



# Contracts for Irish firms in California

By **BRIAN WINDERS**

*Business Reporter*

**CORK technology firms on a trade mission to Silicon Valley in California have won contracts worth €29 million.**

Among those who have won a US\$200,000 contract are SensL, which manufactures technology to detect low light, who have agreed a deal with Jefferson Labs.

SensL is based at Riverview Business Park in Blackrock.

"We are extremely pleased and proud that Jefferson Lab has decided to evaluate our proprietary Silicon Photomultipliers for possible use in the calorimeter component of the GlueX detector," said Dr Carl Jackson of SensL.

Silicon Photomultipliers are used in complex physics experiments.

Another Cork company, Yougetitback.com, on Monahan Road, whose customers include O<sub>2</sub>, Vodafone and Tesco, also benefited from the trip. The company formed a relationship with Arizona State University to take responsibility for tagging and tracking the mobile devices of its 65,000 students and staff.

The bumper order book was announced by the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Micheál Martin, who is leading the Enterprise Ireland trade mission to America.

Minister Martin said Irish companies were now investing more in the US than ever before.

"In fact, in the last decade, such investment has increased tenfold, making Ireland the tenth largest in-

vestor in the US market.

"In the last 12 months, Irish companies have opened 47 offices in the US and now employ more than 80,000 people."

Minister Martin added: "Investment relations between the US and Ireland have entered a new era that is marked by a dynamic two-way investment flow."

Tom Cusack, director of Enterprise Ireland's American projects, said because of the downturn in the US economy, it was now more critical than ever that Irish firms remained committed to their US operations.

Ten companies have spent the last three days in Texas and California promoting links between the two countries and Ireland's research and development sector.