



# Thirty Jobs As Glenisk Unveils New Plant

By Gearóid Keegan

**A TOTAL of 30 new jobs have been created by Glenisk at their organic manufacturing facility at Newtown, Killeigh.**

**The famous yogurt producer, owned and operated by the Cleary family, unveiled an  $\text{\textsterling}8.5$  million state-of-the-art organic dairy on Monday.**

The official opening of the plant was performed by An

Taoiseach, Mr Brian Cowen TD. The facility has enabled Glenisk to expand its range of organic milks and yogurts and the company is now actively pursuing new markets.

Founded by the late Jack Cleary back in 1987, Glenisk now produces 500,000 pots of yogurt a week - compared to 500,000 a year back in 1995.

Not only is Glenisk today celebrating the opening of a

new and much enhanced manufacturing facility, we are also this year celebrating 21 years in business, much of which has been devoted to our organic mission and our commitment to increasing the organic acreage in this country,' managing director Mr Vincent Cleary said on Monday.

He welcomed many of the Glenisk farmer-suppliers to the official opening and also

greeted the company's most high-profile customer.

Our very first customer in 1987 was Quinnsworth, now Tesco, and it is a pleasure to have them join us here today for this occasion. A total of 55 people now work at Glenisk and the company procures 90 percent of all the organic milk produced in Ireland.

They are now seeking to recruit 100 new farming families to supply organic milk, and in keeping with the Cleary family's commitment to protecting the environment and reducing carbon emissions, the new Glenisk plant is powered using Airtricity.

The company founder, Mr Jack Cleary, died in 1994 but Vincent and the other family members decided to grow the business.

Vincent had lived in Germany and noticed a growth in the organic market there, and that partly inspired the decision to go for that niche in Ireland.

Today, Glenisk continues to operate from Killeigh and is run by six of the Cleary siblings.

In 2006, Stonyfield Europe, a subsidiary of US company Stonyfield Farm, the world's leading organic yogurt manufacturer, which is 80 percent owned by Danone, acquired a 37 percent minority stake in Glenisk.