



Media Release

Supports for small business in Cork only a click away

Cork City Enterprise Board launches new brochure and enhanced user-friendly website facilitating small business.

Recognising that the World Wide Web is a crucial support to entrepreneurs, particularly for marketing and information purposes, the Cork City Enterprise Board today re-launched their own website www.corkceb.ie , as part of an initiative to further assist and facilitate small business to grow in the Cork City area.

Entrepreneurs in Cork city can now use this valuable online resource to check out the supports and services available to them. The website enables entrepreneurs to ascertain whether they are eligible for funding, grant aid or business mentoring services, and it provides details on how to apply to the Board for such assistance. The website, along with the brochure, also outlines the various subsidised training courses available, including Website Marketing, Website Design and SAGE accounting for small firms, along with several courses tailored to encourage personal development and entrepreneurship. An additional educational bonus for any budding entrepreneur is that the site offers logical steps on writing a business plan, providing a business plan template to work with.

Speaking about these online developments Dave Cody, CEO of Cork City Enterprise Board said ‘We want to encourage would-be and existing entrepreneurs to click on to the fact that there are many free and subsidised supports available to them. We recognise the web as the way forward...the world at the click of your mouse. We

realise that in this, The Information Age, everything is instant and websites provide the instant solution in the quest for information.’

‘Younger entrepreneurs, in particular, use the internet as their primary research tool and therefore a significant, easy to navigate, on-line presence is a must for us to encourage up-and-coming businesses. Our new website www.corkceb.ie provides quick and easy access to clear, relevant and useful information. It will become a key marketing tool for the Cork City Enterprise Board going forward, as it will for most companies and providers as they reassess their communications strategies’ he added.

Mr. Cody further stated that The Cork City Enterprise Board website www.corkceb.ie will be particularly useful for those who are unaware of the Board and its activities, or for those who are unsure how to take that next step in their business or business idea. ‘The Board also recognises that, particularly in start-up situations, budding entrepreneurs work long hours, often from home, and access to information 24/7 is crucial’ he said.

For those who prefer hard copy, The Cork City Enterprise Board’s new brochure, outlines comprehensively the various services they offer. Copies are available at their offices in Union Quay Cork or call (021) 4961828.

The Board, one of several which were set up by the Department of Enterprise Trade & Employment and the EU commission throughout the country, assists small business in becoming more efficient, by providing a range of advice, information and resources for business start-ups and existing businesses.

For further information on Cork City Enterprise Board support to small business, or to arrange an interview with Mr. Dave Cody please call:

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Editors Notes

* 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.

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