"The show must go on, so let's get going now," is the optimistic message from female entrepreneurs, business women and the Carlow County Enterprise Board which are all involved in a major conference and awards scheme in the South East next month. The South East Women in Business Conference takes place in the Tower Hotel in Waterford on Friday, September 17th and the Carlow County Enterprise Board has enlisted the help of established and emerging entrepreneurs, to help women-led businesses continue to run and grow their businesses, to help protect more local jobs.

Organisers have secured Sean Gallagher from Dragons' Den, Monica Leech from Outside Thinking, Louise Grubb from Nutri-Science, Veronica Canning, author of 'Shoeisms' and Sheila Gallogly from MÃ¡rla.ie to help inform and inspire business women.

"The theme of the conference is: 'The Show Must Go On' and it is the optimists and innovators in business, that will continue to succeed in Carlow,"said Kieran Comerford of the Carlow County Enterprise Board.

The stories and experiences of Carlow-based entrepreneurs, Sasha Stykes from Farm 21 bespoke furniture and Paula Corden from Deycom Computer Services will be showcased, along with the stories of Mag Kirwin from Goatsbridge Trout Farm in Kilkenny, Fleur Creed from Genesis Business College in Wexford and Yvonne O' Brien from Gallweys Chocolates in Waterford.

The newly elected Mayor of Waterford City and former entrepreneur, Cllr. Mary Roche, will deliver the conference opening address and the event will conclude with the announcement of winners of the South East Female Excellence in Business Awards.

The day-long conference, which is now in its fourth year, is the brain-child of five local Enterprise Boards: Carlow, Tipperary South, Kilkenny, Waterford City and Wexford, which provide information, advice and various enterprise supports to micro-enterprises and small businesses, including new start-ups.

Bookings for the conference and awards event can be made on-line by visiting: www.kceb.ie , by e-mailing Fiona Deegan at:
fiona@kceb.ie
or by telephoning: (056) 77 52 662. The conference fee is heavily subsidised by the Carlow County Enterprise Board and costs EUR30 per delegate, which includes refreshments, lunch and conference notes.