

## AC3 PLAYS HOST TO ONE-STOP LICENSING SHOP

ac3 has been appointed to host phase one of the NSW Government's online Licensing System (GLS) that will allow licensees to renew and apply for licenses and registrations through a single online portal.



ac3 ceo, Phil McCrea signs the GLS Hosting Agreement with Kate McKenzie, the Director General of the NSW Department of Commerce, flanked (from left) by Michael Beckett and Robert Wheeler of the Department of Commerce, Jack Percy of Accenture, Rob McGregor of Siebel and Brad Cable of Accenture.

Due for completion in 2006, the Government Licensing Project is an initiative of the NSW Department of Commerce.

Currently over 300 different business, occupational and personal licences, registrations and permits are issued by more than 21 state government agencies, according to project manager Michael Beckett.

"We expect significant infrastructure cost savings will flow as we gradually replace more than 40 existing computer systems with a single, state-of-the-art-system, to process licences," he said.

The GLS will initially come on-line in four NSW licensing agencies — Department of Fair Trading, Department of Gaming and Racing, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Work Cover Authority. The full roll out will result in many more NSW government agencies being able to issue licences through a one-stop online licensing shop.

"Our role is to house and manage the GLS servers," said ac3 CEO, Phil McCrea. "This currently comprises 14 servers and will grow to a hundred or so when the project rolls out in June 2006."

Accenture, Siebel and Avanade have been appointed by the NSW Government to design and build the GLS.

## ... AND SIGNS UP TO BE PART OF APAC II

Powerful grid computing was the centrepiece of a \$29m funding package for the Australian Partnership for Advanced Computing (APAC) announced in March by Federal Minister for Education, Science and Training, Dr Brendan Nelson.

The funding signals the government's commitment to scientific research that is increasingly reliant on access to and analysis of large distributed datasets, according to APAC and ac3 board member, Professor Lindsay Botten.

"Australia's major high performance computing facilities will be linked for the first time by high speed networks and researchers will get access to large distributed datasets, supported by new visualisation interfaces, computational tools and training programs," he said.

Under the funding plan, APAC member ac3 will join the University of Sydney, UNSW and UTS to assist NSW researchers to take advantage of the new infrastructure. NSW based researchers would initially get access to large scale datasets in the areas of astronomy, bio-informatics, geosciences and earth systems.



Professor Lindsay Botten, ac3's University Services Director, signs the APAC agreement on behalf of ac3.

"Grid computing is becoming crucial for collaboration and progress in scientific research," said Professor Botten. "It's being driven by the need to analyse huge data repositories around the world such as the human genome project and massive databases in astronomy and high energy physics."

The first part of the nascent grid network is likely to be a high-speed link between ac3's Dell Linux Cluster in Sydney and VPAC's Compaq Linux cluster in Melbourne.

## MAKING LOCAL GOVERNMENT EASY

Does my dog have to be micro-chipped? Will garbage collection days change at Christmas? How do I submit a development application?

The answer to these and a thousand other questions lie with local government.

But as more Australians go online for such information, local councils have realised that maintaining a professional, functioning 24/7 website takes serious investment in skills and resources.

Nearly three years ago, the Local Government Association of NSW and the Shires Association of NSW (LGSA) decided to centralise and coordinate the way council websites in regional New South Wales were designed, built and hosted.

*Local-e* Online Action for NSW is charged with this task.

At present, 80 of the state's 130 councils run their website off a single network with a common web-template, according to Online Action's Project Director, Roger Jayasundara.

"We're providing councils with a suite of web-publishing tools and support services so they can offer standardised, streamlined services to their online customers, be they ratepayers, businesses or tourists," he said.



ac3 has been selected to local council websites in NSW by the Local Government and Shires Association.

Online Action recently selected **ac3** to host the *Local-e* council websites. Asked why, Mr Jayasundara said: "We wanted a stable organization with a strong commitment to supporting services in this area. **ac3** already host services for several NSW agencies that we share data with, such as Tourism, Planning, Land and Property Information and the Dept of Commerce.

"When we start to migrate our web hosting to **ac3** in June it will be easy to integrate our backend systems," he said.

Over the next six months Online Action plans to roll out online services such as council facility bookings, interactive community directories, tourism, library and e-procurement services in regional councils.

Online Action is funded by the Commonwealth Networking the Nation program. See <http://www.local-e.nsw.gov.au/>.

## AUSTOOL OPEN FOR BUSINESS

**ac3** partner Austool Ltd officially opened its doors for business when NSW Roads and Transport Minister, the Hon Carl Scully did the ribbon-cutting honours on the 24<sup>th</sup> of March 2004.



Bob Lundie-Jenkins, CEO of Austool, and Ian Stone, **ac3**'s Industry Development Manager at the Austool opening.

Austool is the anchor tenant of a 15-hectare business park in Landcom's industrial estate at Ingleburn in Sydney's southwest.

The business park has 25 fully serviced land parcels for purchase by companies involved in toolmaking and related industries.

When fully operational, the business park is expected to create more than 700 manufacturing jobs.

Austool aims to advance the competitiveness of companies that move to the site by promoting technology transfer, collaborative ventures, training and development.

"**ac3** is providing advanced computing support to Austool for a series of planned projects that involve virtual manufacturing," said **ac3** industry development manager, Ian Stone.

"These projects will demonstrate the cost-savings, quality improvements and time-to-market advantages of using advanced computing to model tooling design before manufacture.

"Simulating tooling and casting designs before final manufacture has been shown to result in significant savings in energy, labour and materials," said Mr Stone.

See <http://www.austool.com.au/> for more information on Austool.

## LET AC3 LOOK AFTER YOUR COMPUTERS

**ac3** provides managed co-location services — i.e we look after other people's computers in our highly secure, highly available and well connected data centre. We do this on a 24x7x366 basis.

For more information call **ac3** on (02) 9209 4600 or visit <http://www.ac3.com.au/>.