



NZICT media release

Near Future Digital Priorities Paper sets tone for public and private sectors

December 7, 2009

NZICT, the group that represents vendors in the ICT industry, has today released a paper on the near future digital priorities for public and private sectors.

Using its extensive member base and in consultation with other organisations in the sector, NZICT's paper sets the tone for New Zealand's ICT priorities for the next 5 years.

It was presented to Hon Steven Joyce, Minister for Communications and Information Technology, at a special function held in Auckland on Friday, December 4, to mark the 12-month anniversary of the formation of NZICT Group.

"With the government's investment in broadband infrastructure as a backdrop, New Zealand has an opportunity to not only create new business and exporting opportunities, but also improve the lifestyle of New Zealanders", said NZICT CEO Brett O'Riley .

O'Riley went on to say, "the paper discusses how we can move ahead as a digitally capable nation that can compete on a global scale. Key to this debate is education, innovation, productivity, research & science priorities, broadband infrastructure, and international connectivity."

NZICT chair Geoff Lawrie noted that the paper caps off what has been a very worthwhile beginning to the life of NZICT.

"The paper reinforces that we are all about practical outcomes that leverage the capabilities that we have in this sector, to drive better outcomes for this country and for our collective benefit," said Lawrie.

The full paper can be found on the [NZICT website \(http://tinyurl.com/nearfuturedigital\)](http://tinyurl.com/nearfuturedigital)

Ends

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NEAR FUTURE DIGITAL PRIORITIES

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations have been categorised in order of importance to support the paper.

Top 10:

Recommendation: NZICT and the Government should create a digital future master plan by the end of 2010 to realise the potential of the digital economy in the near future (five years) and to demystify broadband issues and opportunities for the public.

Recommendation: The Government introduces an “Annual Statement of ICT Priorities” in order to provide a clear direction to the ICT industry on policy priorities and spend areas, and to stimulate ICT based innovation and productivity.

Recommendation: NZICT will establish a Panel of Industry Experts to provide advice to Government on large-scale ICT projects and priorities.

Recommendation: NZICT will establish a working group with the Government Technology Services group of the Department of Internal Affairs to develop a programme for improving public sector ICT efficiency, including operational and process cost reduction to an agreed plan and targets.

Recommendation: Government establishes the development of broadband enabled services and the understanding of their impact, as a core Research, Science & Technology priority for public and private sector funding in the 2010 budget, to maximise the return on Crown Fibre Holding’s investment in ultra fast broadband infrastructure.

Recommendation: NZICT, in conjunction with TVNZ, will work with Crown Fibre Holdings to develop pilot Fibre to Small Businesses and Homes demand side initiatives with existing operators or Local Fibre Companies to test customer behaviour and appetite for content and services, tentatively called the ‘Streetsmart’ initiative.

Recommendation: NZICT recommends that the Government continues to consider the competitive entry of Kordia and other operators as soon as possible into the international broadband infrastructure market to foster competition and reduce cost structures for New Zealand businesses and ISP customers.

Recommendation: NZICT will work collaboratively with the Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders including the New Zealand Computer Society and New Zealand Association of Communications Digital and Information Technology Teachers (NZACDITT) to assist with the introduction of the new Digital Technology curriculum as identified in the Body of Knowledge.

Recommendation: NZICT will work collaboratively with the Ministry of Education, the New Zealand Computer Society, NZACDITT and IPENZ to assist in Professional Development required by the introduction of the new Digital Technology curriculum.

Recommendation: NZICT will explore the potential for NZ to become an educational centre of excellence for the development of broadband enabled learning and the potential of export this in the form of distance)education, in conjunction with the MoE, NZACDITT and MED.

Next Priorities:

Recommendation: NZICT will work with MED, Department of Labour, Tertiary Education Commission, Ministry of Education, IPENZ and other stakeholders on initiatives arising from the annual Skills Survey, to create better career pathways into the ICT and other technology sectors for students, retraining adults and immigrants.

Recommendation: NZICT supports the expansion of the Computer Clubhouse and Computers in Homes programmes to increase ICT literacy by seeking public and private sector funding and (in kind) sponsorship.

Recommendation: The Square Kilometre Array project is prioritised as a key government science, research and technology initiative given its potential to step change technology development in New Zealand.

Recommendation: Government should support the ANZAC bid and develop a winning strategy, including a direct investment and/or the establishment of a relationship with the International Centre of Radio Astronomy research based in Perth, Western Australia.

Recommendation: The Government should develop a streamlined R&D credit process for companies doing legitimate firm-led R&D, including:
the accreditation of companies once; and
defining a set amount of R&D spending that can be claimed as a R&D tax credit.

Recommendation: The Government considers Research and Development tax incentives in the 2010 Budget to encourage technology suppliers to be able to use New Zealand as a test bed as part of the ultra fast broadband infrastructure development.

Recommendation: NZICT proposes working with the MED, Crown Fibre Holdings and the Telecommunications Carriers' Forum to define minimum standards for a defined wholesale bitstream service by June 2010.

Recommendation: Government embraces the opportunities for video centric collaboration as a mechanism to drive productivity in the public sector, reduce travel and carbon emissions, and connect New Zealand more effectively with international markets.

Recommendation: The Government should capitalise on video centric collaboration by implementing new travel policies designed to encourage Members of Parliament and public sector employees to utilise broadband for interaction and meetings, thereby reducing travel costs.

Recommendation: NZICT recommends the implementation of smart energy grids, smart roads, water metering and other industry based telemetry application as part of the Local Fibre Company broadband infrastructure deployment.

Recommendation: The Government expands its RS&T priorities to include developing a national remote monitoring network based on KAREN and other infrastructure to stimulate the development of network based analysis and data processing.

Recommendation: MORST establishes a centre of excellence in 2010 for environmental monitoring, analysis, disaster early warning and decision support, including a consortium between industry, research and governmental bodies.

Recommendation: MORST provides direct investment into developing projects to address identified environmental problem areas in the areas of environmental monitoring, analysis and decision support.

Recommendation: The Government supports the Geospatial industry in its objective of improving national productivity by the establishment of a joint Public-Private working group to formulate geospatial policies and action agendas.

Recommendation: The Government extends the existing parcel of screen production incentives to include digital content in a wider sense by Budget 2010 in order to stimulate the game development and other digital content industries.

Recommendation: The Government provides matching loans or grants to complement international investment in New Zealand research and development.

Recommendation: NZICT Group will work with the Ministry of Economic Development, Telecommunications Industry Group and Business New Zealand to better understand

how small businesses are using ICT, with a focus on opportunities to improve productivity.

Recommendation: NZICT and Government jointly embrace the guiding parameters of the World Information Technology & Services Alliance, entitled the “Bermuda Declaration”. Together we seek a step change in New Zealand’s performance and on a bi-partisan basis. We invite other political parties and organisations to contribute to the vision of New Zealand as a leading ICT enabled economy.

Recommendation: NZICT, supported by MED will monitor the success of the digital economy initiatives by developing an econometric model in 2009-2010, in partnership with the International Institute for Software Economics Innovation and Entrepreneurship, IDC, other research partners and industry stakeholders.