

Great moves Ciaran Brennan

Irish companies are using new remote technologies to help us work harder and have more fun playing, too

DONSEED: Real-time management

Last month, Tralee-based company Donseed Ltd announced that it was going to invest €1.2m to accelerate its international growth. Donseed provides web-based workplace management solutions to the construction, retail and energy sectors, and the company's Workplace Management Services (WMS) monitors the signing in and out of all people entering and leaving construction sites and other, non-construction locations, including employees, subcontractors, project managers and visitors.

Data is captured using biometric devices such as finger recognition and is transmitted securely, in real time, over the internet or over mobile or fixed-line network connections, and the data is integrated with payroll, HR and other operational systems.

"Our customers use Donseed to efficiently manage subcontractors across multiple sites," explains Donseed chief executive Philip Lynch.

"All other finger biometric solutions require broadband or telephone lines, but ours uses the mobile network to send information to and from the clock. This means it can be set up quickly and at short notice.

"When we looked at construction, our research showed that a lot of companies won't have a phone line on site, and getting broadband on site can be troublesome. We have come up with a solution where they wouldn't require either. We have a data card in our box and every five minutes it sends a packet of its data to the Donseed server. If I clock in at 8 o'clock in the morning, my boss will be able to see that I am on site five minutes later."

But the company is about more than just time sheets and attendance, according to Lynch. It also allows users to share project-specific information such as drawings or health-and-safety minutes across the contract team in a secure environment, using its document management module.

The company is working with construction companies in over 100 sites across Ireland and Britain. The €1.2m investment, with support from Enterprise Ireland and the AIB Seed Capital Fund, will enhance the company's in-house R&D and sales functions and create 26 jobs over the next two years.