



# New phone technology aims to prevent texting while driving

MOTORISTS could soon be barred from texting while driving as a result of new revolutionary technology to be introduced in Europe, *writes Patricia McDonagh.*

The "anti-messaging technology" can shut off a mobile phone's ability to send and receive text messages if a user is found to be going over a special speed limit.

This limit is set by each individual European government and could be set at 32kmh in some countries and above that in other regions.

The device works by using data from the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) to locate a mobile phone.

When it detects it is travelling over the desired limit a screen pops up to ask if that person is driving a vehicle. If they respond 'yes' it prevents them from sending a text message or email.

And if they say 'no' it forces them to input a "validation sequence" - which cannot be done if a person is trying to concentrate on the road

Clear Sky Capital Investments (CSCI) announced they had partnered with the US company Drive Safely Corporation to secure European rights for the Anti-Messaging Technology

This will allow the technology to be used in more than 29 European states including Ireland.

CSCI managing director Ciaran Hynes insisted the goal was to have Ireland become the first country in the world to eliminate texting while driving.

He pointed out that distracted driving accounted for between 25pc and 30pc of

road accidents here each year. Mr Hynes said he hoped to meet with the Department of Transport, the Road Safety Authority and mobile phone operators in the coming weeks to outline how the technology would be able to prevent deaths.

