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Information flood pressures information systems

A massive information and data processing initiative is needed to ease the planning, starting and growing of businesses. **iStock**

by **Christopher Jay**

A string of data processing tenders for Australian government departments plus a law and order project in Papua New Guinea underline both the sheer volume of government-held information which is piling up and the only possible way of ameliorating the perennial business complaint about ballooning business regulations.

The Department of Industry and Science is calling for professional commercial IT assistance for a whole-of-government service aimed at giving business simple and convenient access to all the government information, forms and services needed for planning, starting and growing a business.

This is through a website business.gov.au. Melbourne-based tenders specialist TenderSearch says interested parties have until June 15 to evince interest in what will be a massive information and data processing initiative.

For starters, the successful proponent will monitor, maintain and supply datasets for Commonwealth Business Licence Information (CBLI) and Commonwealth Codes of Practice (CCOP).

It will apply business activity and topic classifications to these datasets from the Australian Business Licence and Information Service (ABLIS) information metadata scheme which will be supplied and maintained by the department.

It will pore through budget papers, government gazettes, legislation and Commonwealth websites to collect publicly available legislation on changes in Commonwealth information of licensing and compliance.

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It will identify new content, amendments to existing content including existing content requiring repeal, update accordingly with source, date and nature of change, and provide a monthly report summarising additions, changes and repeals.

The successful tenderer will need to develop their own user interfaces to constantly interact with this national ABLIS. There will be a full audit of forms and associated documents at least twice a year, an audit of each record at least twice a year for quality assurance on the dataset to verify and confirm content, and publishing of content changes in the ABLIS solution.

The tenderer may also choose to maintain a "local" copy of the information if necessary to meet requirements.

For the website http://ablis.business.gov.au it should assess and make recommendations for any desirable changes to ABLIS vocabularies or taxonomies to enhance the clarity of definitions, explanations and structural layout of information.

The Department of Industry and Science is a major supplier of grants and related assistance to business, for both economically lagging regional areas and specific product categories of interest.

The new electronic business information arrangements are to maintain a database covering grants and assistance information on offerings from State and Territory governments as well as the Commonwealth.

It will, again, trawl budget papers, government gazettes, legislation and agency websites to monitor existing content and scoop up new information, and provide a monthly report on suggested changes to the grants pages of business.gov.au.

More information can be had on this website in the section grantfinder outlining detail from an earlier Request for Tender in January 2015, page 20.

Other tasks include monitoring, maintaining and supply of public sector contact details down to local government in the States and Northern Territory.

Illustrating the widespread demand for comprehensive data systems, consulting group Cardno Emerging Markets wants a professional information management system for the management of data for the Village Courts and Land Mediation Secretariat in Papua New Guinea.

AFR Contributor

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