



Media Release

EU Commissioner of Agriculture and Rural Development Phil Hogan officially opens Advanced Laboratory Testing Ltd (ALT) New Facility in Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Today (Monday, 9th February) at 9am, EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Mr. Phil Hogan officially opened the new Advanced Laboratory Testing Ltd (ALT) facility located in Newbridge, Industrial Park in Co. Kildare. Established in 2013 and having created employment for 50 staff in the past 18 months, ALT plans to double this number during 2015. ALT Ltd is a 100% Irish owned company and is a world-class analytical testing service provider utilising the best of available diagnostic techniques to the food industry. Founded by Louis G Ronan, the ALT facility is delivering an unrivalled service to the agri-food industry on the island of Ireland which, with a €25bn turnover, is Ireland's most important indigenous industry. Late in 2014, Billy Coleman who has a previous successful track record of both founding, managing and expanding laboratories in Ireland came on board with the goal of taking ALT to the next level in implementing its strategic plan to vastly increase the level of testing services offered.

ALT is Ireland's fastest growing laboratory currently offering accredited Microbiology, Environmental Chemistry, Food Chemistry and Veterinary testing services. A new major extension in 2014 added in excess of 3,500 square feet to its testing facility and doubled the size of the existing laboratory capacity. It remains at present the only commercial laboratory in Ireland offering PCR based rapid testing solutions for Salmonella species and Listeria species which allow for results within 24 hours.

Billy Coleman of ALT said today "We are currently embarking on a major expansion programme with a view to increasing ALT's accredited service offering across the analysis spectrum to include PCR, Environmental Chemistry and a significantly enhanced Food Chemistry service offering. This will allow the Irish Food Industry to use an Irish based commercial laboratory service provider to assist in complying with new EU labeling regulations which came into force in December 2014. This will result in significantly improved turnaround times for customers in Ireland and will lessen the need for Irish companies to use subcontract labs in the UK and mainland Europe."

With these new accreditations coming on-stream ALT will increase staff numbers to at least 100 full time laboratory staff this year – the vast majority of these new positions will require qualifications at graduate level and above from third level institutions in Ireland. Over the next eighteen months it is planned to further increase the range of testing services offered by ALT to include Allergen testing, Water Chemistry and to increase the range of Veterinary services offered.

Phil Hogan EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development said today at the ALT facility "This new extension to the laboratory facility marks a commitment to creating more high quality jobs. The sophisticated diagnostic capacity is what enables the EU agri-food sector to be a world leader in quality and traceability from farm to fork, with Ireland at the forefront of the race to the top in standards".

For more information go to www.altesting.ie