



# Quartet eye €10bn venture capital pot

FOUR hi-tech companies from Northern Ireland are among the firms in the running to benefit from €10bn in investment capital available as part of a Europe-wide venture capital competition.

The European Tech Tour has announced the 30 finalists from England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Republic it believes represent the region's most promising, high growth, early and expansion stage technology companies.

Belfast-based Aepona, Andor Technology, HeartSine Technologies and Lagan Technologies made the cut from a pool of 250 applications, selected by senior global venture capital and technology industry leaders.

Their reviews assessed the uniqueness of firms' technology, the strength of their business

model, vision, capability to execute on the business plan and the quality of management team and track record.

"It was a big challenge to identify the UK and Ireland Tech Tour finalists given the strength of this year's entrants, but we are satisfied we've selected the companies with the greatest business and commercial potential," said Victor Basta, president of the UK and Ireland Tech Tour.

"These are not just companies that will make an impact locally; they are companies with the potential to assist in Europe's broader economic recovery."

Finalists will have twenty minutes at events this week to present their business plans to senior partners, vice presidents and CEOs from the global venture capital and technology industry, as well as

service providers and academics.

They will benefit from networking opportunities, local and international media exposure and opportunities to secure funding, with over €10bn worth of investment capital present at the Tour.

The European Tech Tour Association (ETT) was founded in Geneva in 1998 in response to the growing interest in emerging technology companies in various European regions.

Aepona operates in the networks field with a focus on mobile cloud computing, while Andor is a specialist in scientific cameras and microscopy systems.

HeartSine makes automated external defibrillators for cardiac arrest and Lagan Technologies helps local governments to improve service delivery to citizens.