

## PRESS RELEASE



### **GLENISK WINS THE OVERALL SFA NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS AWARD 2010**

(Offaly, 5 March 2010) Glenisk, the family owned organic dairy, is the 2010 winner of the Overall Small Firms Association National Small Business Award. The award was presented by An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD at a ceremony in Dublin's Trinity College.

As well as receiving the top accolade, Glenisk won the Food & Drink Award category and was shortlisted for the Environmental Sustainability award. The award citation made reference to Glenisk's remarkable growth in turnover, volume and market share; as well as the company's dedication to organic dairy in Ireland.

Announcing the winner, Dr Aidan O'Boyle, SFA Chairman and Chair of the Judging Panel said: "Glenisk is a fine example of an Irish family owned company, with a commitment to organic farming, that has managed through innovation and product development to grow their business even in the darkest recession. Glenisk are a true an inspiration to other small businesses."

Accepting the award on behalf of Glenisk, Gerard Cleary, Finance Director, said: "We are delighted to receive this award. Our success is testament to the fact that small businesses, in the food sector and indeed other sectors, can thrive in Ireland – particularly if they are innovative. In our

case, our commitment to organic agriculture has set us apart from our competitors and helped to fuel our growth.”

Further information is available at [www.glenisk.com](http://www.glenisk.com).

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For further information, photography, or to arrange an interview, please contact:

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**Note to Editors:**

Glenisk was established in 1987 by the Cleary family in Killeigh, Co Offaly. Glenisk converted to organic production in 1995. Today, Glenisk continues to operate from Killeigh and is run by five of the Cleary siblings. Glenisk works with 50 organic farmers across the island of Ireland, and procures 90% of the organic milk produced in Ireland. Glenisk is a multi-award winning business, most recently receiving the Bord Bia Food & Drink Industry Award for Environmental Enrichment 2009, and the National Organic Award 2009 for Best Retail Product for its Greek Style Yogurt.

In addition to promoting organic agriculture, which is accepted as a less intensive form of agriculture providing benefits for the environment, Glenisk has taken a number of steps to lessen its environmental impact. The company opened an €8.5m eco-friendly plant in 2007, with a focus on using sustainable materials in the build. The new plant is powered by Airtricity and in 2009, Glenisk installed its first wind turbine which powers the reed beds for water waste efficiencies; vehicles run on biofuel and electricity and Glenisk operates a strict recycling policy. Paper yogurt pots are sourced from sustainably managed forests, approved by the Forest Stewardship Council. All of the fruit used is organic and bananas are certified by the Rainforest Alliance.

In 2009, Glenisk commenced a major project internally designed to measure not only the plant’s carbon footprint, but that of each of the farms they work with. Bia Cert has been contracted to audit the farms, while the plant audit is working to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, developed by the World Business for Sustainable Development & The World Resource Centre.

Glenisk is also committed to supporting NGOs and charities with an environmental cause. We are partners with The Organic Centre, Co Leitrim; GM Free Ireland Network and with Cultivate, the sustainable living and learning centre, and with Bothar.

Glenisk is a member of Love Irish Food, the initiative set up in 2009 to promote Irish food and drink manufacturers.