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DANIEL MOYLAN

Overland Protection Systems



Daniel Moylan grew up in Surrey in England, but he and his family always thought of Ireland — specifically Dungarvan in Co Waterford where his father is from — as home. So, when the Covid-19 pandemic led to him having to close his successful international cycle tours business in Thailand, Daniel and his family decided to move to Waterford to start a new life and a new business.

“We always travelled back and forth to Ireland a lot, and my father had returned to live there after my mother passed away, so it became the family base,” Daniel says.

When the pandemic hit, SpiceRoads Cycling, the company which Daniel ran, suffered millions of dollars worth of cancellations and went from 53 employees to just him in the space of two months.

Daniel immediately set about developing a post-Covid business plan to set up not one but two companies in Ireland. “The idea was to plan in two directions at once for if things got better or for if things stayed the same,” Daniel says.

Plan A was to continue in the bike travel

business, and he and his wife, Nee Lodthon, created a company called We Adventure. Plan B, if Covid was here to stay, was to create a company that would cater for expedition preparation — for if fewer people were travelling, and they had to be better prepared to do so. They called this second company Overland Protection Systems and registered both companies in Ireland in March 2021.

Daniel and Nee had travelled extensively around the world in a Land Rover that he spent two years modifying, so they knew what they were getting into. They ordered a container full of parts, put their own vehicle in another container as a demonstrator and headed for Ireland with their three children in June 2021.

Now living in Lismore, Co Waterford, the couple have found that the lifting of Covid restrictions has made both of their businesses viable. At the time of writing, We Adventure had ten trips sold and ready to go, and Overland Protection Systems was awaiting delivery of three shipments of parts having sold their initial stock.

Daniel admits he was initially apprehensive as to whether his family would be accepted

in Waterford. “I’m connected through family, but my wife is from Thailand and our children are mixed culture. They have been accepted more warmly here than anywhere I could imagine. That was a massive weight off my mind,” he says.

He says the process of getting established in Ireland in terms of things like visas, PPS numbers and setting up the business was fair and easy. “There was good support. The pace of things is more relaxed here, but people are very switched on,” he says.

Daniel says the Back for Business programme gave him the strength to believe in his business and also gave him a network. “The programme cycle was structured in such a way that it appeared to give you the exact advice that you needed at the exact time that you needed it,” he says.

Daniel’s immediate plan is to secure a premises for offices and storage and gradually scale the two companies. “We wanted enjoyable jobs that speak to the things that we like doing. We can see the way forward with both businesses and that is a nice thing,” he says.



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CONTACT US

26A Parnell Street,
Dungarvan, X35 FH27

T: +353 89 425 7040

E: daniel@opsoffroad.com

W: www.overlandprotectionsystems.com