

Light my spire

Vectorial Elevation

O'Connell Street, Dublin

ALTHOUGH THE official Day of Welcomes isn't until May 1, celebrations are already underway to celebrate the historic accession of 10 new member states to the EU. If you noticed a lot of strange lights dramatically altering the Dublin skyline last night, don't worry. It wasn't your beer goggles acting up. Rather, it was the first of 12 nights of the largest installation of interactive art in the world.

Vectorial Elevation, created by the Mexican-Canadian artist Rafael Lozano-Hemmer, is a unique art project set along O'Connell Street. As of last night, anyone who logs onto the website www.dublinelevation.net will be able to design enormous light sculptures in the Dublin sky by using a 3-D virtual model of the city and 22 robotic searchlights placed around

O'Connell Street. As submissions arrive from the internet, every 15 seconds a new pattern will be displayed in the sky.

With 154,000 watts of power, the beams of light will be visible from a distance of 15 kilometres. Participants' names and dedications will be shown on a large screen in the street and on personal web pages that will be made automatically for each design. The website will also present a live broadcast from four video cameras placed around the city centre so that remote viewers can see the current state of the installation. Cool or what? ■

Vectorial Elevation is in operation every night from now until May 3, from dusk to dawn

Sophie Gorman



BEAM ME UP: *Vectorial Elevation* lights up the skyline