

Virtual gig helps keep our music fans Intune

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THE Belfast office of an Irish technology firm has been involved in a world first as it helped stage a 'virtual music festival' in Co Kerry.

Intune Networks, which employs 46 people in Belfast, is a partner in the exclusive Other Voices music event in Dingle, which draws to a close tonight.

Artists such as Britpop icon Jarvis Cocker and American indie rockers The National have played live over the last few days in St James', a church in the fishing village which holds just 60 people.

But thanks to innovative technology part conceived and

delivered from Belfast, other music fans enjoyed the event, as it was streamed onto high definition TVs at venues in Dingle.

Six pubs and hotels in the town have been showing the gigs, while others have been watching them through WiFi streaming on their phones and laptops.

Intune, founded in 1999 and opened in Belfast last year, has developed advanced optical networking products including the optical burst switch to give carriers and internet service providers the capacity to meet growing demands for bandwidth.

Jayne Brady, Intune Networks vice president of product line management and general

manager at its Belfast office, said: "We are really excited about using Intune's technology in a world first to make Other Voices Ireland's first true virtual festival.

"The technology was invented and developed in Ireland and it is fitting that a cultural event like Other Voices provides the backdrop for this demonstration.

"This will underpin Ireland's international reputation as a

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Capacity of the church where Jarvis Cocker sang and linked to other venues via the internet

vibrant, dynamic, innovative society that values its living traditional and future technical cultures.

"More of life is shared and accessed on the internet than any other medium and that trend will continue unabated with internet traffic doubling every two years.

"The world will need a next-generation optical burst switch such as Intune Networks that will deliver the quality of personal experience everyone has come to expect.

"Our technology will do this with a low carbon footprint, as it tackles the issue of the internet's power consumption."

The firm is recruiting seven more staff for its Belfast office.

