



FACTSHEET

In 2001, the Victorian Government released *Growing Tomorrow's Industries Today*, a ten-year plan for the information and communication technology (ICT) industry. Because this is such a dynamic industry, the Plan flagged the need to regularly monitor industry developments and be prepared to adapt accordingly.

The *Victorian Government ICT Industry Plan 2005-2010* has responded with new targeted strategies and initiatives for the sector.

With global investment in ICT products and services recently estimated to be around US\$3 trillion and expected to continue growing at eight per cent per year until at least 2007, local ICT capabilities remain vital. The Victorian ICT industry is significant with:

- employment in the ICT sector of more than 70,000
- revenue in excess of \$20 billion
- annual exports valued at around \$1 billion.

Victoria accounts for about one third of the Australia ICT sector and represents more than 40% of the national private sector expenditure on ICT R&D.

Achievements under *Growing Tomorrow's Industries Today*

- Since 2001, the Government has directly facilitated:
 - Creation of more than 5,000 jobs
 - \$700 million of new ICT investment
 - More than \$900 million in exports.
- Major investments have included the establishment of Computershare Global Headquarters and Operations Centre with more than 1,250 jobs, and the NEC Next Generation Broadband Research and Development Centre established. There have also been investments by Hewlett-Packard, SingTel Optus, NEC, IBM, Hitachi, Satyam, Infosys, Bosch, Birlasoft, Foxtel, TCS and Fujitsu (Atos).
- Eight of the top 15 Indian ICT companies are now located in Victoria.
- More than 300 companies involved in trade fairs and missions with expected export sales of more than \$260 million.
- 10 industry networks and clusters established to drive innovation and growth among Victorian companies, including in emerging areas of:
 - Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)
 - Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS)
 - eLearning.
- Helped establish the Victorian Women in ICT Network to develop practical programs designed to attract and retain women in the ICT Industry.
- *Game Plan: Game On*, policy which built on previous Victorian Government initiatives to assist local electronic games developers.

- National ICT Australia Victoria Research Laboratory established with \$8 million in funding provided by the State Government.
- More than 40,000 students informed about ICT careers in 370 secondary schools.
- eServices Panel providing streamlined access for companies to win government business with more than \$30 million transacted and 70 per cent of projects won by Victorian companies.
- ICT training for more than 2,000 Victorian businesses across the State through eCommerce Roadshows and support through a suite of programs under *Victoria's eCommerce Advantage*.
- More than 200 companies participated in collaborative ICT projects under the eCommerce Exhibition Projects Program.

Major new initiatives

The Victorian Government is supporting innovation in the local industry through a series of internationally-focused initiatives across the sector, targeting overseas and emerging markets and concentrating on skills. These include:

- Encouraging greater innovation by amending **whole-of-government ICT policies** on intellectual property. For the first time by an Australian government, these policies establish a default position for ICT contractors to retain ownership of intellectual property they develop under contract with Government.
- Reduce costs to business of working with government, by minimising the need for ICT contractors to bear unlimited liability and maintain insurances excessive to project needs.
- Introducing an **ICT Linkages Program** to encourage collaboration with support of up to \$1 million over three years for the establishment and growth of clusters and networks.
- Helping local ICT companies to gather market intelligence and identify strategic opportunities in high-potential overseas markets through a series of **Emerging Markets Strategies**.
- Doubling support for international networking, exhibiting and exporting by the local ICT industry with more than \$700,000 for a re-vitalised **ICT Trade Events and Export Assistance Program**.
- Assisting Victorian companies to access more opportunities in India by appointing a dedicated ICT investment and business development officer at the new **Victorian Government Business Office in Bangalore**.
- Introducing a \$1.9 million comprehensive **ICT scholarship package** aimed at arming university students with the skills they need to drive Victoria's ICT industry.
- Helping to establish in Victoria world class **motion capture facilities** for the electronic games, advertising, design and other digital industries as well as for a wide variety of educational and skill development, subject to a comprehensive business case.
- Urging greater cooperation between all governments on national issues for the ICT industry including overseas promotion activities and ICT skills.

For further information or a copy of the **Victorian Government ICT Industry Plan 2005-2010**, go to www.mmv.vic.gov.au.