



Entrepreneurs get help from those in the know

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 for the country, according to businessman, Alfie Kane.

Kane is the chairman of the panel of judges for the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards, and is the 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 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.

"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, I believe we are going to be even more dependant on

internally generated business activity," said Kane.

"The majority of that additional activity will, in the main, come from the SME (small and medium enterprise) 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 sup-

port.

"So I say that encouraging and supporting entrepreneurs' start up new businesses is no longer just a good thing to do – for Ireland now it is virtually an economical survival issue.

"For a small country such as Ireland, we cannot just sit back and pray it will all come out ok in the end, because it will not 'just happen' – we need to help make it happen.

The awards will be presented in November. Further details and a copy of the entry form can be obtained on www.davidmanleyawards.ie



Ross Lewis, of Chapter One restaurant, and Alfie Kane, former CEO of eircom, both of whom are on the panel of judges for the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards