



Media Release

Cork City Enterprise Board addresses skills shortages amongst small businesses

‘Small businesses in Cork City often struggle to afford the necessary training to aid expansion and development. The Cork City Enterprise Board assists small business in the city centre in up-skilling their employees with highly-relevant training courses which get underway this month’, said Ita Murphy, newly-appointed Training Co-ordinator and Business Adviser with the Board. Ita joins from NUI Galway, where she was Communications and Outreach Manager for a large research centre.

The portfolio of training courses includes Information Technology Training and Financial Workshops, along with Sales & Marketing and Management Development Programmes. ‘Cork City Enterprise Board believes that access to subsidised training and capability building is critical for the future success of small business in Ireland’, said Ms. Murphy.

The Financial Workshop courses, for instance, offer 2- and 3-day training programmes in the accounting packages SAGE, Big Red Book and Sort My Books along with a series of ½ day and evening workshops covering areas such as vat & taxation, debt collection, costing, bookkeeping and managing cash-flow. The Personal Leadership Programme, part of the Leadership Management Ireland series of programmes, encompasses a 9-week series which will enable participants to realise their full potential through motivation and altering of attitudes and behaviour while The Adobe Photoshop and Web Design helps companies to promote their businesses online.

For further information on any of the training courses available through Cork City Enterprise Board or on the supports which the Board provides to small or medium-sized businesses in Cork City, please call Ita Murphy on 021 4961828; email info@corkceb.ie; www.corkceb.ie

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For further information, please call:

Mary Hopkins/Therese Cullen

Hopkins Communications, Cork

021 4272200; 087 2540804

pr2hopkinscommunications.ie

mary@hopkinscommunications.ie

Editors Notes

The Enterprise Boards

The Small Business Forum, which recommended 'Tech-Check', was set up by Minister Martin to consider the current environment for conducting small business in Ireland and advise on the adequacy and appropriateness of public policy response.

Notes for Editor

* Cork City Enterprise Board is one of 35 County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs) that were established in 1993 to provide a source of support for small businesses with 10 employees or fewer. The function of the Boards is to develop indigenous enterprise potential and to stimulate economic activity at local level. The Boards provide a single point of contact at local level for new and established small businesses. Subject to certain eligibility criteria, enterprises may qualify for support from the CEBs in the form of feasibility, employment and capital grants. In addition, the CEBs deliver a

comprehensive range of development and support programmes designed to help, new and existing enterprises to operate effectively and efficiently so as to last and grow.

* Most of the funding for the CEBs is provided by the Exchequer under the National Development Plan, 2007 – 2013 and the European Union.

* Each Enterprise Board operates as a stand-alone limited company whose operations are performed on the basis of an operating agreement between it and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

* The Chairman of the Cork City Enterprise Board is Nora Cronin of Cronin's Coaches, Cork, and Board members are drawn from the Cork area. Prior to Board approval grant applications are assessed by an Evaluation Committee which includes representatives from 2 major financial institutions, a credit union, The Marketing Institute, Enterprise Ireland, Local Authority, Cork Chamber of Commerce and an Accountant.

* Recent entrepreneurial initiatives supported by the Cork City Enterprise Board included:

Refundable Capital Grant for a bakery enterprise to facilitate growth

Feasibility study and subsequent equity investment for an electronics engineering graduate project to facilitate an inter-nationally traded project.

Business Mentor for an in-coming work placement/business solutions company to facilitate business growth.

Employment Grant for an Architectural Glass Manufacturer to facilitate business growth.

Management Development Programmes for software developer to grow his knowledge skills to strengthen his company.

