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## Blue Ocean set to make waves

Slowly but surely, the pieces of the jigsaw are falling into place for the Domhnall Slattery-backed Blue Ocean Wireless. The fledgling company, which aims to provide cost-effective GSM mobile phone calls to crewmen travelling the high seas on container ships, will today announce that Richard Johnson is to be its first chief executive.

Mr Johnson, a Briton, is the director of maritime and aeronautical services at Inmarsat, a global satellite communications provider that has teamed up with Blue Ocean to provide the mobile phone service.

Mr Johnson, who is a master mariner and spent 13 years at sea with Shell Tankers, will shortly move to Dublin to head a team of about 15.

Mr Slattery recently signed a lease to take one floor of the Oval office building in Ballsbridge where most of his other companies are based.



Robert Johnson: to be Blue Ocean Wireless's first chief executive

He is also active on the investment side. The Clare-born businessman is in negotiations with a European corporate bank and a New York-listed GSM operator to take equity stakes in his business. This could raise a much-needed \$25 million for Blue Ocean.

Mr Slattery's Claret Capital owns 51 per cent of Blue Ocean and has put \$20 million equity into the business. Tralee-based Altobridge, which is supplying the software, is also a major shareholder and there are options set aside for Mr Johnson and other managers.

All the company needs now is customers. That's in hand, too. Mr Johnson is expected to sign up its first customer in the next couple of weeks and negotiations with others are advancing.