



The Place To Be

Media release

From the Minister for Information & Communication
Technology

Wednesday 20 June, 2007

VICTORIA'S WORLD-CLASS SPATIAL INDUSTRY COMES OF AGE

Leading Victorian spatial information companies are joining forces to take the State's competitive edge in this technology to the next level, Information & Communication Technology Minister, Tim Holding, said Monday.

Mr Holding announced the Bracks Government's funding of \$100,000 to formally set up the new Spatial Victoria cluster under the Government's \$1 million *ICT Linkages Program*.

"The companies comprising this new cluster are already working well together, but this funding from the Bracks Government will help them take the step up to the next level," Mr Holding said.

"Formalising *Spatial Victoria* as a cluster will support the growth and competitiveness of the local spatial industry. Working co-operatively in a cluster environment will provide both strength in numbers and credibility in national and international dealings for the Victorian companies involved."

Mr Holding said that a range of Victorian spatial information projects were already having an impact in the field, such as:

- up-to-date topographic mapping for Emergency Services;
- 3D visualisation for municipal development proposals;
- Victorian rail asset data collection and internet access;
- innovative survey techniques used in the construction of the MCG Northern Stand prior to the Commonwealth Games; and
- technology exports to the USA.

"The spatial information industry in Victoria is among the world's best. It already turns over \$410 million annually, and comprises more than 220 local businesses," he said.

"The Bracks Government is keen to unlock the incredible potential of the spatial industry. This is another niche area in which Victoria can develop its ICT capabilities and compete on the world stage.

"The Bracks Government is also pleased to announce \$10,000 sponsorship of the Victorian Spatial Excellence Awards 2007 to be held in Melbourne on 18th September."

Founding Members of the new *Spatial Victoria* cluster are:

AAM Hatch Pty Ltd

CTL Pty Ltd

Fugro Spatial Solutions Pty Ltd

Qasco Victoria Pty Ltd

Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd

Spatial Vision Innovations Pty Ltd

Workforce Solutions Pty Ltd

Geomatic Technologies Pty Ltd

Media contact: Dan Ward, 0407 138680 / (03) 9651 5799 www.vic.gov.au