

Feet first for business achievers

Tom McCullough

SEVEN of Munster's leading businesses were selected as provincial winners of the Ulster Bank Business Achievers Award last week with the 'Business Going International' award going to Ennis-based TOG Orthotics International Limited.

The company, which is based at the Roslevan Centre, provides rehabilitative foot orthotics which help prevent lower back, hip, knee and foot pain.

Now in their 15th year, the business achievers awards are organized in association with the Irish Independent and Enterprise Ireland. Each Munster winner now qualifies to compete for the overall national title at an awards ceremony which takes place in Dublin in February.

A total of 363 businesses north and south entered the 2008 awards which aim to recognise and reward business success, regardless of business offering, service, or location.

The winning business in each category was selected from a shortlist of three companies and were judged on a variety of merits including sales performance, market share growth, company milestones, innovative new products or services and successful achievements by key personnel.

Munster winners from each category will receive a specially commissioned award created by Grainne Breslin and a dedicated profile page

on the Business Achievers Awards website. The national winner will receive a comprehensive prize package including an Executive Education programme at Harvard University Business School, €50,000 worth of advertising space in the Irish Independent and two years membership of the Institute of Directors.

Speaking at the provincial awards ceremony, Ulster Bank Corporate Markets chief executive Robert Gallagher said it was essential that the contribution made by businesses, to both their local communities and the economy as a whole should be rewarded and the challenges faced in achieving this success be recognized.

"The winning businesses have made, and continue to make, a significant contribution to their localities through provision of services and products as well as providing employment. They are an inspiration to entrepreneurs in the region and I commend them for their determination, innovation and hard work in making their business a success", he said.

Right: Michael Crowley, Finance Director, TOG Orthotics International Limited with Pat O'Hanlon, Senior Manager Ulster Bank Business Centre, Clare.

