

New social enterprise database launched online

By Helen Warrell, Third Sector, 6 June 2007

The founder of social networking website FreshTies has this week added an online database of social enterprises to the site. Social enterprises will be charged a fee of approximately £95 a year to be listed.

Ashish Poddar, whose website is designed to forge links between individuals and community organisations, has now created listings that will link social enterprises with the public, private and third sectors.

The idea is to raise awareness of enterprise culture and form an easily accessible marketplace that will help funders identify organisations in need of finance. Users will be able to search the list by region, organisation size and keywords.

"We are building this list on the basis of feedback from social enterprises about their practical needs," Poddar said.

"Social enterprises keep telling us that people have difficulty finding them, and the public says it hears a lot about high-performing enterprises but has no way of finding out about those that aren't well known. It's about getting the idea of social enterprise into the mainstream."

Organisations that sign up to the database will also have access to a business skills exchange, which is being sponsored by Brunel University. It will enable social enterprises that cannot afford professional consultants to share tips and ideas on issues such as business strategy and marketing.

The database will be available at www.freshties.com/home/se.