

# Welcome for Kelvin telecoms completion



Derek Bullock, vice president of Network Operations, and Bjarni Thorvardarson, CEO of Hibernia Atlantic, on West Strand Beach, Portrush, on the weekend when the first fibre optic cable landed directly connecting Northern Ireland to North America

PICTURE: Kelvin Boyes/Pr

NORTHERN Ireland's business community now has access to the same standard of international telecoms as cities all over the world, Enterprise Minister Arlene Foster said yesterday.

Mrs Foster's comments came as she welcomed the formal completion of Project Kelvin, the transatlantic direct telecommunications link to North America.

Co-financed under the EU's INTERREG IVA programme 2007-2013, the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI), in conjunction with the Department of Communications, Energy and

Natural Resources (DCENR) in the Republic, awarded the €30 million contract to Hibernia Atlantic in December 2008.

"The completion of the Project Kelvin network means Northern Ireland has a fast, low-cost and resilient telecommunications link to North America, with improved connectivity in Europe," she said.

"Northern Ireland businesses now have access to the same international telecoms services found in major cities like Amsterdam and New York.

"In the current economic climate, we must give every possible advantage to Northern

Ireland companies to enable them to compete in the global export market.

"This international telecommunication capacity provides increased opportunities to sell goods and services overseas."

Project Kelvin involved connecting a submarine cable to the Hibernia North Transatlantic cable located 22 miles off the north coast.

The cable was brought ashore at Portrush in June 2009. Work continued on the building and testing of the terrestrial infrastructure through to late summer 2010.

"The Programme Government recognises importance of telecoms to development of our economy," said the minister.

"We have invested, not only in Project Kelvin, but in significant areas such as Next Generation Broadband Project and the Northern Ireland Broadband Fund, to create world-class telecommunications infrastructure.

"I would encourage Northern Ireland companies to explore business opportunities offered by our core telecoms infrastructure to the benefit of the local economy."

## Doors open to business in Enterprise Week

BY RICHARD SHERRIFF  
Business Correspondent  
rsherriff@newsletter.co.uk

Enterprise Week earlier this year, during which we opened some branches to local businesses, we now want to go further and use

The bank is also holding two major seminars in Belfast and Londonderry around the themes of motivation and business recovery.

and business advisors in Northern Ireland indicates that progress and more innovative business that have adapted to ch