PARTNER-UP! 2006 – FOSTERING BUSINESS PARTNERSHIPS FOR A COMPETITIVE EDGE

About 40 representatives from engineering and metal fabrication business and industry have assembled in Darwin today for ‘Partner-Up!’ 2006.

The two-day workshop is designed to foster successful business partnerships across the region from the Kimberleys to North Queensland, including the Top End of the Northern Territory.

Minister for Business and Economic Development, Paul Henderson said businesses involved in partnerships were traditionally more resilient and more sustainable.

“Many businesses are too small to tender alone for large contacts such as repair and maintenance work on major projects like the Wickham Point LNG Plant and the Alcan G3 Expansion,” said Mr Henderson.

“By forming partnerships, or clusters, similar businesses are able to pool their skills, resources, knowledge and experiences to be more competitive when tendering for large contracts – and that means business growth and new job opportunities.”

The two-day workshop will focus on how forming clusters can assist businesses to grow, leading to the creation of long-term jobs, and greater resilience in business enterprise across northern Australia.

Partner-Up! is an initiative of the Department of Business, Economic and Regional Development and was established to build links between government, research and private sectors. Initially, Partner-Up! will target small to medium enterprise in the engineering and metal fabrication sectors.

Small to medium enterprise play a significant role creating jobs for the Territory. Building capacity in that sector will contribute to job growth and a stronger Territory economy.

Keynote speakers attending the workshop include representatives from Alcan, ConocoPhillips, ACCC, Mt Isa, McArthur River Mines and Engineering Taranaki (NZ).

For more information about Partner-Up! contact Janice Warren on 8999 5091.

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