

the seventh annual belfast business top50

ROGHA 50 GNÓ BHÉAL FEIRSTE

Michael Black

Age: 44

Place of birth: Portadown, County Armagh

Business: Aepona Group

www.aepona.com

Where you live: Lisburn, County Antrim

First job: Accountant with Coopers and Lybrand

What it taught me: The basics of business. I trained in the local office in Portadown which gave me lots of exposure to entrepreneurs running small businesses

Family: Wife Emma, daughter Caroline (17), son Christopher (13)

Best advice anyone ever gave you: Get your work/life balance sorted out

Best advice you could give someone starting out: Find a business mentor - its lonely being a start up entrepreneur

The most important thing for business success is: Hire the absolutely best people you can afford

Michael Black is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland, a Chartered Director (IoD) and Graduate of Queen's University Belfast. Since qualifying as a chartered accountant Michael has worked in the high tech sector in Northern Ireland, initially with AIM listed BCO Technologies plc which was acquired by Boston based Analog Devices Inc.

Michael is currently Finance Director of Belfast headquartered software company Aepona Holdings Limited and its subsidiary companies. Michael is also Finance Director of Ammeon Limited (Rol) and Ammeon UK Limited. He also holds Non Executive Directorships in Bluechip Technologies Limited – (Chairman), Titan IC Limited – (Chairman), Consilium Technologies Holdings Limited - (Chairman), BiznetIIS Limited (Non executive director).

Voluntary positions held include Craigavon Industrial Development Organisation, chairman and Ulster Society of Chartered Accountants – member of main Society Committee for three years – 07/08 08/09 Treasurer of Society – 09/10 Secretary – 10/11 Vice Chairman - 11/12 Chairman

Outside Work Michael is Treasurer of Lurgan Coarse Angling Club and has represented Ireland in World/European Coarse Angling six times.