



# Cubic Telecom settles spy case with former IT chief

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Napier agreed a 'mutual withdrawal of all allegations' with Patrick Trane, Cubic Telecom's former chief technology officer

BYRAN MEADE



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Cubic Telecom has settled a fractious High Court dispute with its former chief technology officer, days before a scheduled jobs announcement with Enda Kenny, the taoiseach.

The press event on Thursday will be made with Audi, which is using Cubic's technology in its cars.

On Friday, Cubic Telecom, whose chief executive is Barry Napier, told the High Court it has agreed a "mutual withdrawal of all allegations" with its former chief technology officer Patrick Trane, who had been accused of stealing trade secrets.

Trane resigned from Cubic after the company launched the court action last December, seeking injunctions to prevent him from passing on its intellectual property. He countersued the company for alleged breach of privacy after he discovered Napier had ordered the company to spy on his laptop using StaffCop, a Russian spyware package, for about six months.

Trane has gone on to work for Sierra Wireless, a company that has invested in Cubic Telecom but is considered a rival. Cubic's financial accounts to the end of 2014 show it had accumulated losses of €15.26m. Its auditors said this indicated a "material uncertainty" about the company's future. It said Cubic received an €18m investment in April 2015, which funded the company in the subsequent period.

Outside the High Court on Friday, Robin Hayes, a solicitor at Whitney Moore, said his client Trane was "very happy with the outcome of the case". Cubic, represented by Arthur Cox, declined to comment.

Napier had accused Trane of conspiring with two other Cubic employees, who resigned last November, to use the company's intellectual property to form a rival business, in a secret group codenamed Fight Club.

Trane denied passing on confidential information from Cubic. He said the level of data captured by StaffCop — more than 50 gigabytes — was "truly astonishing".

He believed that personal information, including bank and taxation matters, had been obtained by the spying software.



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