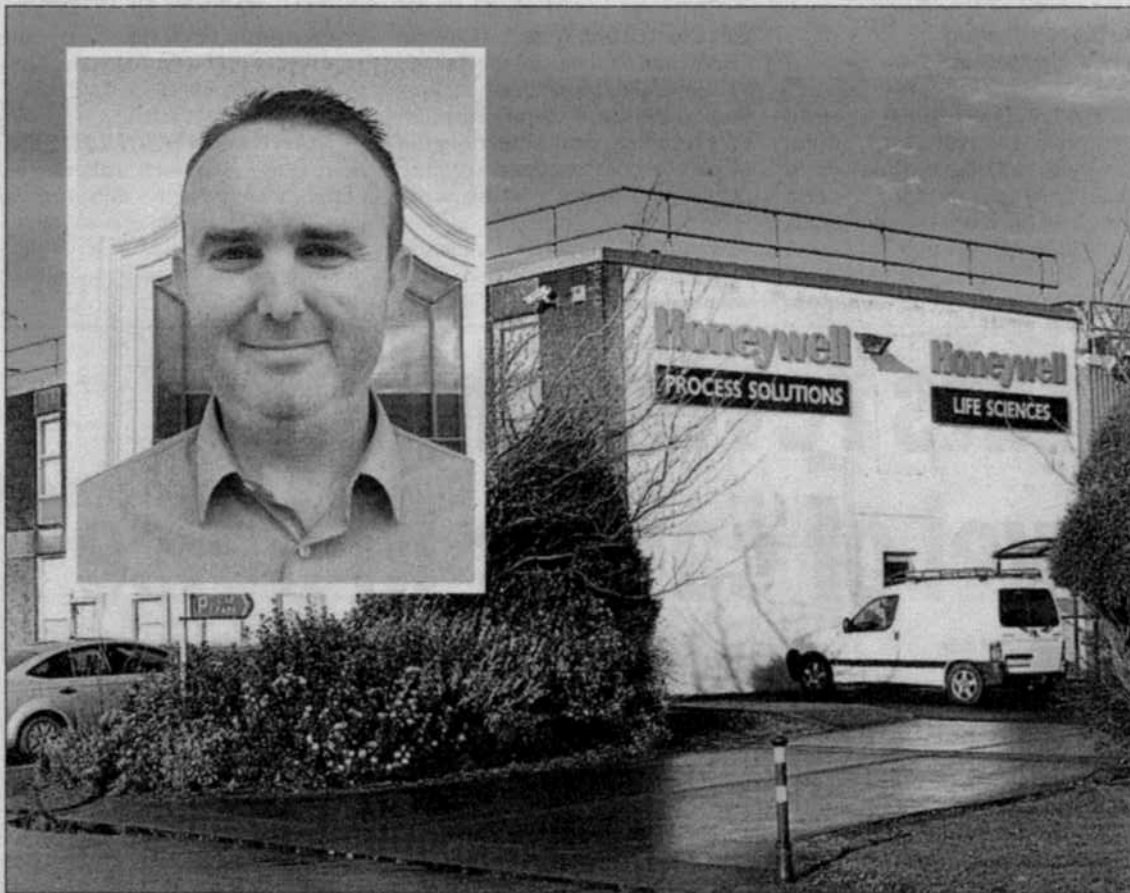


Measure for Measurex



Honeywell Process Solutions, formerly Measurex, which is set to close its Waterford manufacturing facility permanently this summer, and, inset, Jason Power, a former employee.

By Jason Power

WHEN a long standing business finally closes its doors, it is a very emotional time for all involved. This is especially true when that business has been operating for over 40 years, and touched, financially and emotionally, so many families in the city, county and wider area. For the case of this article, that business is Honeywell Process Solutions, formerly Measurex.

Like Waterford Crystal before it, you can connect any two people in Waterford to Measurex by six, or less, degrees of separation. I worked there for 14 years, and by Measurex standards that is a short service. Most of the employees that have left or will soon finish, have more than 25 years of ser-

vice - an amazing feat by modern standards!

Measurex started in Waterford, on the Cork Road's IDA Industrial Estate, in 1974, a European manufacturing facility for the parent company in Cupertino, California. They specialised in measurement systems for the pulp and paper industry. Legend has it that the owners of Measurex were only passing through the city on the way to Cork, when an enterprising Waterford man suggested that the then newly built industrial estate might be a possible home. The rest is history.

Incidentally, they did, later on, open the Cork plant, so everyone was happy.

Over the years an amazing amount of people have

walked through the doors. It's hard not to get sentimental about these kinds of things, because friendships and memories build up, people leave or sadly pass away; it's all an emotional investment for those involved. Remember, if you're working at least a 39-hour week, I say at least because overtime was a part of life in Measurex, then you are spending a lot of time with these people. They become family, and their trials are your trials, shared experiences and support.

It wasn't all sunshine, lollipops and rainbows; I'm sure lots of stories could be told, but that's not the point, what we are talking about is life. This was a way of life for a lot of people, in the same way as Waterford Crystal

and every other business in the county. Those managers in big multi-nationals forget this when they wield those strokes of the pen to close a factory.

In keeping with the title of this article, this is no place to judge or make judgements on the company or those whose decisions finally closed the doors. Friendships and memories will remain good times and the bad, the hammering, the noise, the stories and laughter will forever echo throughout that big building. These things and so much more make up the life of a factory; Waterford will be a poorer place, in every sense, without Measurex and all those other places that were once the lifeblood of the county. Goodbye poor man.