

DAVID AHERN

Profile

A motivated and experienced senior executive, with excellent management and planning skills. A lucid communicator with the ability to impart vision, ideas and enthusiasm at all levels. Commercially astute and logical thinker with a focus on problem-solving and delivering business critical solutions to deadlines and within budget. Experienced in client-facing situations where diplomacy, negotiating techniques and highly developed inter-personal skills are required. A rigorous planner with keen attention to detail. A supportive manager who leads through example, fostering high morale and optimising individual potential. A trustee of a UK charity to help disadvantaged young people in London's inner city communities. David has passion to make a difference in the lives of people, particularly the young, who have been socially, emotionally or economically disadvantaged.

Key Skills

Strategic Management:

- Conceptual thinking in the development and delivery of business innovation
- Planning and implementation of "change management" programmes in complex organizations
- Writing and delivery of business plans and reports
- Leading through example

Communication:

- Writing and presentation policy papers – up to ministerial level
- Working effectively and with influence in multinational / ethnic organizations
- Ability to bring about change in change "reluctant" organizations
- Ability to lead and motivate teams and individuals in challenging situations
- Experienced contract negotiator

Administration:

- An experienced company secretary
- Development and implementation of ISO 9000 QA systems and procedures

Finance:

- Experienced in reading and interpreting company accounts and financial data
- Managing financial processes including financial planning, budget monitoring, cash flow forecasting and cost control systems

Information Technology:

- Proficient in the use of MS Office including Word, Excel, PowerPoint. Daily user of e-mail and the internet.

Experience & Achievements

2006-2007

Minetech International

Afghanistan

Country Director

Responsible for the planning & execution of humanitarian mine clearance programmes to return commercial and agricultural land to the developing communities of Afghanistan

- Management of multiple de-mining programmes throughout Afghanistan – 250 staff
- Planning and delivering "Mine Risk Education" programmes to mine affected communities.
- Planning and delivery of "capacity building" programmes to train locals in key skills to rebuild communities and stimulate economic growth
- Planning and execution of joint humanitarian ops with NGOs and international charities
- Advisor to the US Embassy - Kabul.
- Successful negotiation of multiple contracts with US government and NGOs

2004 - 2006

CJ's Mediaworkz - charity

Hackney, London

Managing Director

Working with disadvantaged young people in London's deprived and failing communities. Reporting to the Board of Trustees, responsible for the development of policy, strategic direction of the charity

and leadership of employees and volunteers:

- Development and implementation of unique “Urban Youth Development” strategy
- Development and launch of Urban Youth Mentoring Programme
- Writing of “Articles of Association” and “Memorandum of Understanding” for submission to the Charities Commission
- Working with major charitable trusts (Sainsbury’s , Mercers’ etc) to alleviate suffering
- Member of the “Centre for Social Justice” developing strategy to relieve social exclusion and deprivation within the UK.

1994–2004

Burnham International

Bermondsey, London

Marketing and Sales Director

Director and owner of a distribution management company. Responsible for developing growth strategies and implementation of business winning plans:

- In 1994 restructured the company – including introduction of ISO 9002 QA system
- Company Secretary between 1995 – 1998
- Increased sales twelve fold in seven years
- Customers won included 60% of FTSE 100 companies
- Negotiated sale of company to Barclays Bank Venture Capital in 2000
- Qualified ISO 9002 QA auditor

Military career to 1994 British Army

Worldwide

Army Officer

1991 – 1993: Commander of a tank regiment in Germany. Responsible for the operational readiness, training and welfare of 600 combat troops.

- Developed and ran “change management” programme, presented by the MoD to the Army as a model for the amalgamation of British Army regiments.
- Planned and executed an eight month overseas operational tour for 400 troops.

1988 – 1991: Senior executive officer in Berlin responsible for the operational structure and deployment of ten thousand troops during the collapse of the “Berlin Wall”

- Planning and implementation of troop deployment during a period of heightened international tension with the Soviet Union
- Planning and conduct of international conventional arms inspection programmes
- Writing and presentation of UK ministerial papers
- Executive secretary to The Ambassador’s Planning Committee
- Planning and conduct of visits by senior foreign political representatives

Prior to 1988: Served in Northern Ireland, Germany, Canada, Zimbabwe and the UK holding a variety of operational and executive appointments. In 1981 led 14 man climbing expedition to the Himalayas.

Education

- Ampleforth College – 3 “A”
- RMA Sandhurst – top cadet entering the RAC – winner of Armourers & Braziers Prize
- Cranfield University – MBA – 1993

Interests

Sports: Hill walking, cycling & tennis. Hobbies: Carpentry, reading.

Personal Details

British citizen, married with three children aged 24, 18 and 14.