

HM Homegrown 2022:

Shining a light on the strength of our leading SMEs

In the first of the Homegrown series with **Harbinson Mulholland**, we look at Re-Gen Waste, a dynamic family-owned recycling and waste management business

The HM Homegrown Top 50 campaign showcases the leading employers within our SME sector which were founded and remain headquartered in Northern Ireland.

The innovative accountancy firm introduced the campaign to recognise those businesses which they work with every day, as senior partner Darren McDowell explains.

"Through a difficult period in world history, the 'just getting on with it' attitude of our SMEs never ceases to amaze me and it's something we see time and time again.



"At Harbinson Mulholland, we felt it was important to recognise this and shine a light on those largest employers who in our Top 50 alone, employ more 10,000 people across NI."

Re-Gen Group topped this year's campaign, currently employing 300 people at their base in Newry. Set up by three siblings after kitchen table conversations, Joseph, Aidan and Colin Doherty took experience from working in their father's construction business and have developed one of Europe's most advanced materials recovery facilities.

The company has ambitious growth plans having recently introduced a new robotics division and, alongside the recycling arm, are driving forward through innovation. In an episode of the *Ulster Business* podcast focusing on SMEs, Joseph spoke about the challenges businesses now face and Re-Gen's attitude to resilience.

"Problems to us are opportunities to look closely at the business, try and make it healthier

“We can't just stop because of increased costs and all the external issues we are facing as a business because our industry isn't stopping.”
Joseph Doherty,
Re-Gen Group

and more efficient. Extra costs, for example, focus the mind and help people be as sharp as possible," he said.

"The 2008 downturn when international banking was failing, and exporting was difficult – we had to learn more about our business in that time than in the previous five years."

Hard work, entrepreneurship and knowledge have helped the Top 50 businesses grow into respected local and internationally acclaimed organisations which have maintained a commitment to Northern Ireland and its people, many of which fly under the radar and just get on with doing business. Celebrating the strength and innovation across our private sector is something we should all embrace.

The Homegrown Top 50 was developed in partnership with Ulster University's Dr Ian Smyth.

Ulster Business spoke to Joseph Doherty alongside Darren McDowell, Harbinson Mulholland, and Dr Ian Smyth, Ulster University, to discuss the big issues facing our SME sector. ■

You can listen to the episode of The Ulster Business Podcast on Spotify, Apple or SoundCloud.

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