

flyingstart



Name: Gareth Mitchell
Age: 30 years
Business: Tree2mydoor Limited
Service: Online tree gifts company
Website: www.tree2mydoor.com
University: University of Teeside (2000)

Background:

Tree2mydoor is an award winning sustainable online gift company that enables customers to send a wide selection of quality tree and wildflower gifts with accompanying personalised greetings cards directly to friends and family. The company has consumer sales and corporate sales channels.

Business growth: Tree2mydoor has enjoyed significant business growth with sales increasing year on year since the company was incorporated in 2003. Sales forecasts predict that Tree2mydoor's sales turnover will exceed £1 million within the next 3 years.

Awards won:

- * The Observer Courvoisier Future 500 List 2007.
- * Gift of The Year Awards 2007 - Highly Commended.
- * People in Retail Awards 2007 - Finalist.
- * UMIC Innovation Competition 2005 - Finalist.
- * New Entrepreneur Scholarship, North West Entrepreneur of the Year 2005 - Winner.
- * Startups Awards 2004 - Best Online Business of The Year - Finalist.
- * Gift of The Year Award 2004 - Winner.

At a glance....

Started Trading: October 2002
Turnover: £150,000 plus
Investment: £12,000
Number of employees: 3

Tree2mydoor on how Flying Start has helped:

'Flying Start has offered an excellent network for both support, advice and for networking. I have attended a Flying Start Rally in Manchester and attended a short course in Cambridge which was really beneficial for me.'

About the FlyingStart Programme

This 12-month business start-up programme for new entrepreneurs is delivered by the NCGE and supported by the UK Government's Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). An intensive three-day residential training course is followed by 12 months' specialist mentoring and support. The aim is to have 60% of all graduates trading within one year. FlyingStart ensures all new graduate businesses have a ready-made national and regional network, a dedicated mentor, appreciate the 'know-hows and know-whos' of practical business, and understand how to make money.