CLICK! Digital Expo 2014 Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus out in July

RDA Brisbane will soon release the Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus for its upcoming CLICK! Digital Expo 2014, with substantial early bird discounts available for businesses who register as sponsors/exhibitors before 31 October 2013.

The free event, which attracted more than 600 attendees when it was first run in November 2012, aims to help small and medium-sized businesses and not-for-profit groups explore the burgeoning power and potential of the digital economy. A unique event for Brisbane, it features exhibits of online and technology-based solutions, and tiered seminars for beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of knowledge on a broad range of topics.

CLICK! Digital Expo 2014 has been named as one of two key digital events in the Brisbane strategy and will have the strategic and marketing support of Brisbane Marketing. The expo is expected to attract an estimated 1500 attendees over two days, running on Thursday 13 March (1.00pm to 5.30pm) and Friday 14 March (8.00am to 12 noon) at Brisbane City Hall, with an additional on-site networking event for sponsors and exhibitors on the Thursday evening.

Leaders, innovators and niche providers from the digital, technology, marketing, finance and professional services industries are strongly encouraged to get involved, with five participation levels to choose from:

- **PARTNER $22,000 +GST**
  - 3 opportunities (one each):
  - Bank, Telecommunications, Technology Company
  - Early bird rate $20,000 +GST before 31 Oct 2013

- **PLATINUM SPONSOR $17,000 +GST**
  - 4 opportunities (one each):
  - Legal, Insurance, Accounting, Education/Training
  - Early bird rate $15,000 +GST before 31 Oct 2013

- **GOLD SPONSOR $12,000 +GST**
  - 4 opportunities: open to all business types
  - Early bird rate $10,000 +GST before 31 Oct 2013

- **SILVER SPONSOR $7,000 +GST**
  - 4 opportunities: open to all business types
  - Early bird rate $5000 +GST before 31 Oct 2013

- **EXHIBITOR $2,500 +GST**
  - Open to all relevant business types
  - Early bird rate $2000 +GST before 31 Oct 2013

**WHY EXHIBIT/SPONSOR?**

- An outstanding opportunity to position your company as an innovator and leader in digital solutions
- Face-to-face contact with an estimated 1500 new prospects over two days
- Network nonstop with potential new business partners, investors, distributors and clients.

For more information:
(07) 3896 3159
info@clickdigitalexpo.com.au
www.CLICKdigitalexpo.com.au
Transport forum maps out key role for SEQ RDAs

Stakeholders at a Transport and Logistics Workshop have helped to identify how RDAs can play a role in improving the efficiency and effectiveness of transport infrastructure in South East Queensland.

The workshop, held in April at the Port of Brisbane, was organised by SEQ RDA Coordinators Tracy Scott-Rimington and Michael Lockwood as part of the SEQ Regional Development Initiative, which brings together the seven SEQ RDAs to work on cross-border issues and projects. (RDA Brisbane is the host RDA for the initiative.)

More than 30 representatives from RDAs, government and the transport and logistics industry attended, with keynote speakers from the Australian Logistics Council, the Queensland Transport and Logistics Council (Q TLC), NICTA and the Port of Brisbane Pty Ltd. Professor Max Standage (pictured above, centre), Chair of the SEQ RD Initiative, also gave a welcome and introduction.

Workshop outcomes included the identification of five key areas where RDAs can play a role:

1. DATA SHARING
   - Bring parties around the table to:
     a) Establish a mechanism or protocol for vastly improved data collection at the regional level
     b) Analyse data to identify opportunities for transport and logistics optimisation solutions
     c) Facilitate development and implementation of optimisation solutions.

2. MODE SHARE
   - Initiate discussion at the greater regional level to raise awareness, gather data and build a business case for moving freight more efficiently and proactively across all modes.

3. COASTAL SHIPPING
   - Support Port of Brisbane to investigate viability and lobby Federal Government around impediments to coastal shipping.

4. RAIL FREIGHT TO PORT OF BRISBANE
   - Support industry to raise awareness, promote benefits and opportunity cost of the concept of creating an interoperable dedicated freight rail network and associated intermodal transport hub development.

5. SUPPORT STRONGER COORDINATION OF WHOLE OF SEQ SUPPLY CHAINS
   - Partner with QTLC to identify opportunities for “co-optimisation” of supply chains as outlined in QTLC report, “Strengthening Queensland’s Supply Chains” May 2013.

For more information on workshop outcomes, contact Tracy Scott-Rimington on 0433 346 344 or tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au

Workshop champions new approach to work experience

More than 80 Brisbane employers have attended a forum where they were challenged to “re-imagine” their approach to work experience, and help make young people’s first experience of the world of work more meaningful and inspiring.

RDA Brisbane supported the workshop on May 15, organised by The Smith Family, to introduce the Work Inspiration program to Brisbane businesses. Originally developed in the UK by employer group Business in the Community, the program gives employers the tools they need to engage, motivate and inspire young people, and open their minds to the wealth of opportunities available. Businesses at the workshop heard from Australian employers already in pilots, UK expert Mick Keay and Australian consultant Dave Turner.

The Foundation for Young Australians, the NAB and The Smith Family are currently establishing Work Inspiration Australia. Go to www.workinspiration.com.au to register your interest in being involved in the program or to view videos on current pilots in action.

BENEFITS FOR BUSINESS

- Develop a ‘talent pipeline’ for your enterprise
- Build networks and relationships with schools and the community
- Change perceptions about your industry
- Build a more youth-friendly workplace culture and boost staff morale
- Engage in career conversations with young Australians
- Be recognised as an innovator in your industry
SEQ RDA Coordinator appointed to board of global practitioners’ network

SEQ Regional Development Initiative Coordinator Tracy Scott-Rimington has been appointed to the Board of Directors of The Competitiveness Institute (TCI), a highly respected global practitioners’ network for competitiveness, clusters and innovation.

TCI currently has a membership base of over 4000 leading economic development practitioners, policy makers, researchers and business leaders from 111 countries, and is associated with the preeminent development organisations from around the world.

Tracy’s three-year term will commence in September at the annual conference in Kolding, Denmark. Tracy has a long-term association with the institute, dating back to its inception 15 years ago. She coordinated and hosted their 2002 TCI annual conference in Cairns, launched the TCI Oceania chapter in 2006 and has been an active practitioner and promoter of clusters as a tool for local and regional economic development for more than 20 years.

Tracy (circled) is pictured below with the founding TCI members on the Institute’s 15th birthday last year. They are gathered in front of the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Spain. For more information on The Competitiveness Institute, go to: www.tci-network.org

Tracy’s role as SEQ Regional Development Initiative Coordinator is overseen by RDA Brisbane. To contact Tracy call 0433 346 344 or email tracysr@rdabrisbane.org.au

RDA Brisbane supports “yes” case for referendum

RDA Brisbane is supporting the “yes” case for Constitutional Recognition of Local Government, which will be decided in a referendum on the same day as the Federal Election.

The proposed amendment to the Constitution will mean that the current funding relationship and practices between the Commonwealth and local governments are recognised in the Constitution. Several recent court high challenges have questioned whether the Commonwealth currently has the power to direct funds to local government; the amendment is intended to remove any uncertainty surrounding the funding of vital services and infrastructure for communities.

The amendment will be made to Section 96 of the Constitution and will add just 17 words (marked in bold):

96 Financial assistance to States and local government bodies

During a period of ten years after the establishment of the Commonwealth and thereafter until the Parliament otherwise provides, the Parliament may grant financial assistance to any State, or to any local government body formed by a law of a State, on such terms and conditions as the Parliament thinks fit.

Section 96 makes it clear that the Commonwealth can give money to the states and, if the Australian people agree in a referendum, it will also make it clear that the Commonwealth can give money to local government.

The amendment will not alter the current federal structure, with state and territory governments continuing as the Commonwealth’s primary partners in governing the nation. Local government will continue to be the responsibility of state and territory governments, and state and territory governments will still govern how local governments raise rates and make laws.

RDA Brisbane supports the views of the Australian Local Government Association, which is promoting the “yes” case for the referendum at: www.councilreferendum.com.au

For more information contact the Constitution Alteration Bill Information Hotline on 1800 055 803.

Lord Mayor’s Business Awards open

Nominations are now open for the 2013 Lord Mayor’s Business Awards. Now in their eighth year, the awards return to the elegantly refurbished City Hall on 11 October 2013 for a gala dinner to reward Brisbane’s most inspiring and innovative businesses and individuals.

The awards program has been boosted with three new categories this year: Digital Champion; High Growth Business Start Ups; and Excellence in International Education Delivery. Winners of each of the business categories will automatically go into the draw for the Optus Business Platinum Award, celebrating outstanding business achievement.

To nominate yourself or another inspirational business, go to lmba.com.au

Nominations close on 16 July 2013, with the finalists announced in September.
Clean Energy Map launched in May

The Australian Government has launched a new, online interactive Clean Energy Map which shows the extent of investment in clean energy projects across Australia.

The map features more than 1200 projects which are helping to cut greenhouse gas emissions, reduce energy costs, invest in new technology and create new jobs. One of these is the Brisbane City Council’s CitySmart Green Business Leaders Energy Saver Project. Visitors to the site can enter their postcode to find information on projects in their region or neighbourhood or search by project type. The map includes projects being carried out under measures such as the Renewable Energy Target, Solar Cities, Energy Efficiency Information Grants, the Carbon Farming Initiative and the Clean Technology Programs.

Each project includes a brief description of its purpose and the environmental and economic outcomes it is expected to achieve and, where relevant, details of government, community and business funding sources. Go to www.cleanergymap.gov.au to try it out.

Brisbane has been named as an innovation "Hub", entering the Innovative Cities Global Index top 100 for the first time in 2013.

The index, developed by the 2thinknow Global Innovation Agency, measures the innovation of cities around the world based on data from 162 indicators across a diverse range of industries, with 445 cities benchmarked in 2012-2013. Brisbane beat established destinations such as Madrid and Taipei to leap-frog into 85th place, with a score equal to Moscow and Zurich.

The move upgrades Brisbane’s status from a "node" city to a "hub" city, which is a city with dominance or influence on key economic and social innovation segments, based on global trends. Brisbane received an Innovative Cities Index score of 47, just three points away from being classified as a “first tier nexus city” – the highest classification on the index.

Brisbane Marketing produces an annual Brisbane Innovation Scorecard, supported by collaborator RDA Brisbane, which is the only city-based innovation benchmarking project in the world.

Over 60 per cent of Brisbane businesses surveyed in the 2012 Brisbane Innovation Scorecard reported introducing “one or more significant innovations” in the past three years.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk said being recognised for innovation capability by the Innovative Cities Index was an indication of Brisbane’s commitment to keeping pace with change and technology.

“From digital technologies to life sciences, aviation and mining technology, Brisbane businesses are developing effective solutions to complex issues through world-leading innovation,” Cr Quirk said.

“Brisbane’s highly-skilled workforce, leading educational institutions and respected research communities will continue to ensure the city is driven by innovation into the future.”

The top three cities in the index were Boston, New York and Vienna. CLICK HERE to view.

New program supports city’s budding tech start-ups

The Lord Mayor Graham Quirk has launched the Budding Entrepreneurs Program, a Digital Brisbane initiative which will provide funding of up to $5000 to carefully selected individuals who have a passion for entrepreneurship and an idea for a tech start-up.

The program aims to stimulate greater levels of entrepreneurship among young people, providing practical support, training and encouragement to the most promising entrepreneurs as they explore opportunities to create high-growth, digital start-ups.

Entrepreneurs aged 17 to 30 are strongly encouraged to apply. Applicants must demonstrate they have an idea for a digital business, or a recently launched business that they would like to accelerate. For more information and guidelines CLICK HERE.

New website to boost Indigenous business

The Queensland Government has launched a new “Black Business Finder” website to help increase growth in Indigenous business and employment in the state. Any Queensland business which has at least 50 per cent Indigenous ownership or hires at least 75 per cent Indigenous workers is eligible to appear on the site. More than 130 businesses are currently listed, employing more than 1100 Indigenous Queenslanders. The Black Business Finder is at: www.bbf.org.au