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The Telegraph

Float beckons for trading site RatedPeople.com

Move follows a flurry of technology-backed businesses including AO.com, Just-Eat and Zoopla signalling interest in listings



RatedPeople.com matches homeowners with tradesmen



By **Ashley Armstrong**
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RatedPeople.com, the website that matches homeowners with local tradesmen, will join the stream of companies debuting on London's junior Aim market this year.

The move follows a flurry of technology-backed businesses including AO.com, Just-Eat and Zoopla signalling their intention to float in recent weeks.

RatedPeople.com closed a £6.5m investment round last week ahead of ramping up plans for an initial public offering (IPO).

Former FTSE 100 Petrofac finance officer Keith Roberts has joined the company as its senior non-executive director. Since 2005, RatedPeople.com has grown to have £12m in revenues and more than 25,000 tradesmen on its books, with over 380,000 ratings from consumers.

"As rival platforms Yell and Thomson decline and as tradesmen increasingly do business from their smartphones, we are taking market share," said Chris Havemann, chief executive, confirming the float.

The company was conceived by Andrew Skipwith after builders walked out halfway through his own home renovation project.

Mr Havemann, who has a 5pc stake, said the company intends to raise £5m to £10m of primary capital as part of the flotation process.