



Push for telehouse site at former Army base

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PLANNING permission is to be submitted next week to allow the Project Kelvin telehouse to be sited in Fort George in Londonderry.

American company **Hibernia Atlantic** yesterday confirmed the former Army barracks in Derry as its preferred location.

Derek Bullock, vice president of Network Operations Hibernia Atlantic, said: "Hibernia Atlantic is delighted to be bringing the telehouse to Derry. We recognise that Fort George is one of the key locations within the city's regeneration

plan as it looks to future growth and prosperity."

The transatlantic underwater cable, which came ashore at Portrush last month, will interconnect with Northern Ireland's existing telecommunications infrastructure through the Fort George telehouse. Fort George, a 14-acre site, is owned by the Department of Social Development.

Social Development Minister Margaret Ritchie said: "The construction of the Project Kelvin telehouse will represent the first physical development on Fort George and I hope it will be followed by many more major developments as we continue to

advance our vision of making this site an economic driver that delivers jobs and prosperity for the people of Derry and the North West."

The telehouse forms part of the €30m joint Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment and Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources direct international connectivity project.

It is part-financed by the European Union's European Regional Development Fund (through the INTERREG IVA Cross-border programme) and managed by the Special EU Programmes Body.

Enterprise Minister Arlene Fos-

ter said: "Hibernia Atlantic now has a very promising location for its Londonderry facility and its position will enhance the attractiveness of the overall Fort George development to both local businesses and potential overseas investment.

"This flagship project is one of a number of actions being taken under the Programme for Government to capitalise on Northern Ireland's world-class telecommunications infrastructure.

"In these challenging economic times it is more important than ever that the private and public sector work together to maximise the benefits of this investment."