

ICT Excellence

Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

Snapshot of Victoria's ICT Industry

- Employs 60,000 people — one-third of Australia's ICT workforce
- A\$18.3 billion annual turnover
- Exports over A\$650 million annually
- Over A\$230 million annual spend on ICT R&D
- Over 56 per cent of Victorian homes and businesses connected to the Internet.

Victoria, a State in the south east of Australia, continues to win major investments across a range of sectors including manufacturing, biotechnology and information and communications technology (ICT).

Victoria's highly skilled workforce and outstanding research and development base have attracted some of the world's largest ICT companies, and have helped to spawn a vibrant local industry.

Victoria provides:

- Access to a highly skilled, multicultural workforce
- State-of-the-art telecommunications and transport infrastructure
- An economy larger than those of Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines
- World-class universities
- AAA credit rating from Standard and Poors.

Victoria has developed clusters of excellence in telecommunications, creative content, interactive applications and specialist ICT manufacturing.

Telecommunications

Victoria's telecommunications industry has a turnover of almost A\$10 billion, employs 20,000 people and has one of the largest R&D clusters in the Asia Pacific (Telstra, NEC, Fujitsu, Siemens, Nortel Networks, Agilent and Bandspeed).

Victoria's telecommunications industry produces software and services for both fixed and wireless networks.

Australia's largest public sector spender on ICT R&D — Telstra Research Laboratories — is headquartered in Melbourne, while the State accounts for 36 per cent of Australia's private sector ICT R&D.

Creative Content

More than 3,000 people are employed in the creative content industries in Victoria.

Victoria is also home to more than half of Australia's computer game industry and is the Asia Pacific regional HQ to international companies Infogrames, THQ and Acclaim Entertainment. Victoria also has a vibrant local computer game industry, which has created more than 200 games for the global market.

Two of Australia's largest media organisations — ABC and the Seven Network — base their new media activities in Victoria. The development of a A\$110 million Film and Television Precinct at Melbourne Docklands will further cement Victoria's position as a regional hub for creative content and film production.

Interactive Applications

Australia is one of the most e-ready economies in the world with annual revenues generated by the Internet estimated to be A\$28 billion. Victoria's interactive applications industry is well positioned to service rapidly expanding markets.

Forecasts for growth in both the national and global Application Service Provider (ASP) markets over the next two years are exponential. Australia's largest ASP, Victorian-based myinternet Ltd, services Australia's education market and is developing export pilots in New Zealand, the United Kingdom and China.

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Victoria's leading online software companies include:

- The Hiser Group — interface design and interaction architecture.
- Acumentum — multimedia and e-business exporter that develops online applications for business, government and the education sector.

Specialist ICT Manufacturing

Victoria's manufacturing base has provided a large market for information and communications technologies. ICT firms have developed strong links with companies from a range of industry sectors including:

- Automotive and aerospace (Ford, Holden, Toyota, Hawker de Havilland, Gippsland Aeronautics, Thales ATM)
- Biotechnology (CSL, GlaxoSmithKline, Biota)
- Mining and chemicals (BHP Billiton, Exxon Chemical, Dow, Mobil Chemical)
- Advanced manufacturing (Kraft Foods, Cadbury-Schweppes, Nestlé)

The industry's strength is demonstrated by the range of SMEs and large multinational corporations with a strong presence in Victoria including Adacel, Robert Bosch, Corning, NeoProducts, Raywood, Teltech and UMD.

Victoria's Key Advantages

Victoria has built its industry base on two key strengths — skills and a concentration of R&D activity. Victoria's industry operates at the high-value, knowledge-intensive end of the ICT sector.

Long-term investments in Victoria from companies including Robert Bosch and NEC dating back 50 years have created an ongoing demand for skills.

Victoria's universities have developed strong relationships with ICT industry players, ensuring that the State's education system dovetails with industry's current and future needs.

Skilled Workforce

Victoria is a major provider of skills to support the ICT industry. Victoria is internationally recognised for its world-class universities, which turn out the highest number of IT, computing and engineering graduates in the country — now more 4,000 annually.

A reliable, inventive workforce along with the strength of the State's universities and education institutes, provide a solid foundation for the continued growth of Victoria's ICT industry.

- Victoria has a skilled and innovative workforce of 60,000
- Home to one-third of Australia's ICT workforce
- Produces the highest number of IT, computing and engineering graduates per year in Australia
- Home to world-class universities that provide extensive double degree programs.

Research and Development

Each year in Victoria, more than A\$230 million is spent on ICT-focused R&D — close to 40 per cent of Australia's total.

Eight of Australia's top 10 R&D spenders are located in the State, including Australia's largest public spender on ICT R&D. Other major ICT R&D companies include NEC, Fujitsu, Robert Bosch, Siemens, Nortel Networks, Adacel, Agilent and Bandspeed.

- Home to 36 per cent of Australia's private sector ICT R&D (A\$180 million annual spend)
- Victoria will be the site of Australia's only synchrotron
- More than 15 high-tech incubators.

For more information

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Multimedia Victoria is a government body that works closely with industry to establish Victoria, Australia, as a global centre for information technology and communications excellence.