Chief Minister Adam Giles today announced NEC Australia as the winner of the $34.6 million NT Department of Education contract as their Information Technology (IT) service provider for the next five years.

The Chief Minister was joined by Education Minister Peter Chandler in making the announcement during a meeting with NEC executives in Japan.

“A key component of NEC’s contract is the local development and value adding component on the contract,” Mr Giles said.

NEC has proposed an IT Apprenticeship Hub, which will train 10 senior school students each year, 50 in total over 5 years, in IT skills.

Education Minister Peter Chandler said the apprenticeship hub would provide Territory students interested in pursuing a career in IT, with the necessary skills to secure employment in this growing profession.

“I would like to congratulate NEC on its continued support for the Territory’s Structured Work Place initiative, a traineeship coordinated by the Department of Education that helps develop relevant, sought-after skills within the community,” Mr Chandler said.

NEC Australia has supported the program since 2007 with its own school-based apprenticeship and Indigenous traineeship program.

NEC Australia will be the primary IT enabler for the department’s service desk and infrastructure which covers the Department of Education and all Northern Territory schools.

The schools and the department have locations distributed across the Territory, with a large percentage of the schools in remote areas, requiring servicing by airplane.
The contract also includes the delivery of technology architecture and integration services, projects, service desk and technology management tools, on-site support, and IP telephony and communication systems management.

The Chief Minister met with NEC while attending the 51st Japan-Australia Joint Business Conference where Mr Giles is leading a business delegation aiming to promote trade and investment in the Territory.

The conference is a significant trade event attracting delegates and investors from around the region.

The joint business conference provides a forum each year for an open dialogue on a wide range of topics both regional and bilateral.

Mr Giles will address the Conference tomorrow, in a speech entitled, *North Australia’s Engagement with Asia.*

He will speak after meeting today with NEC executives, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation officials, the Chiyoda Corporation (a major player in the JKC partnership that is building Darwin’s Ichthys LNG project) and the Japanese Ambassador to Australia, Yoshitaka Akimoto.

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