Press Release Friday, June 10th 2016

**Limerick Company Wins National Best Start-Up Award**

***Sauce manufacturing company in Raheen, supported by Local Enterprise Office Limerick, wins this year’s ‘Best Start-Up Award’ at National Enterprise Awards.***

The Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O’ Connor T.D. has presented the Best Start-Up Award to a Limerick-based manufacturer of sauces at this year’s National Enterprise Awards (on Thursday, June 9th 2016).

Set-up in 2013 by Liam Hayes and Vincent Sheehan and supported by Local Enterprise Office Limerick, Global Sauces already employs eight people. The company manufacturers over thirty different varieties of sauce for the food service, processing and retail sectors and is expanding into the UK market later this year.

With a total prize fund of €40,000 on offer through the Local Enterprise Offices, thirteen awards were presented in total with the overall award going to Applied Concepts in Co. Offaly which design and manufacture abrasive blast machines, mainly for export. The other major award winners were InvizBox from Fingal (Innovation Award) and CarveOn from Kildare (Best Exporter).

Speaking at the awards, the Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Mary Mitchell O'Connor T.D. said: "I am delighted to be here to witness first-hand the innovative entrepreneurs that Ireland has.  Through the National Enterprise Awards, the success stories of Ireland's small businesses are showcased nationally and internationally by the Local Enterprise Offices. Small businesses, like finalists here at the National Enterprise Awards, are the backbone of the Irish economy and I want to ensure that I can put in place the right conditions for more small businesses to grow.  Two thirds of all new jobs are created by start-ups and I want to encourage more people to start new businesses, with the help of their Local Enterprise Office. I want to congratulate all of this year's winners and I wish them the very best for the future, as they 'fly the flag' for Ireland's small businesses.”

The local company was nominated for the awards by the Local Enterprise Office Limerick, which has supported the company through priming and expansion grants. Speaking at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin the Head of Enterprise with Local Enterprise Office Limerick, Eamon Ryan, was among the first to congratulate the Limerick winners, saying: “The team at Global Sauces are achieving real growth and are truly a start-up success story. With an increasing portfolio of specialist products and fast-growing sales, the company is very well-placed for expanding into the UK market from their Limerick base.”

You may wish to include a quote from the Chief Executive of your Local Authority here.

Congratulating all of this year’s winners and finalists, Kieran Comerford of the Local Enterprise Offices said: “For thousands of small companies like all the winners and finalists at the National Enterprise Awards, the Local Enterprise Offices through the Local Authorities Network have become a first stop shop for business. The National Enterprise Awards help to celebrate these companies’ achievements. As a business moves through the start-up phase and into the growth phase, their Local Enterprise Office is standing by, ready to provide whatever supports are needed to help that business grow and expand.”

Eight new regional awards were introduced this year and these were presented to:

Dublin Region: Brian and Rachel Nolan, Nobó in Dublin City Kildare/Laois/Offaly/Westmeath Region: Tom Davitt and Dr. Orla Dardis of Scantech Geoscience in Westmeath Wicklow/Wexford/Carlow/Kilkenny Region: Diarmuid Byrne and Sam Watson of EquiRatings in Carlow Louth/Cavan/Monaghan/Meath Region: Clinton Pratt of M.D.,Ualto Ltd in Cavan Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/Longford Region: Detta and Aoife McNiffe, McNiffe’s Boxty in Leitrim Galway/Mayo/Sligo Region: Donal Byrne, M.D., Big Red Barn Ltd in Mayo Clare/Limerick/Kerry/Tipperary Region: Fionan Murphy, M.D., Murphy Marine Services in Kerry Cork/Waterford Region**:**  Clare Hughes, M.D.,CF Pharma Ireland Ltd in Waterford

Meanwhile, the first-ever ‘Peer Award’ was presented to Darren Hayes at Dare Technology in Cork City and was judged by all 32 finalists.

Further information on the supports available through the Local Enterprise Offices is available through [www.localenterprise.ie](http://www.localenterprise.ie)

**ENDS**

**For all media queries, please contact your Local Enterprise Office**

**Notes to Editor:**

**RESULTS: NATIONAL ENTERPRISE AWARDS 2016**

**Organised by Local Enterprise Offices and set up in 1997.**

**Venue:** Aviva Stadium, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

**Special Guest:** Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms Mary Mitchell O’ Connor T.D.

**Overall Winner** (Cash Prize for business: €10,000)

**Offaly LEO Applied Concepts Limited:** Manufacturer and exporter of abrasive blast machines

**Best Exporter** (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)

**Kildare LEO CarveOn:** Manufacturer and exporter of lifestyle leather accessories

**Best Start-Up** (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)

**Limerick LEO Global Sauces:** Sauce manufacturing for food sector and retail

**Innovation** (Cash Prize for business: €5,000)

**Fingal LEO InvizBox:** Secure digital services for customers around the world

**Regional Awards** (Cash Prize for business: €2,000)

Dublin Region:

**Dublin City LEO Nobó:** Dairy-free ice -cream alternative

Kildare/Laois/Offaly/Westmeath Region:

**Westmeath LEO Scantech Geoscience Ltd.:** GPR surveys for engineering sectors

Wicklow/Wexford/Carlow/Kilkenny Region:

**Carlow LEO** **EquiRatings Ltd:** Data analytics for the sport of Eventing

Louth/Cavan/Monaghan/Meath Region:

**Cavan LEO Ualto Ltd:** Electrical process and plant automation

Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim/Longford Region:

**Leitrim LEO McNiffe’s Boxty Bakery:** Traditional Irish food producer

Galway/Mayo/Sligo Region: Donal Byrne, M.D., Big Red Barn Ltd in Mayo

**Mayo LEO Big Red Barn:** Portable structure manufacturer and events

Clare/Limerick/Kerry/Tipperary Region: Fionan Murphy, M.D., Murphy Marine Services in Kerry

**Kerry LEO Murphy Marine Services:** Boat-builders and designers

Cork/Waterford Region**:**

**Waterford LEO CF Pharma Ireland Ltd.:** Pharmaceutical company

**Peer Award**

**Cork City LEO Dare Technology:** renewable energy technology developer

**Other Finalists – National Enterprise Awards 2016**

**Clare LEO Titan Logistics:** Fourth party logistics

**Cork North and West LEO Hennessy Timber Group:** Timber manufacturer

**Cork North and West LEO Health & Safety Publications Ltd.:** Publishing company

**Cork South LEO GoCambio:** Travel and languages web-platform

**Donegal LEO GetBrain.fit:** Brain training services

**Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown LEO ClearChoice:** Software for financial brokers

**South Dublin LEO Wyldsson:** Health foods producer

**Galway LEO N. Barrett Engineering Ltd.:** Animal handling equipment

**Kilkenny LEO Goatsbridge Fish Processors Ltd:** Trout fish processing

**Laois LEO Twiznight Ltd.:** Digital media technology

**Longford LEO ARK Energy:** Technology for the energy sector

**Louth LEO Sing Li Foods:** Curry sauces for retail and wholesale

**Meath LEO TouchHits:** Digital touchscreen jukebox manufacturer

**Monaghan LEO Cloud 10 Beauty:** Online shop for beauty products

**Roscommon LEO Roschem Products Ltd.:** Cleaning detergents manufacturer

**Sligo LEO L.C. Seating Ltd.:** Custom-made mobility seating

**Tipperary LEO Savvy Kitchens:** Bespoke kitchens

**Wexford LEO Hentech Fabrication Ltd.:** Mild steel fabrication

**Wicklow LEO Showoff:** Software and app development

**Local Enterprise Offices**

The Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs) are now the ‘first-stop-shop’ State support service for micro and small businesses in each local area. The LEOs provide advice and a signposting service to other State supports and services to anyone who wishes to start or expand a business. The LEOs also provide financial assistance for projects that meet certain criteria in the manufacturing and internationally traded services sector as well as soft supports such as training and mentoring.