



Emerging capital offer

GEOFF EASDOWN

VIETNAM'S fast-changing economy is tempting bait to a young businessman with a rags-to-riches story as a refugee child who grew up to become a high-profile, entrepreneurial investor.

Lawrence Nguyen, 33, who owns and operates a chain of 10 pharmacies, is seeking to raise \$12.5 million via the soon-to-list com-

pany, Vietnam Emerging Capital.

His plan, which has drawn interest from the Myer and Lieberman families as well as European and Hong Kong-based investment funds, involves acquiring stakes in state-owned corporations as they are put on the auction block in his former homeland.

Up to 50 separate businesses have been listed for sale over the next two years by the Vietnamese

government.

"I have been going back to Vietnam since the doors opened in 1989 and have seen the opportunities that will become available," Mr Nguyen said.

The \$12.5 million offer is sponsored by Sydney-based Cameron Stockbroking and closes on February 18.



STRONG LURE: Lawrence Nguyen aims to raise \$12.5 million.