

Prochem unveils new €1.2m headquarters

By Caroline Allen

Kilkenny-based engineering firm Prochem has opened new 4,000 square foot headquarters in Danville Business Park at a cost of €1.2 million.

The move from the company's existing 2,500 square foot facility in Hebron Business Park coincides with plans to move into the recruitment field, with the launch of a range of job services aimed at candidates specialising in chemical, project, electrical and mechanical engineering.

"We are diversifying to allow us to grow in a challenging market. Our sales pipeline continues to grow and we are excited about the opportunities ahead of us," said Matt O'Brien, managing director, Prochem.

O'Brien launched Prochem in 1995 to offer consultancy engineering and project management services to the process industry. Its roster of 35 domes-

Company:
Prochem Engineering

Investment: €1.2m

Turnover: €5.8m

Staff: 25 directly, and
50 engineers on
secondment

Established: 1995

tic and multinational clients includes Pfizer, Wyeth and Glanbia.

The company specialises in projects valued at €10 million or below. Outside construction, it also offers FÁS-approved training services in key engineering disciplines, including pipe design and process engineering.

O'Brien said training accounted for 5 per cent of the company's business, compared with 30 per cent for pure engineering projects. A separate secondment division is by far

the company's largest, accounting for 65 per cent of its business.

Established in 2005, the division contracts out engineers to clients for projects varying in length from two to five years.

O'Brien said the launch of Prochem Recruitment would enhance earnings, adding value to the Prochem brand. "It is a natural extension of our secondment offering, and we have the industry contacts and knowledge to ensure its success," he said.

Last year, Prochem was named Kilkenny Business of the Year by Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce in association with Enterprise Ireland.

O'Brien is upbeat about the future. "The engineering industry, like many sectors, has slowed due to economic conditions. However, we have always focused on the home market. In doing so, we have avoided competition with international consultancies," he said.

"This, alongside our continuity of resources and huge le-



Prochem directors Donal Higgins and Kevin Lynch with managing director Matt O'Brien

vel of experience in key disciplines like pipe design and ACAD, has set us apart from our competitors, allowing us to weather the storm. We are not dependent on one large cli-

ent or on the larger projects which have been the most adversely affected by the slowdown.

"Innovation is the central issue in economic prosperity,

and it is what separates leaders from followers. Prochem has grown through innovation and by being diverse, and this is what will ensure our future success."