

**Minister Officially Opens EUR40M Business Park in Kilkenny**

Minister for Trade and Commerce, John McGuinness T.D. officially opened Kilkenny's newest business district, Danville Business Park.

Representing an investment of EUR40 million, Danville is the first commercial development in Kilkenny to connect to the Metropolitan Area Network (MAN), the Government funded national IT infrastructure, designed to promote regional development through high speed broadband and telecommunications services.

Commenting on the opening of Danville Business Park, Minister McGuinness said 'Danville represents a substantial investment in Kilkenny's local business infrastructure. Its unique position as the first development in the county to be linked to the MAN, will enhance vital connectivity, a fundamental for the competitiveness and growth of our region and a precursor to balanced regional development. I believe Danville will succeed in attracting new and dynamic businesses working in the knowledge economy to Kilkenny, in turn attracting a high calibre of businesses and graduates to work and live in the county'.

Described as Kilkenny's newest business district, Danville offers a total of 130,000sq ft. high spec commercial space, adjacent to the ring road and main arterial routes. At full capacity the Park will accommodate up to 300 jobs.

Local businesses who have, or are in the process of relocating to the Park include Campion & Roberts Financial Services, DIVA International, Finlay Southern, Insight HR, IP One, Jeff Howes Golf Design, Prochem Engineering and Sheridan Insurances.

Danville has been developed by a consortium led by local business man Michael Brannigan, who comments "Despite the current pressure on our economy, from a geographical and access to human capital perspective, Kilkenny remains a great place to do business. There are thriving sectors within the local business community who continue, despite the challenges, to experience growth and expansion. The calibre of local businesses relocating to Danville is testament to Kilkenny's thriving indigenous SME sector.

In addition, we believe that Danville's excellent location, flexible high-end specification and access to the MAN network, will allow the City to compete with the likes of Carlow and Waterford, to attract new businesses to the region".

Danville Business Park is based in a well established blue-chip business district with neighbouring national and international players like AIB Business Banking, Banking 365, Glanbia, State Street and taxback.com already benefiting from the area's close proximity both to the City and the main arterial routes connecting Kilkenny to the rest of Ireland and Europe.

**ENDS**