making a Difference" category at the Bord Bia Food & Drink Industry Awards.

"I have no doubt that Glenisk will continue to make a difference, for the better, to Killeigh, to the County and to our country long into the future - as a business, as a business inspiration for others, as a shining example of the potential for Irish agri-food companies and as a leading light of the organic movement in Ireland," said Mr Cowen.



Pictured at the unveiling of new Glenisk Organic Manufacturing Facility by An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD at Newtown, Killeigh last Monday evening were Senator Pat Moylan, Vincent Cleary, Cllr. Barry Cowen Chairman Offaly County Council, Deputy Charlie Flanagan TD, John Moloney TD, Minister of State Tony Keoghán, CEO Tesco Ireland, An Taoiseach Brian Cowen TD, Mary Cleary, Jack Cleary, Gerard, Brian and Mark Cleary.