

Ireland needs clear strategy for food industry

A CLEAR government strategy is urgently required if Ireland is to capitalise on proposals to position itself as a 'Sustainable Food Island' according to a Cork food marketing company.

Conor Hyde, managing director of Bullseye Food Marketing, says he believes that the concept of promoting Ireland as a hub of sustainable food production would be extremely worthwhile, but only if a coherent strategy is implemented as a matter of priority.

The call follows the publication of 'Trading and Investing in a Smart Economy' and Investing in a Smart Economy. A Strategy and Action Plan for Irish Trade, Tourism and Investment

figures highlighted in the document speak for themselves - we produce eight times more beef and seven times more dairy products than we consume, making us ideally placed to market Ireland as a leader in sustainable food production.

We also have the fundamental regulatory measures in place that allow us to farm and fish in an environmentally-sustainable manner. The report explains that by 2030, the planet will need to produce 50 per cent more food with less land, water and energy as inputs. It's unsurprising that over the coming years sustainability is predicted to become a key factor in how consumers choose the

products that they buy," Hyde explains.

"I'd like to see the Departments of Agriculture and Enterprise providing a clear timeline regarding the realisation of opportunities within the food and agri-business sectors. Irish SME food companies, are becoming used to hearing 'buzz words' that mean very little without the announcement of a structured plan of action. We need to ensure that concepts become more than mere rhetoric."

According to Hyde, the importance of small and medium food producers will become increasingly significant if Ireland is to

promote sustainable food exports:

"There's a danger that any government strategy of this nature will fail because there's a tendency among some TDs and ministers to only focus on the top two or three names in Irish food business. However, true sustainability is achieved at grass-roots level - small-scale farmers and artisan food producers generally have less impact on the environment and are perceived as being more accountable in terms of traceability, production standards and animal welfare."

Chamber conference aims to highlight business opportunities

CORK Chamber recently launched its 2010 Annual Business Conference titled 'New Reality/Big Opportunities, Two Way Traffic East and West' which will focus on the prospects which exist for business to benefit from strengthening relationships with China, the United States and India. Particular emphasis will be placed on Cork's two sister cities, San Francisco and Shanghai. The half-day conference takes place on 4 November at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork.

Sponsored by HSBC and facilitated by Ivan

Executive, IDA Ireland. Speaking at the launch of the conference, Conor Healy, Chief Executive, Cork Chamber said: "Businesses today need to be equipped with the insight and ability to look beyond traditional markets. On 4 November we will explore, with the benefit of industry expertise from a local, national and international perspective, the opportunities and challenges that exist and point a way forward for the Cork Region and businesses in Cork."

"This half-day conference is aimed at individuals also interested in expanding

their business operations, sourcing new international trade opportunities, extending their sales reach whilst reducing their dependence on existing markets. I encourage executives and owner managers of Cork businesses, multinationals, indigenous manufacturing and services companies, third level institutions, state agencies, tourism and hospitality interests, local authorities as well as legal and other professional services to attend, learn and engage with the experts."

Alan Duffy, Head of HSBC Corporate Banking Ireland and conference

Aldi's Cork suppliers top national Irish food awards

ALDI Stores Ireland's Cork-based suppliers have swept the boards at the third annual Blas na hÉireann National Irish Food Awards.

Aldi won more titles than any other retailer in Ireland, netting 12 awards in total, with Aldi's Cork-based suppliers picking up six of these alone.

Aldi's winning products sourced from Cork producers include its Kilcree Gold Specially Selected Eucalyptus Honey and Kilcree Gold Active 10+ Gold Manuka Honey, which won gold and silver titles respectively and are both produced by Irish Yogurts

of Clonakilty.

Aldi's Irish products performed strongly at the awards winning five gold medals, five silver medals and two bronze medals across a broad range of categories including the fresh meat, seafood, yogurt, confectionery. Over 45 per cent of all grocery sales at Aldi are now generated from products bought from Irish suppliers, producers and manufacturers.

Cork companies in running for award

Five Cork companies are in the running for Best Managed Companies in Ireland. The five companies from Cork are Barry & Fitzwilliam, Herlihy Supermarket Group Ltd, Lee Travel, Premier Group and Ingredient Solutions Ltd.

These companies are now in the second phase of the competition, where they must demonstrate to a panel of judges how their companies are meeting their objectives and adding value

ABC Childcare Douglas
FULL/PART TIME CHILDCARE ASSISTANT POSITIONS AVAILABLE.

Feiac level 5, Team player, and can work well on own initiative, and a good communicator.

Work as part of a childcare professional team. Be able to work well on own initiative, have a great love for children and be well organised at work. Excellent working conditions.

For further details: Ring Joan on 087 2789310 or email: liffiteones@abc-childcare.ie

Closing date 3/11/10.

Money Matters

A series of weekly articles by Quintas Experts

Written By
Noel Creedon
Investment Director
Quintas Energy



A TIMELY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

With investor confidence at an all time low and the traditional asset classes of property and stocks and shares slow to recover from a brutal 36 months of global recession, never has the investment landscape been primed for a new entrant which offers investors long term attractive returns underpinned by sound and stable business fundamentals.

By the year 2020, few sectors of the global economy will have changed as much as energy. Security of supply, diminishing conventional resources and environmental concerns have moved renewable energy from the margins of the energy industry to the heart of national energy strategies.

The costs associated with the delivery of these new renewable strategies is the key dynamic that is presenting a myriad of investors with a real investment alternative to the old pretenders of stocks and shares and property. It is estimated that the delivery cost of Europe's renewable agenda will exceed €500bn over the next ten years, in the UK alone €9bn pa will be spent. Little wonder then that we, the investors, will be a necessary linchpin of this renewable programme delivery.

To accelerate the development of renewable energies, national governments are providing legislative and financial support to the sector. This support is ensuring investment in renewables can be made with increased certainty and enhanced profitability. Investments have become available to investors at a variety of entry points, allowing private investors, small to medium sized enterprises, corporate/institutional investors, pension funds, ethical funds and foundations to select investments that match their particular criteria and preferences.

Investors in renewables now have real choice available to them including options on jurisdiction, technology, levels of risk and anticipated returns. As with all investment decisions the old adage of 'caveat emptor' applies. All of these investments need thorough and active management. They are not passive and therefore the quality and capacity of the project management team as well as the credibility of the promoter need to be considered. Moreover for individuals, investment in renewable or structured renewable investments should not be looked at in isolation but as part of an overall financial plan. In doing this optimal ways of structuring the investment can ensure tax efficiency and other advantages which combined can increase the overall return.

QUINTAS
www.quintas.ie



PLANET FOR THE PLANET: A journey begins with a single step - Jacques Rocher, President of the Yves Rocher Foundation, in Cork, launching the company's Planet for the Planet initiative. The initiative will see 50 million trees planted worldwide before the end of 2014.

Photo: Michael Mac Sweeney/Provision

cials, and growth potential across all functions of the business. Benefits to being recognised by Deloitte's award scheme, now in its third year include national recognition, networking opportunities with other top businesses at a gala awards ceremony, and attendance at a symposium organised in association with the IML.

This years winners will be announced at a ceremony in The Burlington Hotel, Dublin in March 2011.