

A new addition to the Glanbia milk processing plant in Ballyragget will result in a number of new full-time positions when it is completed later this summer.

Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan has congratulated the company for making an investment of €21 million on the new whey plant on the site.

"This is another important facet of Glanbia's overall strategy in this sector and augers well for the future," Minister Hogan said.

"Glanbia has proven itself excellent in positioning itself on where the growth in dairy-nutritional sector is going," he added. "We need companies like Glanbia to head our push for exports and growth with new jobs as well," Minister Hogan said.

It brings to €106 million the total investment in the Ballyragget operation over the last six years. Ballyragget is one of Europe's largest integrated dairy processing facilities and this latest expansion guarantees its long term future and viability.

Speaking yesterday, Jim Bergin, CEO of Glanbia Dairy Ingredients Ireland said the development reflects growing customer demand for whey protein isolate which is a very pure form of whey protein, suitable for various nutritional applications.

"We have invested 21 million in this project which will bring to €80 million the amount invested by the end of 2012 in the various expansions in Ballyragget and Virginia in the last six years.

"Construction work commenced last autumn on this value added facility as an extension of our existing whey Plant and we expect the project to be finalised before year end," he said.

There are 74 jobs associated with the construction period and on completion this new venture will employ 10 people bringing to over 320 the number of people employed at the Ballyragget facility.

(Source: www.kilkennypeople.ie)