

Money & Jobs

<http://breaking.tcm.ie/business>

Friday 06.04.2012

Business Desk: T: 021-4802259, 4802387 F: 021-4275477 e: business@examiner.ie

Entrepreneur Experience to create more jobs

by Joe Dermody

New businesses and jobs will come from the €4m investment pool likely to be generated by last weekend's The Entrepreneur Experience in Kinsale, Co Cork.

Event organisers, the private sector network CorkBIC, believe that the experienced entrepreneurs at last weekend's 24-hour workshop (known as 'Sleepless in Kinsale') will surpass the €3.5m-€4m invested in emerging businesses at last year's event.

This second Entrepreneur Experience hosted one-to-one meetings between 24 seasoned entrepreneurs and 23 emerging business people. Many

of the new business owners left Kinsale with a pledge of ongoing support.

For instance, C&F Green Energy founder John Flaherty is determined to see Mark Buckley's company Glowroute succeed.

Cork-based Glowroute makes luminous safety products that light up fire escapes, scaffold ends and walkways. "I will make sure that Glowroute gets off the ground," said Flaherty. "Every building would be safer with these products. It is a product I believe in, and I know it will be a big success. I will assist Mark with my time. I am not taking anything out of his company."

"I was slow to attend the

Kinsale event at first, but I'm delighted I did. Everybody was there to do whatever they could to encourage new business. Some of the ideas there were incredible. Youth and innovation in business is a work in progress."

Galway-based C&F recently rolled out a new range of wind turbines and other wind energy machinery, having invested €16m in product development over the past four years.

With a global clientele and global accreditation for its new range, C&F has effectively stolen a two-year march on its rivals. It is currently installing 270 wind energy machines in France and Germany.

The Entrepreneur Experience conferred category awards on David McCarthy, Incidentcontrolroom; John Dineen, learnpipe; Marcus Spillane, Deal Events; and Mark Buckley, Glowroute.

Minister for Small Business John Perry said workshops of this kind could play an invaluable role in stimulating new business. He said he would like to see the model developed nationally.

Sean O'Sullivan of SOSventures, said: "I loved the Entrepreneur Experience. It reaffirms the things all successful entrepreneurs know: leadership drives success, and leadership comes through relationships and team development. The event gives entrepreneurs a

leg-up on living a more vital life."

PizzaBot game developer Harry Moran (aged 13), gave a presentation on his success with CoderDojo and spoke of his surprise at becoming the world's youngest Mac App developer.

CorkBIC have issued a series of upbeat appraisals from entrepreneurs Joe Moore, Socowave; Robert Leslie, GBR; John Dineen, learnpipe; and Fred Karlsson, Donedeal. Grainne Kelly, Bubblebum, said: "This event will have the same effect on my business as deep heat has on an athlete."

One of the main drivers of the event was Jim Breen, CorkBIC director and chief



CorkBIC's Michael O'Connor, SOSventures's Sean O'Sullivan, Minister John Perry TD and Bubblebum's Grainne Kelly at The Entrepreneur Experience in Kinsale.

executive of web learning company PulseLearning. He said one entrepreneur wrote a cheque that virtually guaranteed the future success of one emerging entrepreneur.

Jim Breen said: "All of the seasoned entrepreneurs

wanted to know the date of next year's event so they could book in before leaving. We had over 80 people at the dinner, with more than half of last year's emerging entrepreneurs coming back.