

24 BUSINESS

Cork firms up for awards

By BRIAN WINDERS
Business Reporter

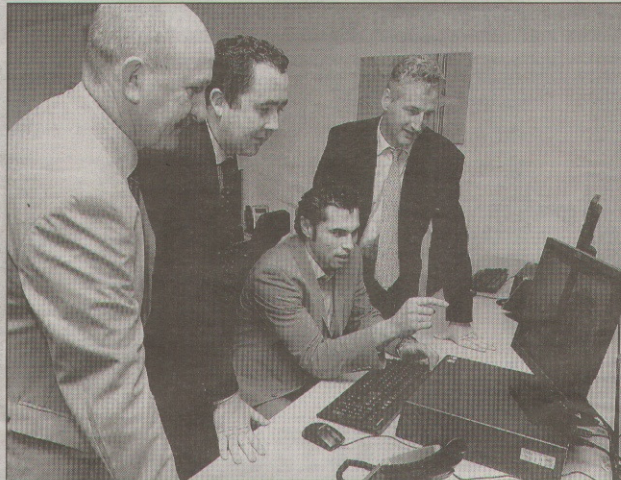
TWO Cork companies have been shortlisted as finalists for this year's FBD Crest Retail Excellence Awards. The overall winners will be presented with their awards by Tom Kitt, Minister of State at the Department of the Taoiseach, at the awards ceremony on Saturday in Dromoland Castle, Co. Clare.

A total of 479 stores entered the awards and over 230 leading retail brand owners will attend the gala ceremony hosted by RTE's Mírian O'Callaghan.

The Cork retailers nominated are Fermoy Medical Hall, MacCurtain Street, Fermoy, and Sam McCauley, Market Green Shopping Centre, Middleton. The Cork retailers nominated are Fermoy Medical Hall, MacCurtain Street, Fermoy, and Sam McCauley, Market Green Shopping Centre, Middleton.

"Independent retailing is one of the most dynamic sectors of the economy," said Adrian Taheny, marketing director of FBD Insurance, when announcing details of the 24 finalists selected. He added: "One of the key ingredients in their success has been the exceptionally high levels of customer service that independent retailers give to their customers. The independent retailer sector is an incubator for small and medium service businesses. Many of these enterprises have matured into successful high growth businesses with new retail brands at both national and international level."

"Several of these highly successful and substantial businesses are represented in this year's shortlist." Crest, a not-for-profit organisation, was set up in 1995 to support the Irish independent retail sector. The company is owned by its 4,000 member stores.



At the opening of the Business Continuity & Resilience Service (BCRS) Centre in Blackpool were Sean Ware, MD, Penrose Wharf Call Centres; Donal O'Donovan, Account Business Manager IBM, Sean Og O'háilpin and Andy Scannell, Technical Solutions Manager, IBM.

Picture: John Lott

IBM investment for Blackpool

IBM has announced a multi-million euro investment in a new business centre in Cork.

The facility at Blackpool Business Park will greatly increase the range of Business Continuity and Resilience Services (BCRS), services available to organisations in Munster.

The state-of-the-art facility will provide customers with expert support, ensuring business continuity and resilience in any area of business disruption ranging from minor interruptions, like moving offices, to major interruptions such as a company crisis or environmental disasters.

Business continuity is vital to busi-

By VINCENT KELLY
Business Editor

ness success, according to Anne Fitzsimons, IBM Global Services — Integrated Technology Services Country Manager for IBM Ireland.

In today's inter-connected world, nearly every aspect of a company's operations was vulnerable to disruption. The business impacts of a failure to plan appropriately for a disruption were severe, no matter what the cause, Anne added.

This announcement is a follow-on to an announcement made earlier this year of strategic importance to the Munster region.

In March 2007, following IBM's acquisition of Valient Corporation, the company announced an Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Ireland supported investment in its software development operations in Cork and Galway over the next three years.

IBM has been in this country since 1956. Today it employs over 3,000 people, IBM is one of the longest established and largest IT multinationals in the country.

Besides a growing sales and services business, IBM has extensive manufacturing facilities, a software group and software development labs, a large tele-sales and marketing centre, an international banking solutions unit and a corporate treasury centre.

EVERING ECHO, Tuesday, November 13, 2007

IRISH STOCK EXCHANGE SHARES

PRICES AT 10.30AM TODAY

Share	Price	% Change
Albany - Iex	6.93	-0.07
Agri Therapeutics - Iex	1.40	-0.04
Aer Lingus Group	2.23	0.02
Allied Irish Banks	15.30	0.00
Amarin Corp - Iex	0.30	0.02
Amnion	0.37	0.00
Andor Technology - Iex	1.15	0.00
Anglo Irish Bank	10.00	-0.20
Blackrock International Land - Iex	0.42	0.01
Bank Of Ireland	10.37	0.04
Boundary Capital - Iex	0.60	-0.04
CPI	25.00	0.00
CSC Group	4.95	-0.19
CPI Resources - Iex	5.25	-0.10
Diallex	0.70	0.00
DCC	19.99	0.53
Diageo	14.42	0.00
Donagall Creameries - Iex	6.30	0.00
Dragon Oil	4.40	-0.11
Elex Corp	15.46	-0.22
Finance Ireland - Iex	0.31	0.00
F&D Holdings	21.25	0.30
First Derivatives - Iex	3.77	-0.23
Flytes - Iex	0.06	0.04
Gartmore Irish	13.85	0.00
Gettable Europe - Iex	0.14	0.00
Glaxo	5.05	0.01
Glencar Mining - Iex	0.13	0.00
Greenacres	6.91	0.13
Greencore Group	4.49	-0.02
Horizon Technology Group	0.54	-0.01
IGP Group	16.32	0.04
IFG Group	1.70	0.00
Icon	39.00	0.00
Independent News & Media	2.30	-0.19
Lea Technologies	2.79	0.00
Irish Life Aid Permanent	14.30	0.10
Kentmore Resources	0.61	0.00
Kentmore Resources	0.86	0.00
Kerry Group	19.88	-0.69
Kingspan Group	14.00	-0.41
Lapp Plats - Iex	0.24	0.00
McIntyre Holdings	1.28	-0.10
Newcourt Group - Iex	1.25	0.00
Norfolk Group - Iex	1.50	0.00
Outplay & Butler	0.20	0.00
Origin Enterprises - Iex	3.55	0.05
Quintess Mining - Iex	0.16	0.00
Orpico Gold - Iex	0.12	0.00
Paddy Power	26.70	0.10
Petrolics International - Iex	0.13	0.00
Petrolics Resources - Iex	0.47	-0.01
Prime Active Capital - Iex	1.15	-0.06
Providence Resources - Iex	0.03	0.00
Qualcomm Shares	1.00	0.00
Redway	1.65	-0.02
Real Estate Opportunities	1.35	0.00
Reserve Holdings	5.11	-0.04
Silaseer - Iex	0.45	-0.07
Smith Kappa Group	12.80	0.16
Tesco	4.14	0.00
ThirdForce - Iex	0.17	-0.01
Total Produce - Iex	0.70	0.00
Tullow Oil	8.90	-0.34
The Holdings - Iex	1.65	0.00
United Drug	3.40	-0.05

John gives Chinese run for their money

JOHN Sylvester of City Clothing, which specialises in the manufacture of school uniforms along with sportswear, work wear and leisure-wear, is not daunted by Chinese imports of such apparel.

John took over City Clothing, a clothing manufacturing firm at Kilbarry Industrial Estate on Dublin Hill in Cork, in 2006, building upon its sound client base.

"Sports and social clubs, retail outlets and advertising and promotion agencies need short runs of branded work wear which is durable, sometimes off-size and fashionable. City Clothing fills that niche," said Mr Sylvester.

Cork City Enterprise Board (CCEB), supported by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Employment and the EU Commission provides advice, information and resources for business start-ups. In this regular series we highlight the success of firms helped by the CCEB.

Clients include Laura's School Shop in Douglas, Buckleys of Shandon Street in Cork, Hyde's of Middleton, Seol Mhuire in Cork, Dolphin Rugby Club and Seol Barra National School in Ballincollig.

City Clothing also supplies crested accessories such as gear bags and baseball hats.

"Our typical order from the smaller organisations would between 200

and 300 items, but we have the capability to fulfil large orders, and at short notice.

"Indeed, we have sub-contracted for larger manufacturers on occasions when they require a quick turnaround to meet seasonal needs. Our experienced machinists and bespoke design capability are big factors in meeting the needs of the customer," Mr Sylvester said.

Employing ten people at the manufacturing facility, John Sylvester is keen to acknowledge the assistance he received during his takeover of the company.

"The Cork City Enterprise Board facilitated me in finding a suitable premises, with the help of the IDA, and subsequently grant aided an embroidery/creating machine."

For further information contact City Clothing, on (021) 4304747 or email: cityclothing@eircom.net. For information on supports to small business in Cork City, please contact Cork City Enterprise Board on (021) 4961228 or email ita@ccorb.



John Sylvester of City Clothing, a company which manufactures school uniforms and work wear.