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Bencom B.V.



Crown Prince Willem Alexander with Ben Woldring, November 2001

Biography:

Bencom B.V. is the Internet company set up by 17-year-old Ben Woldring from Usquert, near Groningen. He is the owner/commercial director of an online independent telecom consultancy and the youngest successful Internet entrepreneur in the Netherlands. At the age of 13, Ben created a website which aimed at cutting through the jungle of telecom rates, providing clarity with the emphasis on objectivity.

After appearing on the television programme 'Kassa' broadcast by the Dutch broadcasting company, the VARA, and the subsequent media attention, Ben founded Bencom in November 1998 with the following Internet sites: Bellen.com, Internetten.nl, Belwijzer.nl and Vakantie-bellen.com. In 1999 Ben was awarded the Vosko Trophy in the category "New Net Service". Bencom has since expanded to become a very profitable company. In the middle of 2000 a private company with limited liability was set up, with Ben as owner/commercial director. When he is not involved in his business activities, Ben still goes to school, and is in the fifth year of the Pre-University (VWO) Course at Hogeland College in Warffum.

In November 2000 he was nominated for the ICT theme award of the National Millennium Competition.

Having worked on various radio and television programmes and given a speech in the Lower House, he is now a popular guest speaker at congresses, universities and summits both at home and abroad (Monaco, Estonia).

At the end of November 2000 he presented his autobiography "Ik Ben Internetondernemer" (Me Ben, the Internet Entrepreneur), published by Gopher Publishers.

In 2001 Ben's Internet company was included in the company career book: "Werk: 100 Nederlandse carrières" (Work: 100 careers in the Netherlands) and in "Bedrijven Spiegel 2002" (Business Mirror 2002) as an example for entrepreneurs of the future. Bencom is also included on the CD-Rom of the best 100 Dutch Internet Sites and on the CD-Rom "Compas Studeren 2001/2002" (Compass for students 2001/2002), in the module Project&-Profession, section "Internet & Mobile Services", aimed at HAVO and VWO final year students. In February 2002, as a promising young entrepreneur, Ben was offered a year's Mentorship by Flevo Forum Netwerk together with PricewaterhouseCoopers as part of the Entrepreneur's prize 2001 offered by 'Ondernemend Nederland' Business Magazine.



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Bencom B.V.



From left to right:

1. Steven Ballmer CEO Microsoft, June 2000
2. Jan Timmer, former Philips CEO, October 2001
3. Peter Legro, Transavia President and CEO, March 2001
4. With Jos Verstappen at the Formula 1 races, 2001

Bencom currently employs 3 people including his mother, who acts as managing director, given Ben's age. More information about Ben's activities can be found on www.bencom.nl

Educational background:

currently 5 Athenaeum (Pre-University Education)

Date of birth:

06-02-1985

Successes:

On the 4 Internet sites, Bellen.com, Internetten.nl, Belwijzer.nl and Vakantiebellen.com, companies, institutions and consumers can compare the rates and specifications of Internet and telephony service providers free of charge and register for them on-line. Moreover they provide a wealth of up-to-date information about Internet and telephony in general.

Why successful?

Since the process of liberalisation which has taken place in the telecom sector, there has been great uncertainty about rates, subscriptions and all the many variations on offer. Ben had and has the ability to explain the complicated

material, such as the working/use of carrier-select companies, simply and succinctly. With the great breakthrough of the mobile phone on the telephony market, Ben was also attracted by the challenge of helping callers find the cheapest subscription in the world of telecom. This was and still is a huge, misty market with all its various forms of subscriptions and pre-paid options.

There were no clear comparisons in the field of Internet providers either, and many people found it difficult to make the right choice of a good, fast and cheap Internet connection. The Internetten.nl site compares the options available and meets a definite need in the market. Finally the new site, Vakantiebellen.com, has been an immediate success, helping holiday-makers abroad to avoid unnecessarily high telephone bills.

Expert in

Providing others with up-to-date information, simply, clearly, cheaply and fast, while making optimal use of the opportunities available on the Internet.

Via the site www.bellen.com it is possible to make a fast, simple and reliable entry for various carriers.

Via the site www.internetten.nl it is possible to make a fast, simple and reliable entry for various Internet services.

www.bellen.com



www.internetten.nl



www.belwijzer.nl



www.vakantiebellen.com