New Scots Dragon predicts net gains

THERE is a new Scottish Dragon in the Den – and Duncan Bannatyne had better look out.

Scots businessman Shaf Rasul, said to be worth up to £100million, is one of the stars of a new online version of hit business show Dragons' Den.

The entrepreneur and investor from Alloa, Clackmannanshire, reckons it will be even bigger than the BBC Two equivalent because of the internet's appeal.

Shaf, 38, who has already started filming, said: "It's going to be phenomenal.

"It's just like a TV show and has been shot to TV quality, but will be broadcast online and has added benefits in that viewers can take part and give opinions on the pitches.

"This will be more popular than the TV Dragons' Den. There are viral videos online because we have the best of both worlds – being on the net and potentially on TV as well."

Dragons' Den online goes live on March 30 and will feature Shaf and London-based

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that have been seen 300 million times. Do you think telly's Dragons' Den will be viewed that much? I don't.

"People can also share content and send links to mates. It's going to be bigger internet entrepreneur Julie
Meyer as the business gurus
who decide whether to invest
in contestants' ideas. Radio 1
newsreader Dominic Byrne
will present the action.

Shaf is best known for

computer technology firm
E-Net which he started 10
years ago. He now owns 19
companies, has a wide array
of investments and initially
rejected the job of Dragon.

He said: "I was asked to do
the TV version two years ago
but was too busy. When they
came with the new idea, the
digital content swung it for me."

The businessman, who is married with two kids, hopes to set himself apart from fellow Scottish Dragon Bannatyne.

He said: "I don't think we'll be competing. Our show has a younger demographic and different format, so we'll be looking at different types of investments."