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Fund to grow local ICT industry

A $1 million fund to grow the Territory Information & Communications Technology (ICT) industry has opened for applications.

Minister for Corporate and Information Services Dr Peter Toyne has called for local ICT operators to take up the opportunities posed through this fund to support their growth.

"The $1 million Information & Communications Technology (ICT) Industry Development fund is aimed at supporting the development of local industry, particularly small to medium businesses keen to grow their ideas or products.

"Growth for this sector will not only generate local employment opportunities but build the profile and market presence of the Territory’s ICT industry further afield," Dr Toyne said.

The fund, borne from the Government’s ICT Desktop/LAN outsourcing contract with the CSC Consortium, is structured to offer both financial and other support over the next four years.

CSC NT Account Director, Jo Blignaut said CSC is very keen to support sustained employment growth and increased exports by the Territory’s ICT industry.

"The funding and associated growth could also enable the replacement of imported products or services to the Territory with locally generated solutions, providing broader economic benefits to the Territory," said Mr Blignaut.

The CSC Consortium in the Northern Territory comprises CSC Australia, Compaq, Connected Solutions Group, NT Technology, Hallmark, XLCOM, HainsNET, Switch.com and Spherion.

Applications will be open up until close of business on 24 January next year. Information on the fund and how to apply is available by phone on 89805016.

to the top