

# Rehab Enterprises' Exciting Expansion Plans



*Pictured above:* The Ceann Comhairle, John O'Donoghue TD, cuts the ribbon on "An Siopa", Rehab's new shop at the Houses of the Oireachtas, Dublin.

**WHAT DO BUSY**  
Ministers and TDs eager to keep abreast of current affairs in the newspapers, hard-working Dáil and Seanad staff in need of a sugar boost and visitors in search of a souvenir

have in common? They are all customers of Rehab Retail's newest shop, "An Siopa", at the Kildare Street entrance to the Houses of the Oireachtas in Dublin. The shop was recently officially opened by the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker of the House), John O'Donoghue TD.

"An Siopa" is Rehab Retail's fourth shop in Dublin, with others located at the offices of Vodafone, Ulster Bank and AIB Bankcentre in the city. Rehab Retail plans to open six more shops in Dublin by the end of 2010, two of which will begin trading this summer – at Eircom Head Office, at



*Pictured above:* Are you being served? Mark Casey (right) serves Noel Ahern TD (left) in the new Rehab Retail shop, "An Siopa", at the entrance to the Houses of the Oireachtas.

Heuston Station and in Trinity Hall in Dartry. The shops are open five days a week, supply a range of goods and services and they provide integrated social employment opportunities for workers with disabilities. Staff are employed under the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment's Wage Subsidy Scheme which provides a subsidy to employers employing people with disabilities



*Pictured above:* Rehab Enterprises' new facility in Poland.

and funding for employee supports. All staff have access to "Workpath", a specialist employment assistance programme to support them with challenges in their work and personal lives.

The development of Rehab Retail's business mirrors the recent growth of Rehab Enterprises generally. The organisation has expanded into Poland with the establishment of a plant supplying keyboards to Dell which started operations this year. The operation provides employment to 35 people.

On the decision to set up in that country, Michael Horgan, Director of Enterprises, says, "In our logistics business, we've been able to establish a business in Poland due to the strength of our business relationship and our focus in delivering on customer requirements. As evidence of this, we only have to look at a recent audit of our facilities in Poland by Dell when we scored 96 out of 100,

beating a number of other Dell suppliers. Customer relationship management is the cornerstone of Rehab Enterprises' success and our objective is to have 16 to 20 people with disabilities employed in Poland by the end of the year, in line with the Rehab Enterprises' ethos of an integrated social employment model."

Rehab Enterprises plans to bring its knowledge of the employment of people with disabilities to a wider audience later this year with a cross-Group work placement programme involving potential employees from National Learning Network and RehabCare. Rehab Enterprises will provide expertise through Access Ability which is a leader in the field of disability management consultancy. Work coaching for employees will also be offered through the Employment Assistance Programme. With this initiative, it is hoped that over 200 people can be placed in jobs between 2008 and 2010. ■