

Genzyme Waterford named Ireland's best large workplace



Pictured celebrating at Genzyme Waterford as the site was named Ireland's best large workplace by Great Place to Work Ireland were (from left): John Norris, Aidan Russell, Gavin Cuddihy, Jen Doyle, Kate O'Regan, Richard Bierney (Site Head), Caroline Hocht, Mairead O'Shea and Gemma Kennedy. | Photo: Dylan Vaughan

Genzyme, who employs 550 people in Waterford, has been named Ireland's best large workplace at a prestigious awards ceremony in Dublin.

Previously listed in the Top 10 in 2013 and 2014, Genzyme received the top accolade from Great Place to Work Ireland at the 13th annual Best Workplace Awards attended by Public Expenditure Minister Brendan Howlin in Dublin last Wednesday.

Said Minister Howlin said: "These awards reflect the hard work, commitment, drive and innovation of a diverse range of workplaces. They also recognise the importance that is placed on creating a positive atmosphere in which employees can thrive and excel."

The Best Workplace Awards are designed to acknowledge and celebrate employers who foster a high level of workplace trust. Published in The Irish Times last Thursday, the Great Place to Work listings are widely recognised as Ireland's most comprehensive study of workplace culture and employee engagement.

"We're obviously delighted with this recognition for what all of the team at the site do every day to make this a high trust workplace," said Genzyme Site Head Richard Bierney.

"People who respect their colleagues work together better and achieve more. We simply couldn't hope to realise our ambitions for Waterford without a highly-motivated team of people harnessing their talents and experience to deliver results."

Mr Bierney added: "We have seen over a number of years that teams where you have high levels of engagement aren't just nicer to be part of, they also deliver better results for the organisation and that performance is sustained over time.

"The external endorsement of being named the best large workplace in the country by Great Place to Work Ireland is an asset

as we continue to grow in the wider Sanofi organisation and will also strengthen our ability to recruit and retain the best people so that we are primed for further growth.”

Gemma Kennedy, Genzyme’s High Trust Lead: “Trust underpins everything we do across all of the teams here and that’s been particularly important in recent years when there has been considerable change in our activity.

“One of the most valuable things we get from the Great Place to Work programme is that it allows us track employee engagement over time so we can measure progress and assess the impact of particular events or interventions. The results then allow us refocus our future efforts so we continue to build an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust. To take first place in Ireland this year is obviously a great source of satisfaction and pride to all of us at the site.”

Speaking at the awards ceremony, John Ryan, the CEO of Great Place to Work Ireland, said: “With significantly more organisations putting themselves forward to be assessed and benchmarked this year, being accredited as a great workplace is a more relevant marker of performance than ever.

“We believe that, in time, being accredited as a ‘great workplace’ will be seen as an expectation from employees who believe this is the standard that should be provided. No longer is being ‘great’ a nice bauble to have – rather, it is essential in the race for talent, and to ensure you have a high-performing organisation that is leveraging their people to compete locally and globally.”