

highlights 2004-05

- ▶ Austrade assisted 4358 clients to achieve **export deals worth \$18.364 billion**. The number of businesses that exported with Austrade's assistance increased by 31 per cent on the number assisted in 2003-04 (see page 31).
 - ▶ Austrade worked to maximise export and international business outcomes arising from the **free trade agreements (FTAs)** with the United States, Thailand and Singapore. To help businesses understand the benefits arising from FTAs Austrade took a lead role in the development of a whole-of-government website **www.fta.gov.au** (see page 28).
 - ▶ Austrade began appointing **30 new export facilitators** to offer wider geographical coverage in the United States to support the implementation of the Australia-United States FTA (see page 14).
 - ▶ Austrade administered the payment of 3277 grants under the **Export Market Development Grants (EMDG)** scheme, which reimburses companies for eligible export promotion expenditure (see page 35).
 - ▶ Austrade registered the interest of over 900 Australian businesses willing to assist in **tsunami reconstruction projects**. We held seminars around Australia in April 2005 to brief the business community on how to access information and bid on development projects in the reconstruction phase following this disaster (see page 21).
 - ▶ Austrade was recognised as the '**Best Trade Promotion Organisation** from a Developed Country' at the inaugural World Trade Promotion Organisation (TPO) Awards held in Malta on 1 October 2004 (see page 22).
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