

# Abbott Facility Receives Top International Award For Operational Excellence

Clonmel, Ireland, Facility is the First Site in Europe to Receive the Prestigious Shingo Prize

ABBOTT PARK, Ill., May 8, 2014 /PRNewswire/ -- Abbott (NYSE: ABT) has been awarded the Shingo Prize, an international award for operational excellence, by the Shingo Institute at the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. Abbott's vascular devices manufacturing facility in Clonmel, Ireland, received the award, recognizing the site's initiative to develop and maintain continuous improvement to achieve operational excellence. The prize is awarded to organizations that demonstrate a culture where principles of operational excellence are deeply embedded into the thinking and behavior of all leaders, managers and associates.

"Only the highest-performing organizations are considered for the Shingo Prize," said Robert Miller, executive director at the Shingo Institute. "Organizations that receive the top Shingo Prize have successfully created a culture characterized by excellence, respect, humility, the quest for perfection and flow of value to the customer. Ultimately, these are some of the best organizations in the world."

The Shingo Prize, established in 1988, is named after Japanese industrial engineer Shigeo Shingo, who distinguished himself as one of the world's thought leaders in concepts, management systems and improvement techniques. The Shingo Prize began as a way to recognize and inspire excellence in manufacturing but has grown to serve as the global standard for enterprise excellence. The Shingo Prize is open to organizations across all industries and sectors globally. Abbott's vascular devices manufacturing facility in Clonmel is the first organization in Europe to achieve the standards required to receive the top Shingo Prize.

Abbott's Clonmel facility is a center of excellence in the manufacturing of medical devices used to treat people with vascular diseases, including heart disease, in more than 100 countries around the world. By adopting the Shingo model of operational excellence and continued improvement, the team at Abbott further developed and strengthened its long-term vision and strategy, discovered the most effective ways to foster collaboration among employees, and identified opportunities to enhance the way the company manufactures medical devices. As a result, the Clonmel site has achieved significant increases in productivity, while maintaining the highest standards of quality as it brings innovative medical technologies to the market.

"Abbott's dedication to excellence is a driving force across all functions and roles, and is central to our development of innovative business solutions so that we can continue to deliver world-class products to our customers," said Chuck Foltz, senior vice president, vascular, Abbott. "Receiving the top Shingo Prize for our manufacturing facility in Clonmel is a testament to the deep commitment of our employees and to our ongoing focus on serving the people who benefit from our products."

## About the Shingo Prize

The Shingo Institute, part of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University, has awarded the Shingo Prize since 1988. The Prize serves as the global standard for enterprise excellence in every industry sector across manufacturing and services as well as the public services.

Each year, trained examiners assess organizations that "challenge" or apply for the Shingo Prize according to a rigorous set of criteria, and award those that display a culture that continually strives for improvement and progress. Only those organizations that demonstrate ideal behaviors achieving ideal, sustainable results are awarded the Shingo Prize.

## About Abbott Vascular

Abbott Vascular is the world's leader in drug eluting stents. Abbott Vascular has an industry-leading pipeline and a comprehensive portfolio of market-leading products for cardiac and vascular care, including products for coronary artery disease, vessel closure, endovascular disease and structural heart disease.

## About Abbott

Abbott is a global healthcare company devoted to improving life through the development of products and technologies that span the breadth of healthcare. With a portfolio of leading, science-based offerings in diagnostics, medical devices, nutritionals and branded generic pharmaceuticals, Abbott serves people in more than 150 countries and employs approximately 69,000 people. Visit Abbott at [www.abbott.com](http://www.abbott.com) and connect with us on Twitter at @AbbottNews.

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For further information: Media, Steve Kelly, +1-408-845-3427, or Financial, Tina Ventura, +1-847-935-9390

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