

Nominations Open for Blacknight SME Awards 2017

Awards Aim to Celebrate the 'Unsung Heroes' of Irish SMEs

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SUMMARY

Nominations have opened for The Blacknight SME Awards 2017, to be held in Cork on 4 February. The awards celebrate the unsung heroes of "the ordinary SME, whose work is vital to their customers, communities, employees and owners", explained Michele Neylon, CEO of Blacknight, the Irish domain names and web hosting company which is the headline sponsor of the awards. Nominations are free, thanks to Blacknight's sponsorship, and the closing date is 4 January 2017.

Details have been announced for the Blacknight SME Awards 2017, and nominations are now open for the event which takes place in Cork on 4 February 2017.

It's the third year of the Awards, and the organisers have promised an enjoyable evening of entertainment and celebration of Irish SMEs and their successes.

"These are the awards for the ordinary SME: the small or medium company which may not hit the glamorous headlines, but whose work is vital to their customers, communities, employees and owners", explained Michele Neylon, CEO of Blacknight, the Irish domain names and web hosting company which is the headline sponsor of the awards.

"These are companies just like us, essentially", he continued. "Blacknight might appear boring to some people, but we're' absolutely crucial for the customers who trust us with their websites, email and online reputations. We're certified to ISO 27001 for information systems management. That makes our customers happy - but it won't make the cover of VIP magazine. The idea of The Blacknight SME Awards is to bring a bit of glamour and celebration to the everyday hard work of Irish SMEs"

Awards organiser Damien Mulley agrees. "SMEs are the unsung heroes of the economy", he says. "They employ way more than the Googles and the Facebooks, don't get the press and pay a lot more tax."

As with previous years, the awards ceremony will be held in the Radisson SAS Hotel in Cork. "Not everything has to be in Dublin", says Mulley, "and we find the Dublin people enjoy getting away for the night. In fact: that's why we hold the awards on a Saturday. We know that SME people don't always have time for a weeknight event."

The awards ceremony will be hosted by RTÉ presenter Rick O'Shea, and there are 17 categories in total:

1. Family Run Business
2. Under 30s Business
3. Retailer (With mostly offline focus)
4. Online Retailer (Irish Market)
5. Online Retailer (Export)
6. Food and Drink – Micro to Small SME
7. Customer Focus / Engagement
8. New Business – Non Digital
9. New Business – Services
10. New Business – Digital
11. Community Minded Company
12. Environmentally Minded
13. Company Transformation
14. B2B SME
15. New Product / Service from an SME
16. SME Website (Non eCommerce)
17. SME Social Media (In-house)

Nominations are free, thanks to Blacknight's sponsorship, and will remain open until 4 January 2017. For more information, visit www.smeawards.ie.



RELEVANT LINKS

 **The Blacknight SME Awards**
<http://www.smeawards.ie/>

 **Blacknight**
<http://blacknight.com>

QUOTES

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— Michele Neylon, CEO of Blacknight, sponsors of The SME Awards

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IMAGES



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ABOUT BLACKNIGHT

Blacknight (<http://www.blacknight.com/>) are an Irish based, ICANN accredited domain registrar and hosting company. Recipients of several awards for their revolutionary use of social media, Blacknight are one of Europe's most cutting edge Internet companies. Blacknight constantly seek to lead the way by introducing innovative solutions for its client base and provide dedicated servers and co-location as well as a comprehensive range of Microsoft Windows and Linux based hosting plans and domain name registration services to business globally. IP transit services and other solutions for more demanding business and academic customers are offered a la carte.



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