A drinks business from Donabate is this year’s winner of the Fingal Enterprise Award for 2019.

Cult Drinks took the top prize of €5,000 and will now represent Local Enterprise Office Fingal at the 21st National Enterprise Awards on Wednesday 29th May in the Mansion House in Dublin.
Employing ten staff from their based in Donabate, Cult Drinks have successfully launched and built a diversified portfolio of brands in both the domestic, UK and Global markets.

There were two runners-up at the Fingal Enterprise Awards held at County hall in Swords: Busterbox from Ballycoolin (a subscription service for dog owners) and Peptalk of Lucan (a technology platform for employees to improve wellbeing). Each runner-up receives an investment of €2,000 in their business, while the other seven finalists receive €1,000.

Judging is taking place in April and May and Cult Drinks will be competing against 30 other finalists from every local authority area for a share of the National €40,000 prize fund. The Mansion House in Dublin is the venue for awards ceremony in May and categories this year include ‘Best Export Business,’ ‘Best Start Up Business’ and ‘Innovation,’ in addition to eight regional awards.

The Fingal Enterprise Awards, by the Local Enterprise Office are taking place as part of Local Enterprise Week 2019. There are over 370 events taking place across the country for this year’s Local Enterprise Week, being organised by the network of Local Enterprise Offices nationwide.

Speaking during Local Enterprise Week Oisin Geoghegan Head of Fingal Local Enterprise Office said: “Cult Drinks has already become a success story and the judges were particularly impressed by the year-on-year success of this business. The National Enterprise Awards are a great barometer for what the Local Enterprise Offices are doing and every year the standard is getting better and better and we are delighted to have Cult Drinks representing us in the Mansion House in May.”

Among the special guests at the ceremony were the Mayor of Fingal Cllr Anthony Lavin and Chief Executive Paul Reid. Members of the judging panel included Jock Jordan of One4All Gift Vouchers and Deirdre O’Neill of Enterprise Ireland.

Referring to the FEA and this year’s winner, Cllr. Anthony Lavin, Mayor of Fingal said: “The Fingal Enterprise Awards brings an extraordinary cadre of innovators each year. Fingal County Council, through our Local Enterprise Office, continues to cultivate these small businesses and provides practical supports which help them to flourish not only in Ireland, but in also in Europe and further afield. Well done to Cult Drinks and all of the finalists this year.”

Speaking during the Fingal Enterprise Awards, Paul Reid, Chief Executive of Fingal County Council congratulated the winners Cult Drinks and acknowledged the contribution of the small business sector: “We need to shine a light on our
local and small businesses as they continue to create much of our employment growth. Very importantly, our local entrepreneurs need to be celebrated. It is through their innovation, creativity and determination that our younger generations will be inspired as our economy thrives in the coming years."

The awards were just one of the many highlights of Local Enterprise Week, which comes to an end on March 8th. All over the country, the 31 Local Enterprise Offices have been jointly running over 370 events aimed at start-ups, aspiring entrepreneurs and small businesses in their area, to mark the week.

Other high-profile events during Local Enterprise Week included an intensive, full-day “Fingal Startup Bootcamp” in Blanchardstown. Famed Dublin GAA sportsman and business entrepreneur Bernard Brogan gave an impassioned and honest keynote speech on building a legacy through motivation, teamwork and good living. Meantime In Swords on Monday morning, more than 100 businesses learned about how they can trade online more effectively.

On Tuesday, the Fingal Dublin Chamber hosted a behind-the-scenes networking event featuring some of Fingal’s most successful businesses. Tuesday night continued on full-throttle with 170 food producers hearing from an expert panel of some of the biggest food processors at a sold-out event at the Radisson Blu, Dublin Airport.

Wednesday featured two events on the subject of raising finance and included a live “dragons Den” business pitching event for start-ups. Then on Thursday Balbriggan played host to a Marketing breakfast as nearly 50 local businesses learned how to sell their brand and gain traction at low cost.

Finally, on Friday, Local Enterprise Week culminated in a celebration of International Women’s Day with a networking lunch with over 120 female entrepreneurs at Dublin Airport.

ENDS

Photography: Captions embedded in the photographs

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Fingal LEO Week Awards Ceremony.
Pictured are Emer O’Gorman, Director of Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, Fingal County Council, Paul Reid, CE, Fingal County Council, Lord Mayor of Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin, Oisin Geoghegan, Head of Enterprise Fingal LEO and Eunan Ryan, Cult Drinks.
Picture by Shane O’Neill, SON Photographic
Fingal LEO Week Awards Ceremony.
Pictured are Paul Reid, CE, Fingal County Council, Emer O’Gorman, Director of
Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development, Fingal County Council, Paul
Carrick, Gary Redmond, Liam Brennan, All from Buster Box, Lord Mayor of
Fingal, Cllr Anthony Lavin, Oisin Geoghegan, Head of Enterprise Fingal LEO.
Picture by Shane O’Neill, SON Photographic

Fingal LEO Week Awards Ceremony.
Pictured are Una Kearns, myPatientSpace, Paul Reid, CE, Fingal County Council,
Eunan Ryan, Cult Drinks, David Ganley & Peter Lahiff both from Future Learning,
Oisin Geoghegan, Head of Enterprise Fingal LEO, Osvaldo & Derya Sousa both
from Kianda, Liam Brennan, BusterBox, Aileen Minihan & James McAuley both
from Pluxty Ltd, Justin Perry, Frequency, Emer O’Gorman, Director of Economic,
Enterprise & Tourism Development, Fingal County Council, James Brogan,
PepTalk, Suzanne Moloney, Hidramed Ltd.
Picture by Shane O’Neill, SON Photographic

For media queries, please contact Oisín Geoghegan, Head of Enterprise in
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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Local Enterprise Week 4th to 8th March 2019

Organised by the network of Local Enterprise Offices nationwide, Local
Enterprise Week was held during the week 4th to 8th March 2019 and featured
370 events running throughout the country, aimed at stimulating and
supporting enterprise. Estimated attendance nationally was over 11,000. Fingal
events accounted for over 1,000 businesses and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Local Enterprise Offices (LEOs)

The Local Enterprise Office (LEO) in Fingal is part of a network of 31 Local
Enterprise Offices nationwide, located within the Local Authority structure. The
Fingal office is one of the largest and most active LEOs in the country. The role
of the LEO is to support and provide assistance to existing and potential small
business promoters located in Fingal. In addition Fingal LEO aims to foster the
development of an enterprise culture. The LEOs operate under a Service Level
Agreement with Enterprise Ireland. Local Enterprise Office Fingal is funded by
the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation and is co-financed by the
European Regional Development Fund.

The LEOs provide funding for projects primarily in the manufacturing and
internationally traded services sector which over time have the potential to
develop into strong export entities. There are three main categories of grant aid
under which direct financial assistance is provided – Priming, Feasibility and
Business Expansion. The LEOs also provide training and mentoring support to
entrepreneurs and businesses to assist business development and
performance.

The LEOs through appropriate referral also ensure that people thinking of
starting or expanding a business in every part of the country are able to access
the full range of State supports provided by different Government bodies – for
example Revenue, the Department of Social Protection, the Credit Review Office,
Education and Training Boards etc., – in one easily accessible location within the
Local Authority.