

Austrade at a glance

Austrade is a global network of committed people who help Australian business access overseas markets and international trade opportunities for their products and services by reducing the time, cost and risk involved in selecting, entering and developing international markets.

OPERATING FRAMEWORK

Austrade is a statutory authority within the Foreign Affairs and Trade portfolio.

Austrade is responsible to the Minister for Trade. Key enabling legislation includes the *Australian Trade Commission Act 1985*, the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*, and the *Export Market Development Grants Act 1997*.

Austrade is governed by a Board whose members are drawn from business and government.

OUTCOMES

The outcomes Austrade seeks are primarily directed to the economic wellbeing of the Australian community and job creation through the growth of Australian companies by expanding their business internationally (see page 24).

GLOBAL NETWORK

At 30 June 2005, Austrade operated in 125 overseas locations in 59 countries in four global regions: the Americas; Europe, Middle East and Africa; North East Asia; and South East Asia, South Asia and Pacific.

Austrade's Australian network has 17 Austrade offices and 50 TradeStart offices. TradeStart is a partnership between Austrade, state and territory governments, industry associations and regional development organisations.

The 50 TradeStart offices are contracted to 29 providers. See Appendix A for a full list of providers.

STAFF

At 30 June 2005, Austrade had 1058 employees; 437 in Australia (not including the TradeStart network) and 621 overseas. Of the staff working overseas, 77 are Australian-based employees working offshore and 544 are engaged overseas. See Appendix D for our staffing overview.

PARTNERS AND ALLIES

Austrade works closely with the Australian business community; professional firms with complementary skills and services; federal, state, territory and local government agencies; regional development organisations; chambers of commerce; and peak industry associations.