

“Indaver has the mindset to go the extra mile”, Boston Scientific

Boston Scientific Corporation (BSC) is a leading innovator of medical solutions that improve the health of patients around the world. With 25,000 employees in 40 countries across six continents, it is a global organization. In Ireland, BSC has sites in Galway, Clonmel, and Cork. Galway is the largest of these, and is the largest manufacturing facility in BSC's global plant network. The plant produces more than 3 million medical devices each year and employs more than 2,600 people. Manufacturing on such a scale produces waste, much of which is recyclable, although a portion is sensitive and hazardous. For over 10 years, Indaver has been solely responsible for all of the waste on BSC's Galway site. Mary Collins, Senior EHS Specialist, talks about the Total Waste Management solution Indaver provides, and about working with the Indaver team.



Shares our values

“In 1999 we did not recycle at all. By 2011, we were sending no waste to landfill and in 2016, 80 % of our non-hazardous waste is recycled. Indaver has helped us to make this dramatic change in a short period of time. Our hazardous waste goes to different treatment centres that Indaver has audited. The complex hazardous waste is processed at Indaver's rotary kiln in Antwerp, Belgium. That way we can be sure that any components of the waste that might be harmful to people or to the environment are fully destroyed. Our residual non-hazardous waste goes to the Meath Waste-to-Energy facility.”

Sustainability is an important part of BSC's CSR strategy. We are very proud to be a zero waste to landfill site. We have other environmental objectives such as limiting our greenhouse gas emissions, controlling our resource usage, creating as little waste as possible, and recycling as much as possible. We want to reduce our environmental impact, and it's important to us to work with a partner, such as Indaver, that shares our values.”

Everything at our fingertips

“The reporting on our waste data is an important part of the service Indaver provides for us. As a medical device manufacturer, we are frequently audited by multiple regulatory agencies, internally and by corporate. During such audits, the auditors complete a thorough investigation into our compliance with our Integrated Pollution Control licence, our waste shipments, licenced and permitted disposal facilities, and our certificates of disposal. We also report on our waste management to BSC's corporate management in the US. The customized reports and e-reporting are invaluable. It's very useful to be able to track and trace our waste so that we know what is out there, what has been shipped, where it's gone, and that nothing can leave site before it is classified, labeled correctly, and given an order number.”

A complex and controlled environment

“We make a wide variety of medical devices here in Galway. About 75 % of our waste is non-hazardous. The remaining 25 % is hazardous, as it arises in the main from the manufacture of drug eluting stents. We make medical devices in clean rooms where the environment is strictly controlled. It's a very labour-intensive process, as each device is made of multiple different parts. The production process is Lean, and so our clean rooms not only have a strictly regulated environment, but they are also laid out so as to maximize efficiency. The process produces small amounts of waste at very frequent intervals. As a result, regular small collections need to be done in such a way that neither the build-up nor the collection of waste disrupts the production process or compromises the strictly controlled environment.”

We didn't want a supplier, we wanted a partner who would understand our needs and work with us. Indaver organises the daily on-site waste management; finds the safest and most sustainable recycling and treatment solutions; and deals with the complex administration in line with European and Irish waste legislation and guidelines. We've been working with Indaver for several years now. The lads here on-site are excellent, and we know we can rely on Indaver at every stage of the waste-management process”.

The waste is managed before we know it

“The Indaver team based here on-site forms a crucial element of our partnership with Indaver. We have a binless office, so waste is segregated at a central recycling station. Every day, the lads make up to 400 collections and move 5 tonnes of waste. That means that each of them walks at least 12 km every day!

It's a large and complex task, and it needs careful organization. I speak with Philip Lydon, our Waste Operations Leader, most days. We also have a weekly meeting to discuss resources, issues, value improvement projects, and optimizations. This collaborative approach is essential to the smooth running of both the waste management and the wider production process on-site. They make our lives much easier. Although the Indaver team are contractors, it's very much our policy to consider them as a part of our Galway EH&S team here.

Philip and his team are both flexible and committed. Of course we have agreed and worked out set collection routes and times, but the team is pro-active about managing things during production peaks, or should there be an unexpected build-up. Many times, without being asked I have observed the lads going over and above their regular tasks to ensure we meet our operations demands, they really have the mindset to go the extra mile. I also have a monthly meeting with the Key Account Manager, Noel Greaney. We discuss strategic goals, such as recycling and sustainability objectives, cost reductions, and efficiency. These regular meetings are invaluable as here at BSC Galway we need to be sure that we are compliant with any new waste legislation or guidelines. The waste business is never simple!”

Meath Waste-to-Energy: a sustainable solution for industrial waste

Indaver built and operates Ireland's first waste-to-energy facility. Every year, the Meath waste-to-energy facility diverts 235,000 tonnes of waste away from disposal in landfill and up the waste hierarchy to recovery, thus helping Ireland meet EU and national objectives. Indaver's Meath facility is also a source of renewable energy for Ireland. In the past 5 years, the facility has generated over 630,00 MWh of energy, or enough electricity to power 155,000 homes