

"Cork is an attractive place to do business – it has a strong pipeline of talented people as well as having a healthy ecosystem (Research centres, academic institutes, local agencies, etc) that supports businesses at all levels."

Gary Hartnett
General Manager Janssen

Government agencies such as Enterprise Ireland (EI) and IDA Ireland (IDA) together with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI), Údarás na Gaeltachta, Bord Bia and Local Enterprise Offices (LEO's) play a leading role in supporting entrepreneurship and innovation, investment, exports and jobs growth in Cork.

- Agri-food
- Business Services
- Cybersecurity
- Financial Services
- Healthcare
- ICT Systems
- Life Sciences
- Maritime
- Software

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Life Sciences



Life Sciences

If Ireland is now a key hub of the global Life Sciences industry, Cork is the engine driving that expansion. Over the last ten years the Irish pharmaceutical, biopharmaceutical and medtech industry has invested around \$10bn in new facilities. Today about a third of the country's exports are pharmaceutical and medical products. No region has contributed more than Cork to this remarkable success story.

World leaders based in Cork

The numbers speak for themselves. 7 out of the top 10 global pharmaceutical companies are located in Cork - Janssen, Abbvie, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, Merck/MSD, Novartis and Thermo Fisher Scientific. Over 30 companies are now operating in the sector in Cork, employing over 10,000 people, more than any other region.

Many of these investors have significant biopharma operations in Cork with new facilities operating alongside their existing pharma operations. The region is also home to the unique **Cork Training Centre Biopharma Facility** which provides a hands-on environment to develop the practical skills needed to work in the sector.

Dramatic expansion

These world leading companies are now part of a thriving cluster, with a large hub around Ringaskiddy, County Cork. The availability of world class-research at centres of excellence, as well as a pool of highly skilled graduates, have seen a dramatic increase in investment in the sector here, with more state-of-the-art facilities coming onstream.

Janssen Sciences Ireland UC, part of the **Johnson & Johnson** family of companies, opened its biomanufacturing site back in 2005 and was significantly expanded in October 2019, creating 200 new full-time jobs.

Eli Lilly opened its first manufacturing base in Ireland in Kinsale, West Cork in the late 1970s and has continued to grow there with a recent €200m investment in biopharma extension. It is also expanding its **Global Business Solutions Centre** in Eastgate Business Park, where it employs 400 staff.

The world's second largest pharmaceutical company, **Merck Sharpe Dohme (MSD)**, hosts a biopharma centre of excellence in Brinny, West Cork. The pharma giant employs 700 staff and has invested €29m in the region since its opening in 2011.

In May 2019, **Thermo Fisher Scientific**, one the pharma industry's leading contract development and manufacturing organisations, bought the state-of-the-art **Glaxo Smith Kline (GSK)** plant in Cork. The purchase, which includes

270 cubic metres of reactor capacity, 10 production buildings, an R&D pilot plant and lab infrastructure, enables them to expand their development and commercial manufacturing of APIs for treating conditions such as cancer, depression and Parkinson's.

Boston Scientific's Cork facility manufactures a diverse portfolio of medical devices, used to diagnose and treat patients in areas like cardiology, urology and endoscopy. **Stryker**, which employs over 25,000 people worldwide, is now well established in Cork, developing surgical instruments and associated technology, as well as researching and developing biomaterials and making knee and hip joints. They recently opened a world-leading centre of excellence in Carigtohill, County Cork utilising orthopaedic related 3D laser printing technology.

There are also homegrown players such as **AventaMed**, founded in 2013 as a spin-out from **Cork Institute of Technology's (CIT) MEDIC Research Centre**, who are developing innovative ENT medical devices and are gaining global attention as a pioneering start-up. Recently, **AventaMed** has joined the **National Evaluation System for Healthcare Technology Coordinating Centre (NESTcc)**, a consortium of industry heavyweights such as **Abbott Diagnostics**, **Medtronic** and the **US Food and Drug Administration (FDA)**, as the first Irish company to share and evaluate evidence in the medical devices regulatory process.

Multidisciplinary expertise

Companies within the life sciences sector are also locating their shared services facilities in Cork in addition to their manufacturing and research operations. Healthcare leader **McKesson**,

for instance, has a multi-functional site in Cork. **McKesson** is the oldest and largest healthcare company in the US and the site includes an enterprise tech hub and finance function.

Leaders in medical device manufacturing

The constant drive for innovation has seen medical device manufacturing company **DePuy Synthes'** new Cork facility rated as one of top nine most advanced factories in the world by the

World Economic Forum (WEF). This is down to its ground-breaking use of internet of things (IoT) technology.

Education

Cork's highly developed academic and research infrastructure has been a key asset in attracting major companies, as well as supporting their expansion. Both of Cork's third level institutions, **University College Cork (UCC)** and **CIT** are highly regarded by an industry which works closely with

them. They underpin the success of the sector in the region, producing more than 500 graduates annually in life sciences related subjects. The Faculty of Engineering & Science at **CIT** delivers courses and research in a number of areas, including biological and biomedical sciences.

Collaborative genius

The School of Life Sciences at **UCC** provides a stream of highly skilled graduates as well as creating cutting edge research. Linking the Departments of Anatomy, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Physiology, Pharmacology and

Therapeutics into a cohesive interdisciplinary research and teaching unit. The school brings together a critical mass of researchers, teaching practitioners and clinicians in the life science areas.

Centres of excellence

Cork's global reputation as a leader in Life Sciences is enhanced by an impressive range of world class research facilities and centres of excellence, such as:

Pharma

The Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre (SSPC) specialises in process innovation and advanced manufacturing in the pharma industry. **SRL Pharma** is the centre of excellence for sensory trials, providing the sensory evaluation and consumer research needs of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industry. Located at **UCC**, they partner with **UCC's** School of Pharmacy and the **HRB Clinical Research Facility** at the **Mercy Hospital**, Cork.

Biomedical

The APC Microbiome Institute supports world-class research into the impact of human gut bacteria on population health and the development of future foods and medicines. At the **Analytical and Biological Chemistry Research Facility** interdisciplinary teams conduct research at the chemistry-biology interface, focused on pharmaceutical synthesis, separation and detection/characterisation.

Healthcare research

The role of **the Health Innovation Hub** is to drive collaboration and fast-track commercialisation of healthcare innovations. Based at **UCC**, **the Irish Centre for Maternal and Child Health Research**

(INFANT) is Ireland's first translational research centre focused entirely on pregnancy, birth and early childhood. **The Cork Cancer Research Centre (CCRC)** is a multidisciplinary organisation that investigates major issues that concern the genesis, progression or treatment of cancer, within the College of Medicine and Health, **University College Cork**. **The Bioexplore Research Centre in CIT** supports world class research in diagnosing, characterizing, and treating pathogens, focusing on therapeutic applications in infectious disease, gut health and cancer.

Healthcare training

The **ASSERT Centre** at **UCC** was established to improve the efficacy of health professional training, providing world-class facilities to train healthcare professionals in simulated clinical settings.

Medical devices

The Medical Engineering Design Innovation Centre (MEDIC) specialises in the design and discovery of medical devices. The centre has been created to stimulate innovation, ideas and business competitiveness in the medical device arena. Its key research areas specialise in orthopaedics, biomaterials and SMART devices.