

# Enterprise Week takes British model global

By Jonathan Moules

The first international celebration of enterprise – involving thousands of events and activities across the UK alone – kicks off on Monday.

Enterprise Week, which started life in the UK in 2004 with the backing of business groups, government and a long list of entrepreneurs, goes global this year by taking the British model of locally-organised events to more than 75 countries.

Activities in the UK include Women's Enterprise Day, Social Enterprise Day and the Make Your Mark Challenge, the UK's largest live enterprise competition aimed at schools and colleges.

Sir Alan Sugar, who is among those backing the week, said: "A thriving can-do enterprise culture is part of what makes Britain a great place to do business. It's fantastic to see the UK leading the way in tak-

ing the excitement and success of Enterprise Week global."

Harry Rich, chief executive of Make Your Mark, said: "In uncertain times one thing remains certain – people and ideas are the most valuable resource for the future."

Supporters of events in other countries include, in the US, Arnold Schwarzenegger, governor of California, and Michael Dell, founder of Dell, in Brazil.

John Cleese and Steve Wozniak of Apple will be speaking at the Creativity World Forum in Belgium.

A global speed networking event will be held on Tuesday at locations in central London, as well as in Warsaw and on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

Brent Hoberman, the co-founder of Lastminute.com, who is now on his second venture Mydeco, will join a panel event at the British Library's Business & IP Centre on Wednesday, called

Small Business, Global Ambitions. And Michelle Mone, founder of the Ultimo lingerie start-up, will address a female enterprise event at South Tyneside Means Business.

Barnado's is even launching a charity competition to see how value can be created from a single green paperclip, by undertaking a series of swaps or trades for other items or services.

More than 1,000 business owners are expected to congregate at Central Hall in Westminster for the Entrepreneurs in London event on Thursday, aimed at supporting companies with 10 or more staff.

Former England rugby player Lawrence Dallaglio will be speaking about leadership and motivation and Zac Goldsmith will share some of his experiences in social entrepreneurship.

The full list of the events can be found online at [www.enterpriseweek.org.uk](http://www.enterpriseweek.org.uk).

