

Partners sought in brain device project

Tom Lyons

A TEAM of Dublin-based research scientists is seeking business partners to bring to market an innovative brain-computer interface that could have major commercial applications in the bio-medical field.

The device, called Cerebus, has applications as a diagnostic and management tool in the fields of brain damage, mental retardation, foetal monitoring, sleep disorders, degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's, and a host of other areas.

Technology hot-house MediaLab Europe secured late last week a first patent for the device in the United States.

Reseachers behind the project who have been working on it over the last 18 months claim it is signifi-

cantly ahead of existing competitors in the field overall in terms of mobility, flexibility and performance.

Cerebus is a wearable wireless headset capable of both monitoring and assessing changes in brain activity depending on its configuration.

One of Cerebus's inventors, Scott Eaton, said yesterday: "We have patented our ideas in the US but to bring Cerebus to market we will need to find commercial partners."

Gary McDarby, who headed the team of researchers behind the project, added that MediaLab would be embarking on a major drive over the next 12 months to secure commercial partners. The wireless nature of the new device, he said, made it an attractive offering to potential investors.