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## **FIRST EVENT'S NEW OWNER SAYS THE FUTURE'S BRIGHT**

**Richard Murphy is optimistic about the future following his buy-out of co-owner Andy Orrah**

First Event is about to enter a 'new and exciting chapter' according to the agency's new sole owner Richard Murphy.

Murphy has taken over the West Yorkshire-based company, following a buy-out of business partner Andy Orrah. He hopes recent structural changes, including the recent employment of Nisha Virani, ex JTB, as business development manager, will boost business.

"Nisha has only been with us for three months and has already secured two large accounts as well as putting in place a very successful and fully subscribed Istanbul buyer trip in conjunction with the new Four Seasons Hotel," said Murphy.

He added: "First Event has also recently launched its new website, and is already receiving excellent feedback from clients as it provides each event with its own micro site.

"We have also invested heavily in a full programme of staff training including off-site time management courses, ISP motivational diplomas, leadership development courses and teambuilding days."

Looking to the future, Murphy is optimistic about First Event's growth prospects.

"Business is very positive with new projects and contracts on board up to the end of 2010," he said.

However, he attributes much of the company's success to founder Andy Orrah, who will continue to work for First Event as a part-time consultant.

Murphy said: "First Event's current success is a tribute to Andy's hard work and dedication over the years. Andy has worked tirelessly in the industry for over 35 years, he deserves a break from the day to day stresses of the event business and we all wish him well for the future."

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