



EY Entrepreneur
Of The Year™



EY

Building a better
working world

The : **Trailblazers**

2024 Launch Brochure

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Introduction

The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ is a world-class development programme that supports, advises, and connects a community of entrepreneurs, championing entrepreneurship throughout the island of Ireland.

The EOY programme not only ensures national and international recognition for successful finalists and alumni, but also provides an invaluable network and business development opportunities within a strong and supportive EOY Alumni community with over 600 members.

The Trailblazers

Irish entrepreneurs are increasingly making a name for themselves as trailblazers, redefining business models and creating new opportunities. They've showcased extraordinary innovation, resilience, and a capacity for technological advancement that sets them distinctly apart in the business landscape. Not only are they excelling on the island of Ireland, but they are also branching out and making a significant impact on a global scale.

Irish entrepreneurs possess a remarkable spirit of adventure and resilience. They are akin to explorers venturing into unknown lands, equipped with their innovative ideas and risk-taking spirit. They carve new paths, shaping industries and creating economic opportunities. Irish entrepreneurs today are steadily pushing the perimeters of technology, innovation, and social enterprise. Despite the hurdles and uncertainty, they continue to venture forth, demonstrating determination and spirit.

In 2024 EOY Ireland is celebrating tenacity, resilience and bravery of entrepreneurs, who dare to take the road less travelled.

#EOYIreland2024

#TheTrailblazers

EY Ireland is incredibly proud to support entrepreneurship across the island of Ireland. Through the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme we are honoured to be able to celebrate the incredible world-class entrepreneurial talent that exists on our island as we shine a light on their achievements, acclaim their ingenuity, tenacity, talent and real determination to succeed.

Now in its 27th year, The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme continues to go from strength to strength -the quality of businesses coming through remains nothing short of breath taking. As Managing Partner of EY Ireland, it is a source of great pride to me that the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme on this island is considered to be a stand out in our global network. This is testament to the incredible business leaders who have participated in this programme over the 27 years of its existence and who continue to give so generously of their time and energy to the programme in so many ways.

Our fantastic alumni community comprises over 600 entrepreneurs representing some of the greatest business minds across this Ireland. Collectively they employ more than 250,000 people and generate revenues in excess of €25 billion annually - they really are the life blood of our economy.

The theme of our 2024 EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme is The Trailblazers which feels especially right for this moment of big change and disruption both locally and globally. We will once again recognise and celebrate these fearless innovators and pioneers who constantly push boundaries, disrupt industries, and create successful, impactful businesses all while carving a unique path for others to follow.

They are curious, courageous, solution-driven individuals who possess a unique ability to overcome any obstacle. Their resilience, dogged perseverance and unbreakable resolve is nothing short of inspirational to all of us who have the privilege to know and support them on their journey.

I look forward welcoming our 2024 finalists to what promises to be another exciting year for programme.



Frank O'Keeffe

EY UK & Ireland Managing Partner,
Markets & EY Ireland Managing Partner

in Frank O'Keeffe

“

Being selected as a finalist for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme was such an honour. Winning my category and the overall award was a dream come true, however the programme is so much more than an awards night. The alumni are an incredible group of leading entrepreneurs from all sectors throughout the island of Ireland. They understand what it is like to run their own business and have experienced many of the highs and lows that come with it. I feel so privileged to be part of this group and would wholeheartedly recommend this programme to any entrepreneurs who are thinking about getting involved.

Sam Moffett

CEO and Founder Moffett Automated Storage



What's Involved

Initiatives

We passionately believe in promoting entrepreneurship across our island and empowering entrepreneurs to grow their businesses both in Ireland and around the world.

As a finalist your prize includes, but is not limited to:

- ▶ Peer mentoring and network
- ▶ Media profiling across print and broadcast media
- ▶ Alumni-specific events such as conference days and dinners
- ▶ Finalist specific digital content creation and profiling to a global audience
- ▶ An invitation to join our annual CEO Retreat
- ▶ Bespoke EY Enterprise Evolution Sessions with EY Partners
- ▶ In-depth profiling on our website and on our social media platforms
- ▶ Business development opportunities with our programme sponsors

By becoming a finalist, you will also be automatically inducted into the Alumni community.

This network of the best entrepreneurial minds across Ireland grows every year. The Alumni harnesses their wealth of experience to create a unique culture, sharing disruptive ideas and knowledge with their fellow Alumni, as well as acting as a support network to each other. We are immensely proud that over 75% of our Alumni do business with one another. EY support our alumni through private sector and key topic interactions on an ongoing basis bringing the best entrepreneurial, thought leader and EY global content to the group.

600+
Alumni

75% of our alumni do
business together

€25 Billion
Combined Revenue

250,000
Total Employee Headcount

“

The EY Entrepreneur of the Year™ programme is such a unique and worthwhile experience. Being involved over the past two years has resulted in many invaluable connections and conversations. I am constantly inspired by the achievements of the alumni group and their willingness to share ideas and support each other.

Caroline Dunlea

CEO & Co-Founder, Core Optimisation



Nomination Process

Nomination Period: 18 January 2024 - 29 February 2024

Eligibility Criteria

- ▶ EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ is an all-island programme.
- ▶ Nominees must own a minimum of 5% of the company (publicly listed companies will be assessed on a case-by-case basis)
- ▶ Nominees must be primarily responsible for the recent performance of the company
- ▶ Nominees must either be Irish or running a company based on the island of Ireland
- ▶ Turnover in excess of €1 million or £1 million
- ▶ The nominee's company must be trading for a minimum of two years (companies with a long R&D process pre-commencement of trading, early-stage life sciences and technology companies and companies that have received significant investment are dealt with on a case-by-case basis)
- ▶ If nominees have previously applied and not been shortlisted to the final 24, our judging panel welcomes and encourages them to apply multiple times. Some of our previous finalists and even winners have successfully been invited into the programme after multiple applications

Who Can Nominate?

Anyone, including employees, company advisors and financiers, can nominate a successful entrepreneur, with the entrepreneur's consent. Many of the nominations come from the entrepreneurs themselves.

Nomination Process

Three Step Process

Nomination

Take a few minutes to fill out a nomination form on our website by 29 February 2024. Nomination forms will be subject to an initial screening process by our independent assessment panel, which may include a follow up call.

Interview

If successful, an interview will be scheduled with senior EY personnel, and a comprehensive and confidential report will be written on your company for submission to the judges.

Shortlist

After carefully reviewing these reports, our independent judging panel will meet in April to decide who our 24 Finalists will be for 2024.

Categories

The categories in our EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme apply to a wide range of businesses across all sectors on the island of Ireland.

These range from fast growth entrepreneurial businesses, established international groups to longstanding family enterprises. This wide range of business leaders and entrepreneurs is the backbone of our alumni community and what makes it such a valuable and unique network.

A winner will be selected from each of the Emerging, Established & International Categories, and of these three winners, our overall winner will be selected.

The Sustainability Award

Recognising the critical importance of innovation leadership in meeting our collective sustainability challenges, we introduced our new Sustainability award to the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Ireland programme in 2022. This award is presented to the finalist who is making the biggest contribution towards environmental sustainability through their business. They are striving to protect our future by providing solutions and taking transformative business actions to address some of the world's most pressing environmental issues and concerns.

EMG

Emerging

Nominees in the Emerging category run businesses that have been trading for a minimum of two years. They are ambitious entrepreneurs who have started a business which is growing quickly. They are high-potential, dynamic, resourceful and 'ones-to-watch' for the future.

EST

Established

Established, longstanding businesses with a pedigree of growth and innovation, contributing significantly as employers on the Island of Ireland. Including some of our greatest family businesses, our Established finalists are market leaders in their sectors and have made a significant contribution to the economy over a considerable period of time.

INT

International

The International category consists of entrepreneurs who are global players. Their companies operate in multiple markets across the globe and can be headquartered here in Ireland or overseas.

2024 Programme Calendar

January

18 January
Nominations Open

25 January
Interviews Start

February

29 February
Nominations Close

March

Nominee Interviews
Continue

Spring Energiser

April

Finalists Chosen by
our Judging Panel

24 Finalists
Announced across
Irish Media

EOY *"Meet the 2024
Finalists"*

May

CEO Retreat to South
Africa

June

EY World Entrepreneur
of the Year™ 2024 -
Monaco

June - October

Finalists
Entrepreneurial
Evolution Sessions

Finalist Digital
Series Filming

Golf Day

September

EOY *"Meet the 2024
Judges"*

Female Forum

October

Final Judging

November

EY Entrepreneur of
the Year™ Gala Awards
2024

Female Forum

The past few years of the EOY programme have seen the largest cohorts of female finalists enter the programme. We believe that is vital to support and encourage our female alumni members and promote entrepreneurship amongst women in Ireland.

A key element of our EOY Alumni Community is our Female Forum, where our female alumni members and prominent Irish female entrepreneurs and leaders come together to discuss ideas, collaborate, and encourage each other to continue in their pursuit of entrepreneurship.

We are incredibly proud of the achievements of all of our female Alumni Members, and we are always looking out for the best and brightest female entrepreneurs in Ireland to join our ever-expanding alumni community and attend our various female forum events.



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The alumni network continues to be an invaluable support group for me today and their collective experience and business expertise is second to none. The CEO retreat to Singapore will forever be remembered as an incredible experience. I wholeheartedly recommend this programme and encourage any entrepreneurs who may be considering getting involved to go for it!

Lauren Duggan

Co-founder, Riley



Judging Criteria

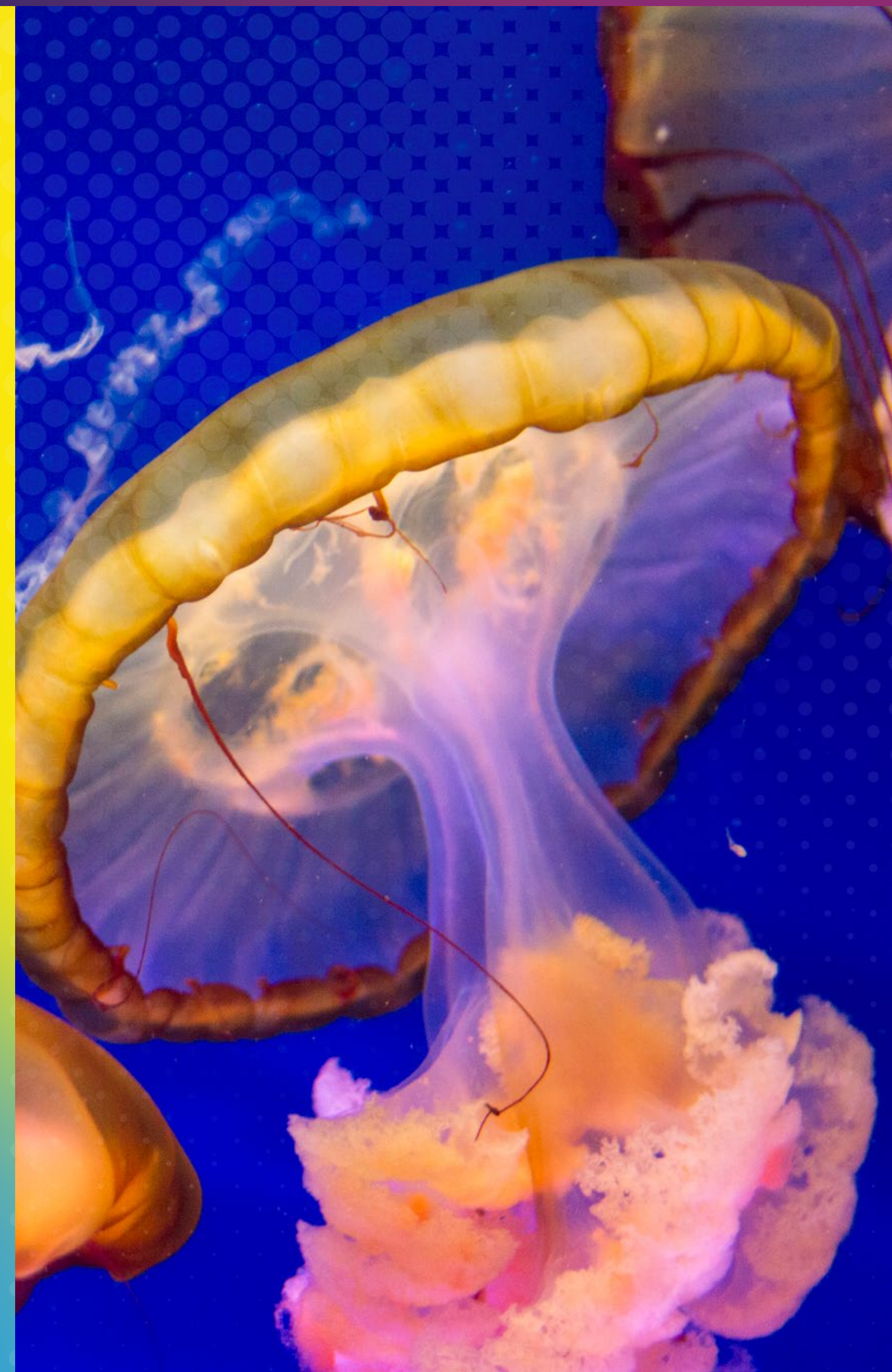
Our panel of independent judges is at the heart of the integrity of EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™.

When reviewing the judging reports, the judges are looking for evidence of specific entrepreneurial traits:

- ▶ Entrepreneurial spirit and vision
- ▶ Financial performance
- ▶ Innovation
- ▶ Strategic direction
- ▶ Sustainability and growth in employee numbers
- ▶ Industry impact
- ▶ Personal integrity/influence
- ▶ Risk management

The Independent Judging Panel comprises of previous category and overall winners of The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme, as well as representatives from our sponsor agencies. The Judging Panel is responsible for choosing the shortlist of 24 finalists, as well as selecting the category and overall winners. Please visit our website to find out more about the judging process, criteria, and judging panel.

[More information](#)



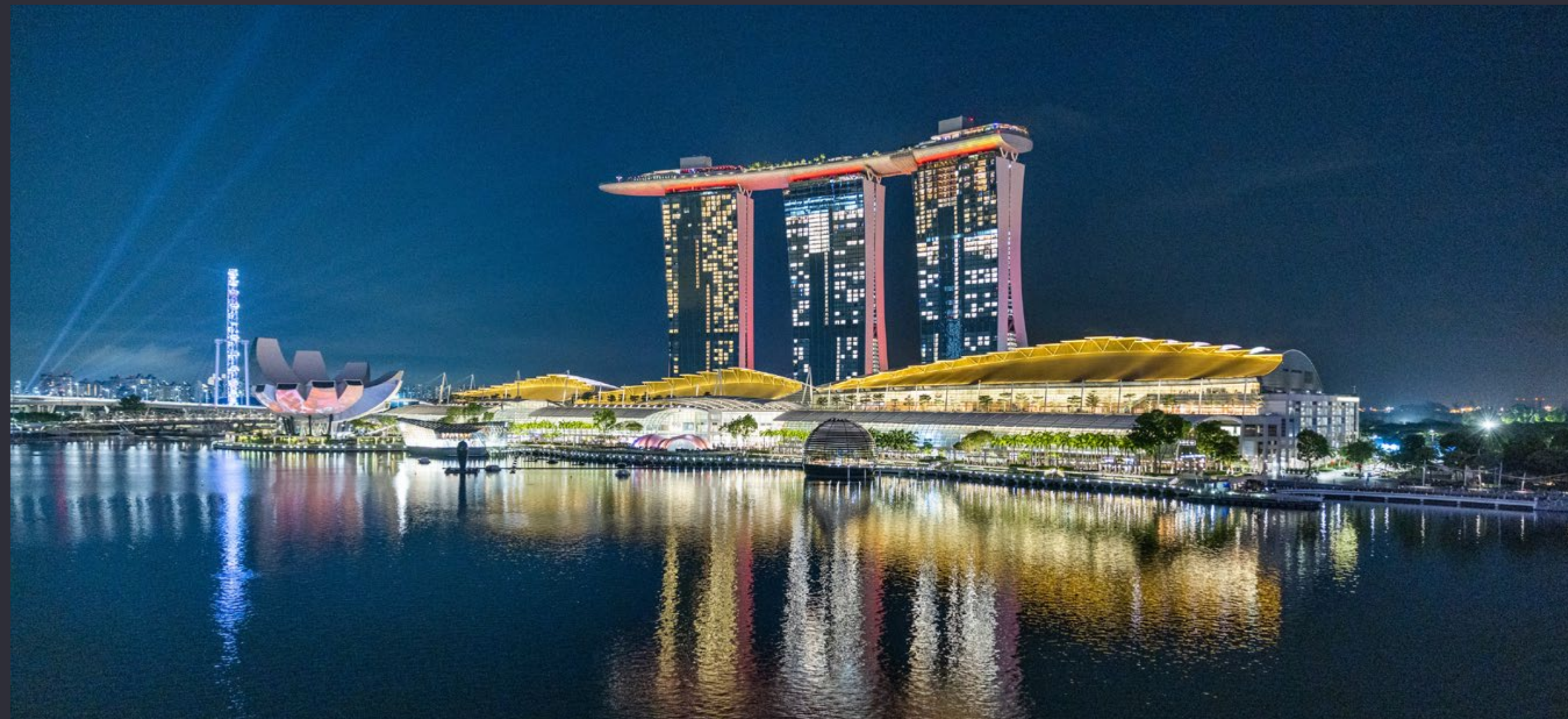
CEO Retreat

Along with our gala awards ceremony, the highlight of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ calendar is the CEO Retreat.

Our 24 Finalists are invited to join our EOY Alumni on a week-long retreat. This is Ireland's largest unofficial trade mission and offers an exceptional calibre of executive education in the world's top universities, as well as unrivalled networking and business development opportunities for the cohort of Finalists and EOY Alumni who attend. In previous years, our annual CEO Retreats have taken us to many different cities, including Hong Kong, San Francisco, Vancouver, Austin & New York and in 2023 we visited Singapore.

Year on year, the CEO Retreat has been the source of many new ideas, collaborations, and invaluable relationships for the island's most prestigious entrepreneurs. In 2024 we are excited to visit Cape Town, South Africa for our CEO Retreat. With one of the world's fastest growing global economies it is the ideal destination to create new connections, receive top class executive education and bring back new ideas and inspiration.

[Click here to watch the 2023 CEO Retreat highlights](#)



EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™

EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ is a global programme run by EY in over 145 cities across 60 countries worldwide. Every June, individual country winners come together in Monte Carlo for the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Awards.

Martin McKay of Texthelp represented Ireland at the EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Awards in June 2023 in Monaco. Doris Hsu, Chairperson and CEO of GlobalWafers Co., Ltd., was named EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ 2023. The interconnection between all of the global EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programmes is another example of the invaluable benefits of the programme.

This year, we are delighted that Sam Moffett of Moffett Automated Storage will be representing Ireland in June 2024.

We are excited to be able to share more information with you about this event in the coming months.

Previous speakers at EY World Entrepreneur Of The Year™ include, singer-songwriter, humanitarian & philanthropist Bono, Martha Stewart of Martha Stewart Omnimedia; Paul Polman of Unilever; Alma Clooney, International Human Rights Attorney; Dan Schulman President and CEO of PayPal; and Felix Baumgartner, Pilot, Red Bull Stratos, to name but a few.



EY Private

EY has unrivalled global experience of advising and supporting the world's leading private businesses, from Silicon Valley to multi-generational family businesses to our best-in-class EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme. This is the core focus of our global firm.

As a leader of a private or family business, you have the drive to challenge and grow your business to its full potential. As globally connected advisors who appreciate your ownership mindset, our EY Private specialists and teams are dedicated to helping you drive your strategy and are personally invested in supporting private businesses reach their true potential. In EY we are, 'Advisors to the Ambitious'.



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The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme is such a positive and rewarding experience that offers so many benefits to participating entrepreneurs. I learned so much from the programme and forged friendships and connections with inspirational entrepreneurs from a wide range of industries.

Richard Kennedy

2019 EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™



We enter into 2024 and the 27th year of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme, with renewed commitment and determination to drive and support entrepreneurship across the island of Ireland.

In what promises to be another year of significant commercial, technological, and scientific progress as well as unprecedented political and social change, the opportunity for entrepreneurs, particularly Irish entrepreneurs, to make a real difference has never been greater. The purpose of the EOY programme is to acclaim, drive and inspire entrepreneurship and we could not be prouder of all it has achieved. Currently this group of 600 business leaders employ over 250,000 people and generate revenues of more than €25 billion. Their impact can be seen and felt both locally and across the globe.

The theme for this year's programme is The Trailblazers. Entrepreneurial trailblazers are true leaders with the courage and capacity to plot and follow their own path, pushing conventional boundaries and limits.

Through their exploration of new technologies, sciences, applications and markets, Ireland's entrepreneurs provide innovative answers and solutions to many of today's greatest challenges. They are often pioneers within their respective industries both in Ireland and across global markets. They forge their own unique trail to enable their companies, people, and the wider economy to reach new heights and aspirations.

One of the greatest strengths of Ireland's entrepreneurial ecosystem is its diverse composition. For this reason, we are actively seeking and encouraging nominations from entrepreneurs of all ages and from all industries and locations.

24 finalists will be selected for this year's programme. As finalists they will participate in an exciting strategic growth programme over a 10-month period, including a week-long CEO Retreat to South Africa. They will also be welcomed into our acclaimed alumni community where they will have the opportunity to learn from and be inspired by many of Ireland's leading entrepreneurs who remain the heartbeat of the programme.

As Partner Lead for the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ Ireland programme I am incredibly proud to celebrate, guide and support Ireland's trailblazing entrepreneurs and I look forward to welcoming this year's finalists into our programme.



Roger Wallace
Head of Assurance, Partner Lead,
EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™
Programme

in Roger Wallace

EOY Team

The EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ team are the energy and drive responsible for delivering the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme. Contact us on eoy@ie.ey.com if you have any questions, want to find out more or need assistance during the nomination process.



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Join Us Online

For more detailed information on the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ programme and all our initiatives please visit our website.
Digital nomination forms can be filled in and submitted on our website while our nomination window is open.

Apply Now

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#EOYIreland2024
#TheTrailblazers

Sponsors

Premium Corporate Sponsor

Julius Bär

For over 130 years, Julius Baer has helped individuals and families grow and preserve their wealth. Throughout this time, we have demonstrated the same pioneering mind-set as many of our clients, with our entrepreneurial spirit stemming from our rich family heritage as a private

bank. Thanks to our ongoing international expansion, we have the unique ability to provide our private clients with truly global expertise, delivered at a local level. We build our relationships based on trust. In today's challenging and often uncertain economic and political climate, our investment approach is engineered to provide an attractive return while taking into account each individual's unique needs approach to risk. We offer a wide range of investment and wealth planning services, meaning we can provide a tailored solution based on individual needs. We blend heritage and stability with a forward thinking, innovative approach. This is demonstrated not only in how we manage our clients' wealth, but also by how we support the next generation.

[Website](#)[@juliusbaer](#)[LinkedIn](#)

Government Agency Sponsors



As the regional business development agency, Invest Northern Ireland's role is to grow the local economy. It does this by supporting new and existing businesses to innovate, create jobs, and sell outside Northern Ireland, whilst also attracting new investment to the region. Invest NI provides strong government support for businesses as part of the Department for the Economy by delivering the Government's economic development strategies. Invest Northern Ireland has been part of the EY Entrepreneur Of The Year™ since day one and have provided an incredible amount of support throughout the years.

[Website](#)[@InvestNI_Europe](#)[LinkedIn](#)

Enterprise Ireland is the Irish government agency responsible for the development and growth of Irish companies internationally in order to grow exports and jobs. Enterprise Ireland works with entrepreneurs and businesses to help them to start-up, develop innovative products and services, and scale internationally. Since the very beginning, Enterprise Ireland has been an amazing supporter of the programme and has made a huge contribution over the years.

[Website](#)[@Entirl](#)[LinkedIn](#)

Media Supporters



Newstalk is Ireland's fastest growing independent national talk radio station delivering opinion lead content covering news, sport, business and entertainment while continuing to affirm its position as a successful, innovative and dynamic multi-media brand.

The station's flagship morning show is 'Newstalk Breakfast' presented by Ciara Kelly and Shane Coleman with Shane Beatty previewing all the morning's top stories from 6am and Business Editor Joe Lynam presenting business coverage from 6.30am.

The 'Pat Kenny Show' airs from 9am with Andrea Gilligan's callerdriven 'Lunchtime Live' from 12pm. Sean Moncreiff presents 'Moncrieff' from 2 to 4pm and the daytime schedule is rounded out with 'The Hard Shoulder' presented by Kieran Cuddihy from 4-7pm. The multi award-winning sports show 'Off The Ball' is broadcast weeknight evenings and weekend afternoons.

Anton Savage anchors Newstalk's live programming every Saturday from 9am and Sunday from 10am with Bobby Kerr's dedicated business show 'Down to Business' airing every Saturday from 11-1pm.

[Website](#)[@NewstalkFM](#)[in LinkedIn](#)

THE IRISH TIMES

The Irish Times is Ireland's leading quality news media publisher. Founded in 1859, it enjoys a weekly readership of 1.2 million in print and online.

The Irish Times is an authoritative and independent commentator and analyst of events nationally and internationally in print, on mobile and online. It is the only Irish news organisation with a network of correspondents around the world, who provide a view of the world through Irish eyes.

The Irish Times Group is the owner of two national titles, The Irish Times and the Irish Examiner, seven regional newspapers, two radio stations, MyHome.ie and a number of other digital assets. It is also the largest contract printer in Ireland.

Governed by a Trust to guarantee its independence and uphold its ethos of quality and trusted content, The Irish Times Group is the largest Irish-owned news media publisher on the island.

[Website](#)[@IrishTimes](#)[in LinkedIn](#)

EY | Building a better working world

EY exists to build a better working world, helping to create long-term value for clients, people and society and build trust in the capital markets.

Enabled by data and technology, diverse EY teams in over 150 countries provide trust through assurance and help clients grow, transform and operate.

Working across Assurance, Consulting, Law, Strategy, Tax and Transactions, EY teams ask better questions to find new answers for the complex issues facing our world today.

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