

## Enter the National Startup Awards 2018

### **The National Startup Awards, powered by Bank of Ireland and Enterprise Ireland, is open for entries and has a €15,000 prize fund.**

The call is going out to startups all over Ireland. The National Startup Awards is open for entries with new categories and a total prize fund of €15,000.

The overall winner will walk away with a prize of €10,000, and the best early-stage startup will receive €5,000 to develop their businesses.

#### **ALL SECTORS**

The competition is open to businesses across all sectors which have been operational for up to five years.

There are three key stages to the competition with qualifying entries first shortlisted by region and then nationally.

To enter or nominate someone for a National Startup Award visit [www.startupawards.ie](http://www.startupawards.ie) and submit your application by Thursday, March 22.

"Entrepreneurship is fundamental to the national and regional economy and job creation, and I encourage ambitious startups to submit their applications in the coming weeks," says Julie Sinnamon, CEO of Enterprise Ireland.

"As Ireland's leading bank for business, we have worked with startups at all stages of growth, and we continue to be inspired by the women and men who are building, creating and innovating for the future. We look forward to supporting this year's entries from young companies that are making a difference," says David Tighe, head of Open Enterprise and Innovation at Bank of Ireland.

#### **ENTER NOW**

Entry is free and is open to sole traders, partnerships and companies that have been set up in Ireland and that are in business for five years or less. The judging committee will comprise of representatives from Bank of Ireland, Enterprise Ireland with a mix of leading Irish entrepreneurs. The regional finals will take place during April with the national awards taking place in Dublin on Thursday, May 17, 2018.

#### **The National Startup Awards 2018 categories**

1. Emerging tech startup
2. Fintech startup
3. Agritech startup
4. Travel & tourism startup
5. Food & drink startup
6. Social/sustainable startup
7. Product & manufacturing startup
8. eCommerce startup
9. Retail & fashion startup
10. Tech startup
11. Research spinout / third level
12. Best startup ecosystem – [public vote]
13. Early stage startup - two years from date of incorporation [€5,000 cash prize]

## **SPECIAL AWARDS**

14. Grand Prix - Best of Category [€10,000 cash prize]
15. Startup Hero – [chosen by organisers]

**To enter the awards visit [www.startups.ie](http://www.startups.ie).**

Entries must be submitted by Thursday, March 22, 2018.

*Pictured above [l-r] are Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation Heather Humphreys; David Tighe, head of Open Enterprise and Innovation, Bank of Ireland; Julie Sinnamon, CEO, Enterprise Ireland; and Stephen Dillon, founder, Startups.ie.*