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## WHITEHORSE NEWS –October 2008

### Digital Economy and Innovation on the Agenda

September was a very busy month, with a number of major Government and industry initiatives moving into their next phases, including the long-awaited Innovation “green paper”, the Pearcey Foundation ICT Innovation colloquium, and the Digital Economy Forum, held in Melbourne.



Innovation Review chairman, Terry Cutler; Whitehorse chairman, Ian Dennis; NICTA chairman, Neville Roach; and Minister for Broadband, Communications, and the Digital Economy, Stephen Conroy, at the Pearcey Dinner.

Whitehorse is involved in these initiatives, assisting in the development of submissions by a number of bodies, and working with the Centre for Innovative Industries Economic Research Inc on a number of projects.

CIIER have been continuously monitoring the ICT industry since 1998 as an ongoing analysis program. This data has been invaluable in providing State and Federal Governments and other ICT industry stakeholders with timely and unbiased statistical reports on the ICT industry, a process supported by all of the leading ICT industry bodies, including the Australian Computer Society and AIIA.

A recent example of this work was the ACS released CIIER “**Quantifying Current and Forecast ICT Employment Report**”, developed as part of a two year **ICT Skills Forecasting Project** and downloadable from the Australian Computer Society website.

### Survey for Tasmania

Whitehorse staff are supporting CIIER in its three year appointment by the Tasmanian ICT industry association (TASICT) to undertake a Tasmanian ICT Industry Assessment project.

The Tasmanian Government has supported TAS ICT with the project through the Intelligent Island MAPP program. The Intelligent Island Program is funded by the Australian Government and is managed by the Tasmanian Government through the Department of Economic Development and Tourism.

The Tasmanian ICT Industry Assessment project addresses the need to have a better understanding of the Tasmanian ICT sector size and structure, its strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities and challenges it faces.

Whitehorse people involved in the project include Richard Hogg, (seen below) Bettina Harlos, and Liz Dennis.



*The Tasmanian ICT Skills industry assessment project will include three annual surveys and broad consultation with ICT stakeholders, including focus groups and case studies.*

The first Focus Groups were conducted in September, in Launceston, Devonport, and Hobart, and were attended by a diverse and highly participative representative group of the Tasmanian ICT sector, coordinated by TasICT project manager, Roy Pallett.

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