

## PERA 2017

### GLOBAL BUSINESS FINALIST

#### Foxolution



**Kerry Motherwell**

Kerry Motherwell's life was intertwined with oxygen solutions almost since birth, and throughout his youth and working career it played a big role in his life and those around him. In 2003 he graduated from Business School with an Executive MBA, having obtained a first for his dissertation from the University of Hull in the UK.

In 2003 First Oxygen Solution (Foxolution) was formed. He started the company in a small study at the back of his house in Kommetjie, with no money or access to money other than from his credit cards or access bond.

Nonetheless, through hard work (building systems in his garage in the evenings after having worked the entire day), he was able to open a small office in Tokai and employ a Chemical Engineering student that had to re-write some of his final year subjects. His son Craig joined them then, having spent a "gap year" in the UK.

They managed, but working out of a garage wasn't the best. They then rented a small workshop in Sunnydale – Unit 1. Unit 2 followed soon after and then they purchased the land and the buildings. They have grown steadily over the years, developing new products and designing small, containerized hospital systems for Africa – specialising in onsite oxygen and nitrogen generators. They now have a number of these systems installed across Africa and apart from the head office in Cape Town, also have offices in Johannesburg and Ghana. The one installation that really encourages Kerry is the plant in Rwanda, where he was able to visit the maternity ward and see triplets, pre-mature, struggling for life, yet surviving, breathing the oxygen from his plant. In fact, words can't describe the feeling. It's amazing.

If Foxolution can continue to make a difference and save lives, then in Kerry's mind, they have embraced their life's calling.

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