



Australian
Telecommunications
Users Group

Media Release

ATUG welcomes news of next generation broadband in Brisbane – Project Vista

ATUG welcomes the news that Brisbane residents and business' could be the first in Australia to access true next generation broadband under a proposal by Queensland Government to build a fibre optic network that will deliver next generation digital content and online services. The Queensland Government's Project Vista will see Brisbane residents and business' being able to access speeds of a 100MB/second over a communications network on par with leading economies globally.

Premier Peter Beattie has outlined that the cable will be rolled out in the Brisbane local government area using state and local government assets such as pipes, electricity poles and road and rail easements and, once proven, may extend into other parts of Queensland. ATUG understands an EOI will be released in November 2006 for a consortium bid to build the next generation network supported by the State Government and Brisbane City Council.

ATUG's QLD Branch Convenor, Frank Verver, said 'that if successful, this initiative will set Brisbane and potentially all of Queensland apart from the rest of Australia in its ability to embrace the next wave of economic growth. This government has clearly taken a leadership role in the stalled broadband infrastructure agenda in Australia and has put the challenge to the industry to help them deliver. This can only be good news for the end user.'

ATUG has for sometime actively supported the creation of an open-to-all access regime for telecommunication networks allowing Service Providers to compete on an equal basis to the End User market. ATUG firmly believes that by providing an equitable open access telecommunications network End Users will benefit through greater choice of service provider, products and services and innovation.

Rosemary Sinclair, Managing Director of ATUG said 'The Queensland Government and Brisbane City Council have clearly recognised that (true) next generation broadband is critical to catalyse economic growth in the 21st century and have identified where they believe they can best add value in its development. By removing red-tape and facilitating timely and coordinated access to existing 'access' infrastructures, significant savings will be achieved by the infrastructure builders. This is an example of new approaches to the development of open access next generation telecommunications networks and would appear to be a timely and very good opportunity for industry players to invest in partnership with committed State Government leadership.

At ATUG we enthusiastically await the outcome of the Queensland Government's EOI and the Industry's response."

ATUG is a not-for-profit membership organisation and has worked with industry and Government to meet the needs of end users over the last 25 years. ATUG's mission is to continue to represent the interests of business users of communications through ongoing debate on the effectiveness of telecommunications policies and to lobby hard for further change. ATUG has already contributed to major reforms, such as number portability, broadband access and pricing, regional services and best practice procurement.

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