

Ivan Epstein
President, Sage International
Chairman Sage Foundation



Ivan began his career at Price Waterhouse thereafter leaving the accounting profession to pursue an entrepreneurial opportunity co-founding Softline in 1988. It was the early days of the PC revolution and he identified a need to assist small businesses move from manual, to PC based accounting systems. He led the company's growth from a start-up to a listing on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange in 1997.

In addition to having achieved a leading position early on in South Africa, Softline expanded internationally via an aggressive acquisitive strategy establishing a presence in the US, UK, and Australia.

In September of 2003, Softline delisted in South Africa to join the UK listed FTSE 100, Sage Group PLC. With around 14 000 employees, Sage is considered as the world's largest developer and provider of accounting, business management, payroll and CRM software for small and medium sized companies, serving in excess of 3 million businesses globally.



Ivan now leads Sage's businesses across Africa, Australia, the Middle East, Asia and Brazil a territory which includes some of the fastest-growing markets for businesses in the world.

He is one of three regional Presidents at Sage Group PLC and serves on the Sage Executive Committee (EXCO) which is responsible for the strategic direction and continued growth of the Sage Group internationally.

In addition, Ivan serves as the Chairman of the Sage Foundation, which provides support to non-profit organisations and communities around the world by sharing Sage resources with them. The Foundation's 2+2+2 community model involves donating 2% of employee time each year, 2% of free cash flow and 2 of Sage's smart technology products for any charity, social enterprise or non-profit organisation.

Ivan has been involved in guiding a number of philanthropic organisations throughout his career. More notably Ivan was seconded by and enjoyed a close personal and working relationship with Nelson Mandela contributing to and assisting with his charitable initiatives post his presidency, something Ivan holds dear to his heart. This relationship further inspired Ivan, and it's with this passion he continues to inspire and guide the work and rollout of the Sage Foundation.

Ivan was awarded the Ernst and Young (EY) "South Africa's Best Entrepreneur" in 1999/2000, and appointed to the panel of judges where he now serves as Chairperson. He has selected many of South Africa's entrepreneurs including a global winner.

For his contribution to the growth and development of the IT industry, Ivan was awarded SA's "IT Personality of the Year" in 2009.

Ivan's enthusiasm for entrepreneurship has led Ivan to continually inspire and mentor others, delivering talks at numerous institutions and events including an annual delivery at Columbia Business School.