

Driving innovation in medtech manufacturing

Sean Moran, VP of Operations for Sanmina Ireland, discusses how the company has become a technology leader and why the medtech sector is growing in Ireland

Sanmina Ireland is celebrating its 30th year of manufacturing operations in Fermoy, County Cork this year. Headquartered in Silicon Valley, California, Sanmina expanded its operations to Ireland in 1989 and has since become a technology leader and global supplier of complex medical systems in the region. “Ireland is recognised as an established global hub in the medical technology space,” said Sean Moran, VP of Operations and Plant Manager for Sanmina Ireland in Fermoy. “Most of the major players in the industry have a presence in Ireland, with nine out of the top 10 global medtech companies having operations in the region.”

Sanmina Ireland has become such an established technology leader in Ireland that it won the Partner/Supplier of the Year, 2018 Award at the Irish Medtech Awards 2018, held last December in Cork. “The Irish Medtech Association plays a key role in Ireland. They’ve built up an ecosystem in the country that supports a wide range of medtech companies, all the way from major brands, to those just starting up operations,” said Moran. “We’re delighted to have been recognised with an award that is so well-respected by our industry peers all over the world. It reflects the commitment that our team provides every day to our medical clients and their patients, using the highest level of quality standards.”

Over the past 30 years that Sanmina has been based in Fermoy, Ireland has become a leader in medical device manufacturing, providing more than 38,000 jobs and annual exports of €12.6 billion to more than 100 countries worldwide.

“It was a simple decision to set up operations in Ireland,” said Moran. “Sanmina serves customers across Europe, Ireland and the UK. Setting up a base in Ireland gave us easy access to the right skills and talent required

for medical device manufacturing. In addition, our customers already had operations in Ireland, so it enabled us to become a valuable part of the local supply chain.”

Moran says there is a well-established ecosystem in Ireland for the medtech industry that supports large scale manufacturing and the development of innovative medical products.

“The medtech industry has become a key pillar in Ireland’s economy, with enormous investments in the development of staff and medical research. This is helping companies not only stay at the forefront of current technology, but also to develop innovative medtech solutions for the future.”

Advanced automated medical technology manufacturing

Over the years, Sanmina has evolved to become a technology leader in the medtech space. Sanmina collaborates with major medical device and healthcare companies to produce some of the most advanced medical devices in the world on high-volume, automated production equipment.

The company designs and manufactures



a broad range of medical technology and devices, ranging from blood and molecular diagnostics, to patient monitoring equipment.

“We’ve built up a highly experienced team and operations in Fermoy to successfully address and navigate the global medical regulatory environment,” adds Moran. “We’ve also made major scientific investments and created ISO Class 8 clean room facilities. In addition, we leverage highly automated manufacturing and have also developed services such as an onsite microbiology lab. These types of capabilities weren’t available here 20 years ago. We’re constantly adapting and driving innovation.”

After investing heavily in its Fermoy site and providing technical and professional development to staff, Moran says Sanmina continues to focus on providing

customers with manufacturing solutions for highly complex medical products and systems.

“Irish medtech is the envy of many areas internationally. There is a cluster of complementary industries, supply chain activity and manufacturing companies that support each other. We should all be proud of this collaborative ecosystem and the positive impact it has on patients’ lives every day. As our company tagline indicates, ‘what we make, makes a difference’.

“Moving forward, we’re planning to build on our growth over the past number of years and develop further opportunities with new and existing customers. Sanmina Fermoy is a critical player in the global Sanmina network, and we are committed to providing solutions that enhance life for millions of patients around the world.”



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Sanmina Ireland Head of Engineering Damian Collins; Sanmina Ireland Business Development Manager Michael Murphy; Sanmina Ireland VP & Fermoy Plant Manager Seán Moran; Sanmina Ireland Head of HR Maria Quirke; Sanmina Ireland Director of Operation Michael Mulvihill; and Sanmina Ireland Technical Project Manager PJ Lonergan