



2007 FNB ENABLIS BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Johannesburg, Thursday 18 October, 2007: The winners of the R20-million Enablis Business Plan Challenge were announced today after 56 finalists presented their business plans to an local and international panel of judges.

The FNB Enablis Business Plan Challenge is South Africa's biggest business plan competition. This year more than 1,500 people attended business plan training workshops around the country and more than 1,800 business plans were received across 10 industries, from tourism and technology to agriculture and IT.

The Challenge offers entrepreneurs the opportunity to develop their business plan writing skills and have their business plans evaluated by top business experts. Those selected as winners are eligible for fast-track funding from Enablis and its funding partners.

The competition's main sponsors are First National Bank, Microsoft, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller and Seda. This year, new categories included media (sponsored by the Media Diversity and Development Agency), energy (Shell) and property (Pam Golding Properties).

A large part of the benefit of entering the competition is that the finalists and winners are exposed to networks of investors, entrepreneurs and advisers. Winners also receive prizes from Enablis, Pinnacle Micro, PostNet, the Sunday Times and Pan MacMillan Publishers.

“We believe that entrepreneurs need practical support and skills to become successful and reach their full potential,” says Enablis global CEO and Chairman Charles Sirois.

“Enablis supports entrepreneurs from developing countries as they are strong drivers of economic development and job creation.”

Competition director Martin Feinstein said the competition helped to develop small business by approaching the selection of entrepreneurs who had high potential, in a structured and systematic way.

Enablis is a unique organisation that focuses on driving measurable social and economic development by supporting entrepreneurs, men and women, in the developing world through a holistic approach using networking, capacity building and improved access to finance.

MEDIA QUERIES

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NOTES FOR EDITORS

Enablis is a Canadian-based not-for-profit organisation that supports entrepreneurs in the developing world through its member-driven network Enablis Entrepreneurial Network.

Enablis Entrepreneurial Network is an organised, interactive network of entrepreneurs in developing countries who share similar values and who believe in the importance of small-to-medium enterprises for poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Conceived at the 2002 G8 Summit, Enablis was founded by the Canada Fund for Africa, Accenture and Telesystem as a ground breaking private sector-led non-profit organisation that aims to help entrepreneurs in developing countries. Supported by a strategic vision adopted by its Board of Directors, Enablis became a reality in 2004 with the launch of its prototype operations in South Africa.

Today Enablis South Africa (Enablis SA) is the first regional hub in the Enablis network, with offices located in the city of Cape Town, and in Gauteng, Mpumalanga, KwaZulu Natal and Northern Cape provinces. The member network in South Africa is thriving, with over 300 members.

Building on the momentum experienced in South Africa, Enablis is in the process of expanding and is currently establishing its second regional hub Enablis East Africa in Nairobi, Kenya. See www.enablis.org.

2007 ENABLIS FNB BUSINESS CHALLENGE WINNERS

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM – BUSINESS IDEA

BRENDA ROOIPAI – CITY OF CHOICE

Aims to launch a boutique travel agency specializing only in domestic and international wellness travel to spas and wellness destinations.

TRANSPORT AND TOURISM – BUSINESS EXPANSION

STEVEN HALL – AFRITICKET

The Afriticket System is an onboard computer-based integrated ticketing, passenger counting and transport fleet management system specifically designed for the South African public transport industry (buses, trains and the new generation of minibus taxis).

SERVICES – BUSINESS IDEA

MPHAGA NTLATLENG – HEALTHY LEGUME FOODS

Healthy Legumes Foods has formulated a new generation of nutritious foods based on the high protein, mineral and vitamin content of beans. This technique involves milling the beans (sugar, soya, butter, split pea) into a fine powder, then adding ingredients and flavourants to add value and make the product appetizing, appealing and marketable.

SERVICES – BUSINESS EXPANSION

PEARL KAMBA – PPA CLEANING AND CATERING

PPA Cleaning and Catering is a woman-owned company in Delmas who have been operating since 1998, and aim to grow their business into a national brand.

PROPERTY / RETAIL BUSINESS IDEA

CHRISTIAAN PRETORIUS – PRICE MY HOUSE

Provides individual investors/buyers or sellers with a quick and easy way to price their property and establish property prices in a specific area based on sales data for the past 12-24 months.

PROPERTY / RETAIL BUSINESS EXPANSION

LUCAS MODISE – WEILER'S FARM BUTCHERY

This retail butchery serving the informal settlement residents of Weilers Farm aims to expand and become a more professional business offering a more diverse product range.

MINING / MINERAL BENEFICIATION – BUSINESS IDEA

LOUIS OLIVIER – BEATLEWARE

Beatleware aims to improve productivity for mining transporters, and other sectors, through combining GPS, internet and SMS technology, to speed up deliveries and enhance security.

MEDIA – BUSINESS IDEA

NOMA RADEBE – THE MEDIA MALL

The Meda Mall aims to provide a one-stop shop and hub for equipment supply, facility rental and office space for production and post production service providers.

MEDIA – BUSINESS EXPANSION

JANINE NEL – NELIDA PUBLISHING

Nelida Publishing is a dynamic “new generation” South African publishing house that combines international partnerships with local content development. It publishes niche business titles, children’s books and focuses on innovative, high-quality products with a strong South African flavour.

MANUFACTURING – BUSINESS IDEA

DAVID HARLEY – YEBO TECH

Has designed an innovative electronic cylinder mechanism to replace the pin tumbler and wafer tumbler cylinders employed in conventional mechanical locks, thus taking lock security and ease of use to a new level.

MANUFACTURING – BUSINESS EXPANSION

SOOVEIR RAJKUMAR – MEATILICIOUS

Aims to expand its operations to take the production and supply of premium halaal meat products to a new level of variety, quality and convenience.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY – BUSINESS IDEA

DIRK KOEKEMOER -- GEOAXON

Aims to take hearing-assistance technology to a new level of affordability and effectiveness by re-engineering the audiology industry, using enabling technologies such as automated audiometry testing devices, telemedicine and the Internet.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY – BUSINESS EXPANSION

TREVOR HARPER – BELSTOW TECH

Combines expertise in equipment manufacture and software systems design in the specialized field of installing, managing and operating traffic law enforcement cameras in the municipal environment.

ENERGY – BUSINESS IDEA

ANDREW BROWN – H&A ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SYSTEMS

H & A Alternative Energy Systems intends to offer alternative sources of clean carbon free, safe, environmentally friendly and cost effective energy in order to improve and/or maintain a decent standard of living for the inhabitants of southern Africa.

ENERGY – BUSINESS EXPANSION

PETER TOWNHENDS – FLOWGATE PROJECTS

Innovative equipment to maximise water usage and minimise losses for homes and businesses.

CONSTRUCTION – BUSINESS IDEA

CHERE RABOTAPI – RABOTAPI CIVIL CONSTRUCTION

In a sector currently with many fly-by-night operators, Rabotapi aims to bring a new level of professionalism and accuracy to borehole drilling for government and private clients in rural and semi-urban settlements. More than 100,000 boreholes are drilled annually in SA and this is expected to increase due to water shortages.

CONSTRUCTION – BUSINESS EXPANSION

TAKALANI RATHIYAYA – THUSALUSHAKA BRICKYARD

Concrete brick manufacturing company aiming to supply rural communities with affordable building materials.

AGRICULTURE – BUSINESS IDEA

HOWARD ALBOROUGH – GROW-IT

Promotes all aspects of biological farming, organic waste management, soil enhancement and rehabilitation, to improve sustainability and organic production.

AGRICULTURE – BUSINESS EXPANSION

PETRO STEYN – PA STEYN FOODS

Old-style popcorn to rival the major “mass produced” brands. Specializes in making the healthiest and tastiest popcorn using the traditional oil popper method.