

MDS Global Technologies & SWG Inc open international offices in Meath

Thursday, November 20th 2014: MDS Global Technologies and SWG Inc. have this week officially opened their international headquarters in Kells, Meath, creating a total of **50 jobs**.

The companies were introduced to Ireland through the combined efforts of ConnectIreland, the company responsible for delivering the Government's *Succeed in Ireland* initiative, in association with IDA Ireland, and SmartInvest, a transatlantic accelerator fund for high potential technology companies. Both companies will begin recruitment immediately for their operations at Kells Enterprise Technology Centre and hope to fill the 50 positions over the coming three years.

Speaking at the opening of both offices in Kells on Wednesday, **Minister for Skills, Research and Innovation Damien English, T.D. said:**

"The establishment of these two companies in Kells builds on the investment announced by Mafic last year, another Connect Ireland project that is being supported by IDA Ireland. This is a great example of how Government initiatives, private investors and local communities can all work together to win valuable new jobs for Ireland and, critically, for towns like Kells. In particular, this reinforces the great enterprise relationship between Ireland and the US.

"The inclusion of Kells in the new national Regional Aid Map will further enhance the prospects of attracting new investment and the expansion of existing enterprises both foreign and indigenous".

MDS is a US-based technology company that manufactures equipment to enable IP traffic over existing coaxial cable to the MDU and hospitality space. Formed in 2013, MDS is expanding in the North American and European markets. The Kells operation will manufacture IP equipment, as well as heading up the global sales, technical support, administrative and financial divisions of the company. The company has already attracted significant interest in their product and hope to fill 15 of their 25 positions in the first 12 months. They are now looking for experienced professionals to fill engineering, logistical, sales and general office positions.

Jim Luciano, MD of MDS, said: *"Key for me in choosing a location was that when we were looking, Ireland had the most interest in what we were trying to do. Secondly, resources. Ireland has really good resources and also to me, it's been pretty easy. People have been really receptive to what we've planned and what our vision is. Everyone has embraced what we're trying to do."*

"We do a lot of business in Europe and Asia and an operation out of Ireland made sense. Meath seemed like a good landing spot for the business. With our product there is really nice potential to grow and Kells will be able to accommodate that growth," added Jim.

SWG Inc. buys, sells and repairs wireless and network equipment and will locate its first operation outside of the U.S. at Kells Enterprise Centre. The Meath location will house an extensive R&D team as well as repurposing equipment, and the company are currently looking to recruit for a number of technical roles, growing to a total of 25 employees over three years.

Greg Kopa, Co-Founder of SWG Inc. said: *"We know we can build a business in Ireland and know we can grow from a solid base and branch out. The location is very easily accessible. The Kells Enterprise Centre is outside of Dublin, already set up for high tech companies with fibre optics, and it's a nice area. The people have all been very positive."*

“The other thing about Ireland is that there is a very strong technical base. There is a good labour pool to draw from, Ireland has a good technical background,” added Greg.

Michael McLoughlin CEO of ConnectIreland commented: *“ConnectIreland is delighted to have worked with SWG and MDS in order to help them expand their operations overseas. It is a great credit to the people of Meath that yet more international companies have chosen to locate in the region. Through the power of one local connector 50 jobs will be created in Kells. A simple conversation is all it takes to make a difference and we hope to have more great news for Meath in the coming months.”*

Gerry Moan Founder and CEO of SmartInvest commented: *“We have worked closely with both MDS and SWG in facilitating their location and set-up here in Ireland, and specifically Kells. As an all-island accelerator programme we believe that the island of Ireland as a whole offers unique opportunities to high potential technology companies looking for a European landing pad.”*

Martin Shanahan, CEO of IDA Ireland said: *“Ireland is now the fastest growing economy in Europe and US corporations are picking Ireland as the location of choice for their global operations. In fact, nine of the top ten US technology companies are already located in Ireland, so both SWG and MDS will have excellent company here. Ireland is a strong exporting nation, with particularly robust performances in sectors like ICT, med tech and pharma.*

“IDA has worked closely with Connect Ireland in winning this type of investment and will continue to do so.”

-ENDS-

Editor’s Note:

About MDS

MDS Global Technologies is an American company located in Pennsylvania that manufactures equipment to enable IP traffic over existing coaxial cable to the MDU and hospitality space. Their target market is Telco operators, content providers, cable operators, integrators and people who need to deliver data through a multi-dwelling building. Targeting and expanding in North America and European markets, Ireland will become their European HQ.

About SWG

SWG Inc buys, sells and repairs telecommunications equipment, with particular focus on broadband wireless, cellular and cable in two categories; surplus and pre-owned. At present they service the US market exclusively but they are expanding to target a wider international market. The Kells location will be their first operation outside of the US.

About ConnectIreland

ConnectIreland is an innovative way to create new jobs in Ireland by harnessing the power of your connections. The aim is to attract foreign companies that are expanding internationally to Ireland. The Irish Government will financially reward those who, through their introductions, help create new, sustainable jobs in Ireland. The programme, part of the Government’s Action Plan for Jobs, is delivering the Succeed in Ireland Initiative, in partnership with IDA Ireland. www.connectireland.com.

About Smart Invest

With headquarters in Ireland and Philadelphia, SmartInvest is a new \$500m transatlantic funding mechanism for US companies to set up their EMEA headquarters in Ireland and for Irish companies who wish to expand into the US market. The fund will focus on technology-led companies in the software, medical devices, networking and infrastructure and agri-business sectors.

The Fund will leverage relationships and prospects identified through the SmartInvest mentorship programme and similar incubator and accelerator programmes which have been operational in Ireland and Philadelphia since 2011.