

Store expansion creates 92 jobs

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ALMOST 100 jobs have been created by supermarket giant Tesco after an expansion of one of its Belfast stores.

More than 1,500 people applied for posts at the Knocknagoney site which has been dou-

bled in size by a redevelopment which now makes it the largest Tesco store in the Province.

Last year the firm announced plans to create 350 jobs across Northern Ireland, a project which included developing Knocknagoney into a Tesco Extra store.

"At a time when many other companies are downsizing or remaining static, we are actively investing in jobs and the local economy," said Gary Mills, Director of Tesco in Northern Ireland.

"Over the past six months, the development of three Extra stores in Northern Ireland at Carrickfergus, Newtownbreda and now Knocknagoney, has created around 275 new jobs at these stores.

"This consolidates our position as Northern Ireland's largest private employer of local people and brings our total employment number to around 9,500 people.

"In addition, we have invested more than £20 million in the local economy and secured hundreds of jobs in the construction industry cre-

ating these three Extra stores."

The company said more than 1500 people applied for the new posts, as well as for temporary posts created to allow customers to be offered additional help as they become accustomed to the expanded store.

The non-food section at the store has doubled in size. New services include Tesco direct, self-serve phonestop, digital help desk and an opticians, as well as an enhanced cafe.

Hope for Newry connection to Project Kelvin

MOVES to have Newry linked to the new transatlantic telecoms cable currently being established in the Province are looking promising the Minister for Regional Development Conor Murphy said yesterday.

Speaking after a meeting with Hibernia, the company responsible for delivering the high profile Project Kelvin which will give Northern Ireland firms their first ever direct link to the United States, Mr Murphy said he hoped Newry would now not miss out on the chance to be connected to the cable.

"Following this positive meeting, I am confident that Newry can be connected to Project Kelvin. While some work remains to be done I believe that it is achievable for Newry to become a Point of Presence in the project."

The new cable which was brought ashore at Portrush this summer is due to become operational next year and has been hailed as presenting a huge variety of opportunities for inwards investment and local firms willing to exploit the potential.

The project, named after the Ulster-born scientist Lord Kelvin, is backed by the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment specifically to boost the Provinces appeal as a location for a variety of industries from the financial sector to the entertainment business.

A graphic example of what the cable will do for the speed of communications is the fact that up to 4,000 feature-length, HD movies can be sent across the hair's-width fibre optic cable in just one second.

Once in place the cable, which must be ready for service by March, will be hooked up to a



Hibernia CEO Bjarni Thorvardarson, foreground and Derek Bullock Vice President of Network Operations show a sample of the transatlantic cable as the line came ashore at Portrush this summer

loop running around the Province, taking in Belfast and Londonderry and major towns such as Ballymena, Portadown, Armagh, Omagh and Strabane.

However, the loop as planned did not include Newry and talks have been underway for some time to

try and rectify the position.

"Newry's participation in the project would allow the area to attract large knowledge-based companies to the area, and would facilitate the promotion of Newry as a business centre on the main route between the two largest

cities on this island," said Mr Murphy.

"In this difficult economic climate it is vital that we continue to promote Newry as a business centre in order to spur economic growth and employment in this area."

Safety device supplier targets energy sector for growth

A BELFAST specialist in workplace safety is accelerating its diversification into the multi-billion pound wind energy industry as firms across the Province explore growth in the sector.

Barton Industrial Services is investing almost £90,000, backed by an offer of over £35,000 from Invest NI, to roll out a major programme of marketing activities in Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and across Europe.

The firm designs and supplies a range of innovative safety devices that aid working at height by preventing and minimising falls. The company also provides servicing of wind energy components such as lifts and rotor blades.

The campaign will target major suppliers in the wind energy operation and maintenance (O&M) sector. Wind energy O&M requires a significant amount of installation, repair and inspection of turbine components such as rotors, gears and lifts at height and this market is set to grow considerably in the coming years as wind energy becomes more heavily adopted.

It is hoped that the marketing campaign will see the company increase its overall revenue and triple its sales in the wind O&M sector from 2008 levels by 2011.

Managing Director William Barton said he was pleased with the company's progress so far.

"We have seen the wind energy market as key to our future prosperity for some time now and currently generate around 20 per cent of our sales from the sector. Now, with Invest NI's support, we can build on the key contacts that we have established with major industry players to date.

"A focused programme of activities, including attendance at major trade shows, site visits and the development of promotional literature, will increase the visibility of our devices in the market, helping us to further accelerate our diversification into this lucrative sector."

Olive Hill, Invest NI's Director of Technology and Process Development, said countries across Europe, and further afield, were increasingly making use of renewable sources of energy, particularly wind power.

"As wind farms, both onshore and offshore, become more common, suppliers of a diverse range of products and services are, in parallel, well placed to capitalise."

Ulster firm in billion dollar acquisition deal

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urology market in advance of the anticipated launch of our erectile dysfunction treatments, and adds gastroenterology therapies to our product portfolio."

In a statement P&G, best known for its huge range of household consumer products said it

believed Warner Chilcott would be a "stronger and better investor in P&G's pharmaceutical assets, brands and capabilities because of Warner Chilcott's focus to grow its pharmaceuticals business."

For Warner Chilcott, the acquisition expands its presence in existing specialty pharmaceutical markets and provides access to

new physician offices in 14 countries.

In addition, Warner Chilcott will acquire P&G's pharmaceutical development capabilities and clinical pipeline, which is expected to broaden its product portfolio in future years.

Sir Allen first established Galen in 1968 and floated the company

on the London and Dublin stock markets in 1997. In September 2001, he retired as President of Galen Holdings plc

In 2007 the then Economy Minister Nigel Dodds today opened a £5m drug delivery research facility in Larne where 120 staff are based.



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