



## Home-grown companies secure lucrative Silicon Valley deals

by Niamh Hennessy

**MULTI-MILLION-EURO** deals have been attained by Cork and Limerick firms in California's Silicon Valley.

Powervation, established three years ago and based in Limerick, also announced that it is setting up an office in Palo Alto, California, as part of a €7 million expansion package.

The company, based at the National Technology Park, said it will use the US office to market its digital energy controllers to major technology firms in the valley.

Another three-year-old Limerick firm, Mfg Vision of Crecora, also secured a deal with California-based Vitesse Semiconductor.

Mfg Vision has developed technology that allows executives monitor the manufacture

of high-tech goods in plants on the other side of the world.

It has seen its products used in the production of goods such as iPods and mobile phones.

The deals were secured as part of a Government trade mission, which took place in California last week and was led by the Enterprise, Trade and Employment Minister Micheál Martin.

"Both Limerick companies have quickly become world leaders in their own highly specialised fields. Their rapid growth with the support of Enterprise Ireland has been outstanding by any standards," said Mr Martin.

Meanwhile, Cork firms which are specialists in their fields and employ 75 people, secured deals worth €2m a

year.

Cork-based SensL signed two deals which will see its low-light technology being used in California.

The company is based on the Blackrock Road and employs 12 people.

Other Cork firms that secured contracts include Ballingeary-based technical document firm Bard and yougetitback.com, a company that has developed technology

to trace lost mobile phones.

"The business links between Ireland and both Texas and California are very much two way. We have seen, with the support of the IDA, those firms at the forefront of the internet revolution, including Google, Yahoo, Apple, Intel and eBay, establish key bases in Ireland," added Mr Martin.