The first Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) Forum kicks off today as part of the Government's vision to innovate and expand the local ICT sector to benefit Territorians, and capitalise on export markets.

More than 50 local ITC business representatives will meet to discuss a range of issues and hear first hand from Government on the role of ITC in the Government’s Economic Development Strategy, outsourcing and key industry initiatives.

Minister for Business, Industry and Resource Development Paul Henderson said the forum is tangible evidence of Government's commitment to growing this important area of business.

"The ICT forum also presents an opportunity for local ITC business operators to bring their concerns and ideas on the future of the sector to Government."

Les Hodsgon, recently appointed to the new position of Executive Director of ICT at the Department of Corporate and Information Services, will chair the forum. The forum will address key strategic areas he is charged with, including the state of the Government IT outsourcing arrangements and strategies to grow the local ITC industry."

"We want to look at ways in which government can work with the ICT sector to leverage off developments in other sectors like gas and tourism," Paul Henderson said.

"We also want to encourage the industry to think about the unique aspects of the Territory, for example, remote area service delivery or desert knowledge, which can lead to innovation and the development of niche markets."

"This ICT Forum is the start of an ongoing partnership between Government and the ICT industry to encourage industry innovation, development and industry growth."

The forum will be held over two days from 1pm Tuesday to 1pm Wednesday 3 September at the Litchfield room, 3rd floor Parliament House.