

## **BD awarded grant contribution towards £18million investment in Plymouth site**

Medical equipment manufacturer and PMG member BD - Becton Dickinson and Company - has been awarded £2.2million under the Grant of Business Investment scheme from the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. The business employs 770 people in Plymouth and is the city's third largest private sector employer.

It will use the investment to contribute towards an £18million scheme to build a sterilising unit and a facility to build an advanced type of needle. The grant will be paid in instalments as the project progresses. The scheme is expected to create about 19 jobs and to safeguard 118. The South West Regional Development Agency backed the firm's application. Richard Hoskin, SWRDA's Business Investment Manager, said "Becton Dickinson is a flagship business within the region, a leading innovator in the medical technology sector and a company which is creating high-quality employment in Plymouth. We are very pleased to have been able to work so closely with the company in support of its expansion plans and we welcome Becton Dickinson's decision to make such a major investment in its future in Plymouth and the South West."

SWRDA's inward investment team has also worked with BD's US management team and hosted a visit by senior managers in 2008, where they outlined the advantages of investing in the region. The US-owned firm's factory, at Belliver, produces Vacutainer blood collection tubes - tubes that draw samples of blood from a patient's arm - as well as plastic laboratory equipment, such as petri dishes and flasks.

Last year saw BD mark the 60th anniversary of its Vacutainer blood collection system product which is today used by millions of healthcare professionals around the world. Plymouth Managing Director, Peter Burgess said: "BD's commitment to quality touches everything we do, and ensures that our associates are able to produce the high-quality products that our customers demand. This is reflected in our investment in people, new technology, processes and tools which lead to reduced variability and better and more consistent performance."

The firm moved to Plymouth in a bid to operate from a site close to its growing European market. Around 80 per cent of its products are still exported to Europe, with the remainder sold in America and Asia.

BD, which started in 1897, now has bases in around 50 countries and employs 28,000 people worldwide. The Plymouth operation is one of four BD sites in the UK, with other bases at Swindon, Oxford and Bidford, in Warwickshire.

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