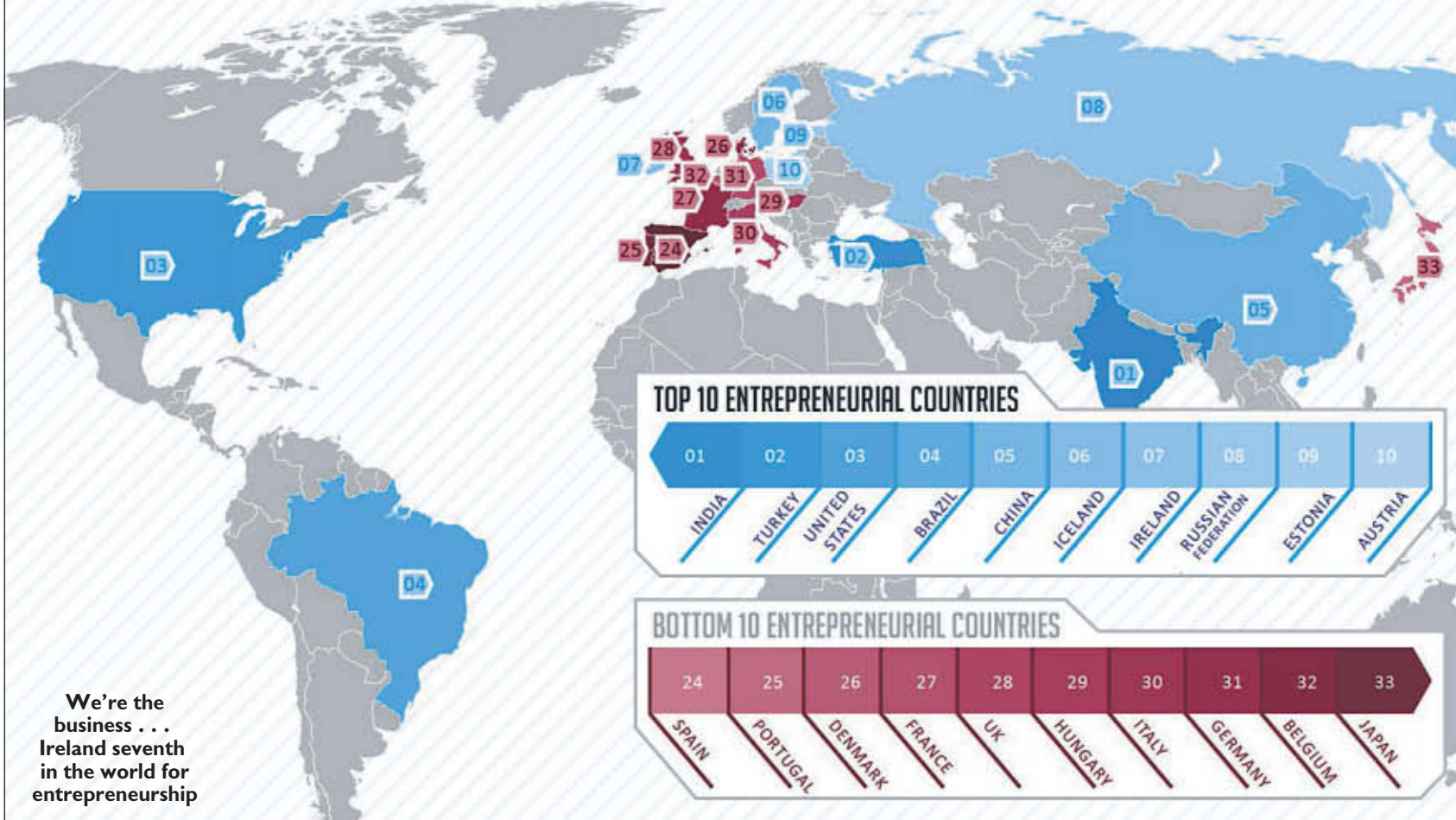


IT'S A TOP OF THE EARNING TO YOU

Irish entrepreneurs rank highest in Europe



IRISH people are the best entrepreneurs in the EU, according to a new study.

A report ranks us as the most enterprising nation in the union, and world No7, with India leading the way.

We scored well for the image of entrepreneurs here – fourth best globally – and also for our past experiences and our early-stage business activity.

But Ireland showed up a disappointing 30th out of 33 nations in our attitude to risk – due to our fear of failure.

The Oracle Capital Group report stated: “We could not have predicted the resultant ranking.”

“The emerging markets dominated the top ten, with India taking first place. But Iceland and Ireland – two high-profile

By KIERAN DINEEN

victims of the financial crisis – also performed rather strongly, placing sixth and seventh respectively.

“By contrast, the bottom ten is dominated by European countries, including five of the G7, with the UK lagging in 28th and Japan bringing up the rear.” Some 32,000 people started new

firms here in 2013, compared to just over 19,000 in 2012.

Three Irish entrepreneurs were included in *Forbes’* annual ‘30 under 30’ list in January.

Limerick-born tycoons Patrick and John Collison made the Technology category, with their work in building online payments company Stripe singled out for praise. *Forbes* notes the company has raised €36mil-

lion in funding and now processes billions of euro worth of payments from around the world.

Patrick, 25, is a former winner of the BT Young Scientist of the Year Award who previously sold his Automatic start-up for €3.6m.

He and John, 23, moved to the United States and co-founded Stripe in 2010.

Backed

The firm has been backed by a number of big names including Peter Thiel and Elon Musk, two of the founders behind PayPal.

Monaghan native Terry Cavanagh is listed as one of the 30 to watch in the area of gaming for the work of his company, Distractionware Ltd.

Also making up the top ten were Turkey, the United States, Brazil, China, Russia, Estonia and Austria.

The report found:
● **A STRONG** link between growth and wealth in coun-

tries like Ireland where entrepreneurship is high.

● **A GROWING** number of rich people coming from entrepreneurial countries

● **WEALTHY** individuals from the most entrepreneurial countries tend to remain in their homelands.

The study also cited the Government's strategy of “supporting new businesses with export potential”.

Oracle Capital Group chief Martin Graham commented: “The report is a valuable insight into the significance of entrepreneurial contribution to the growth of economies and underscores the importance of businesses receiving support at government level.”

“The striking results for emerging economies are a positive indicator of growth in these regions.”

“These findings match a clear trend reflecting the significant rise of ‘new’ wealth originating from emerging markets.”

@IrishSunOnline



Peace award . . . Haass

Flag talks chair: I'd take deal over nod

By DAVID YOUNG

THE US diplomat who failed to get agreement on flags and parades in the North last year has been honoured with an international peace gong.

But accepting his Tipperary Peace Award, Dr Richard Haass said: “I gladly would have elected to forgo the award for an agreement.”

The Haass negotiations on long-standing issues over flags, parades and the legacy of the past broke up on New Year's Eve without agreement.

He also told the ceremony in Co Tipperary's Ballykisteen Hotel: “Northern Ireland has not yet reached a point in which peace and tranquillity can be taken for granted.”

“It is all too easy to imagine how a parade or protest could spark violence – it is all too easy to imagine how local violence could grow and spread.”



Uni med site open

A NEW €15million Graduate Entry Medical School building was opened by Finance Minister Michael Noonan yesterday.

The University of Limerick facility houses 12 teaching rooms, a 150-seat lecture theatre, two seminar rooms, IT work stations, clinical and anatomical skills labs and a cafeteria.

UL President Professor Don Barry said at the opening: “GEMS doctors embrace modern scientific enquiry, life-long learning and, most of all, team-working with other healthcare professionals.”

“These are the type of doctors we need, not only in Ireland, but around the world.”

HOTEL STAFF HIRE

ALMOST half of hoteliers say they plan to hire more workers after a rise in summer bookings.

A survey by the Irish Hotels Federation showed 42 per cent expect to take on more staff, with 72 per cent recording an upturn in bookings, thanks in

part to a 67 per cent growth in domestic tourism.

But IHF boss Tim Fenn warned: “The hotels sector is still a number of years away from achieving sustainability and Irish tourism still faces some serious challenges.”

Sun

A MAN who tried to wrestle a 3.3metre alligator to get him off the road in Louisiana has lived to tell the tale – though he needed 80 stitches in one hand.

SPOT

THAT'S THE TICKET

CONCERT-GOERS will be singing for joy after Ticketmaster announced it will no longer ask online ticket-buyers to enter hard-to-read squiggly lines to show they are real purchasers.

The CAPTCHA security measure was in place to block com-

puter programmes called ‘bots’ which some people illegally use to buy up tickets automatically.

Gig-goers will now be presented with phrases, questions or ads in a new system – devised by Solve Media – in use in the US since last year.