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## Emerging entrepreneurs invited to enter awards

ENTREPRENEURS from Business, the Arts or Social/Community are invited to enter the 2008 David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards. Supporting entrepreneurs from the county and nationally is absolutely crucial in today's economic climate, according to Alfie Kane, former chief executive of eircom and chairman of the panel of judges.

Helping emerging businesses is not just a nice thing to do - at this stage in Ireland's economic development, actively supporting more start ups is now a survival issue, according to businessman, Alfie Kane, "and it starts on a county and micro level with each county ensuring it supports its emerging entrepreneurs".

Mr. Kane was speaking at the launch of the 2008 David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards last week. Mr. Kane is Chairman of the Panel of Judges for the Award and is Chief Executive of Baker Capital Corporation, New York. The aim of the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards is to nurture Ireland's entrepreneurial spirit. The winner of the 2008 David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Award will receive 'the gift of time' in mentoring and consultancy worth over ?80,000 from a selection of top Irish companies as their prize as well as a cash prize of ?10,000. The Awards will be presented in November. Further details and a copy of the entry form can be obtained on [www.david-manleyawards.ie](http://www.david-manleyawards.ie)

"Given the global and local economic slow down - if not recession - that we are facing into over the next few years and our continuing loss of

competitive edge in the world market and, dare I say it, the 'mis-match' between our cost base and GDP growth rates - I believe we are going to be even more dependant on internally generated business activity," Mr. Kane said. "And the majority of that additional activity will, in the main, come from the SME sector. The seeds from which these SME firms emerge are the very same start up or emerging businesses which we in the David Manley Awards Committee are seeking to support. So I say that encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs' start up new businesses is no longer just a good thing to do - for Roscommon and every other county in Ireland now it is virtually an economical survival issue." •Entry forms can be secured from Business Innovation Centres, Business to Arts, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, the Dublin Chamber of Commerce, from [www.davidmanleyawards.ie](http://www.davidmanleyawards.ie) or from Mitchell O'Gorman, our Awards Administrator - [Mitchell@newmarket.ie](mailto:Mitchell@newmarket.ie) or phone 01 429 3600. The closing date for entries is Monday 1st September 2008 and the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Award will be presented on 5th November 2008.