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# Supporting start-ups is key to survival

ACTIVELY SUPPORTING more start-ups is now a survival issue given the challenges facing Ireland's economy, according to businessman, Alfie Kane, speaking at the launch of the 2008 David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards last week.

Chief Executive of Baker Capital Corporation, New York, Mr Kane is Chairman of the Panel of Judges for the David Manley Emerging Entrepreneur Awards, which aims to nurture Ireland's entrepreneurial spirit.

"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," he added.

The Awards are in their sixth year and reward the enterprising spirit in Business, the Arts and in the Social community.

The winner will receive 'the gift of time' in mentoring and consultancy worth over €80,000, as well as a cash prize of €10,000.

Entry forms can be obtained by visiting our website: [www.davidmanleyawards.ie](http://www.davidmanleyawards.ie).