

Nominations open for EY Entrepreneur of the Year



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Nominations for the 2015 EY Entrepreneur Of The Year (EOY) programme officially opened to entrepreneurs across Munster this week as EY launched their nationwide search for Ireland's leading entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurial talent from across the province attended the launch event held at the Clarion Hotel in Lapp's Quay on Friday last, to hear from previous EOY finalists, Marian O'Gorman (Kilkenny Group), Paul Hourican (PFH Technologies) and Dan Byrne (Lincor Solutions) on strategic growth, market differentiation and customer knowledge.

Known globally as the most prestigious business accolade for entrepreneurs, the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Ireland programme has evolved over the past 17 years into a nine-month development programme for the best entrepreneurs across the island of Ireland.

Open to high-performing entrepreneurs from every sector, the programme accepts submissions from entrepreneurs of different growth stages as well as nominations from the general public.

As part of the programme, this year's 24 finalists will join a group of 120 entrepreneurs, all previous finalists and winners of EY Entrepreneur Of The Year for a week-long CEO Retreat to Germany.

The intensive week will include an executive education series as well as workshops with the CEOs at the helm of Germany's most successful start-ups and globally renowned indigenous companies.

The awards programme is divided into three categories - Emerging, Industry and International - with 8 finalists chosen per category. The 24 finalists will be selected by the independent panel of judges made up of former EOY winners.

This year's EOY programme brings with it a number of leadership changes. After serving as Partner-in-Charge of the EOY programme for the past five years, Frank O'Keefe will be assuming a new position in the professional services firm as the Head of Assurance.

He will be succeeded by EY's Head of Tax Kevin McLoughlin and EY Director, Sean Duffy, who will fulfil the positions of EOY Partner Lead and EOY Programme Director respectively.

The long-standing Chairman of the judging panel, Padraig Ó Céidigh will be stepping down to oversee the EOY Alumni Board and steer the future direction of the EOY Alumni initiatives. He will be replaced by CPL's Anne Heraty who won EY Entrepreneur Of The Year in 2006.

Urging entrepreneurs to put themselves forward as potential nominees, EY Entrepreneur Of The Year Partner Lead, Kevin McLoughlin, said: "To sustain the growth of the all-island economy, it is crucial for Ireland's entrepreneurs to foster global ambitions and reach beyond the Irish and UK markets to sell their products and services.

The 2015 programme has been designed to provide our 24 finalists with the tools and knowledge to enhance their growth strategies; while introducing them to an experienced community of peers to support them on this journey."

Individuals who wish to put themselves forward or nominate an entrepreneur with their consent, can fill out the online nomination form at www.ey.ie or call the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year team for further information on 01-2212250. The deadline for nominations is Friday, March 20th.