

South African generic pharmaceutical company, Aspen, is to create 44 jobs in Citywest, Dublin, establishing a global regulatory, quality assurance, pharmacovigilance and supply projects centre-of-excellence. This announcement will bring to 58 the number of Aspen's employees in Ireland.

Richard Bruton, TD, Ireland's Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation announced the new jobs on October 3rd. Pharmaceuticals are a major sector of strength for Ireland, with nine out of the top 10 global companies located in the country. Minister Bruton said:

"However a key part of the Government's plan for jobs and growth is targeting the areas of growth within what is a changing sector – in particular, generics. Today's announcement that Aspen, one of the world's leading generic pharmaceutical companies is expanding its operations here is very welcome news. I am determined to ensure that we build on this to target further generics investments to create the jobs and growth we need."

Stephen Saad, group chief executive of Aspen, said Ireland provides Aspen with a strong regulatory and business environment and a workforce with the specialised skills it requires.

"I would like to thank the Irish Government and IDA Ireland for their support and look forward to the future development of Aspen in Ireland," Saad said.

Aspen first opened its doors in Ireland in 2012, and that operation has now become the European marketing and supply chain headquarters for Aspen.

Barry O'Leary, CEO of IDA Ireland, said Aspen's decision to locate its operation in Ireland adds to the country's cluster of life sciences companies, and will add to Ireland's reputation as a leading centre of for this sector. He said that a key member of that cluster is GlaxoSmithKline, which owns a 20 per cent share in Aspen here.

In addition to being one of the largest generic global pharmaceutical companies, Aspen is also the largest producer of anti-retroviral (HIV) drugs in South Africa.

"Ireland offers South Africa's largest pharmaceutical company a strategic location from which to support its on-going expansion and grow its sales across Europe," said O'Leary.