



***CALLING ALL ENTREPRENEURS– JUST DAYS TO GO BEFORE
CLOSING DATE FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2006 ERNST & YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS***

Monday February 13th: China is now the world's second largest economy and has the world's fastest-growing consumer market. With global trade revenues currently running at well over US\$1.15 trillion a year, China is bristling with opportunity for business people and entrepreneurs.

In June, the 24 finalists in the 2006 Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards will be invited to Shanghai to participate in a nine-day programme featuring master classes by two of the world's leading business thinkers from the Harvard Business School and the MIT Entrepreneurship Centre; one-to-one meetings with Chinese business leaders and local entrepreneurs; and networking sessions with previous Entrepreneur of the Year award finalists.

Business people all over Ireland have from now until **Tuesday 28 February** to submit nominations for this year's awards.

Since the inception of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year awards in 1997, the programme and produced winners from all over Ireland. Previous winners include **Denis O'Brien, Eddie Jordan, Moya Doherty/ John Colgan, Martin McVicar, Pádraig O'Ceidigh, Liam Shanahan, Peter Fitzgerald and in 2005, Aidan Heavey of Tullow Oil.**

Ernst & Young is seeking nominations from founder/managers who are primarily responsible for the performance of a company that is at least two years old, and from the founders of public companies who are still active in top management.

People may be nominated (or they may nominate themselves) for one of three categories:

- Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year
- Industry Entrepreneur of the Year
- International Services Entrepreneur of the Year

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Closing date for Entrepreneur of the Year nominations...media release

The winners will be announced at a televised awards ceremony in September.

Nomination forms may be downloaded from the Entrepreneur of the Year website www.eoy.ie or by telephoning Ernst & Young on 01-475 0575.

Participation in this year's awards programme offers companies an excellent opportunity to network with other successful companies and to build their profile. As well as being profiled extensively in local and national newspapers, finalists will be featured in four television programmes to be broadcasted on RTE Television in September.

Past winner, Denis O'Brien, now Chairs the Judging Panel.

Members of the 2006 Judging Panel are:

Denis O'Brien, Chairman (Winner 1998)
Dr Peter Fitzgerald, Radox Laboratories (Winner 2004)
Aidan Heavey, Tullow Oil plc (Winner 2005)
Brian Long, Seer Partners (Technology Entrepreneur of the Year 2000)
Pat Maher, Enterprise Ireland
Mary Martin, AGI Therapeutics Ltd
Pat McDonagh, Riverdeep (Master Entrepreneur of the Year 2000)
Liam Nellis, InterTradeIreland
Pádraig O'Ceidigh, Aer Arann (Winner 2002)
Terri Scott, Invest Northern Ireland
Liam Shanahan, (Winner 2003)

ENDS

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