



AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND TRANSPORT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND

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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THESE FUNDS?

The Australian International Trade and Transport Industry Development Fund (AITTIDF) is a not-for-profit organisation whose objective is to provide grants to Australian international trade and transport industry participants to promote, support and enhance:

- e-commerce projects in Australia which benefit commercial, operational, legislative, and regulatory processes supporting Australia's International Trade and Transport Industry;
- projects in Australia to assist Australian industry to facilitate international trade with its trading partners;
- projects in Australia that encourage more efficient international supply chain solutions for Australian industry;
- projects in Australia aimed at measurably increasing the level of skills and training in the international trade and transport industry, including participants in that industry.

ARE THESE GOVERNMENT FUNDS?

No, the funds were contributed to by all Australian importers and customs brokerages.

By way of background, the AITTIDF is a legacy from the old Tradegate arrangements.

As many members will recall, Tradegate had a board of industry representatives and Customs with a primary role to manage the dedicated network (supplied by connect.com and then later AAPT) between Customs and customs brokers / importers using the COMPILE system for entry (Import Declaration) creation.

In the COMPILE environment, each entry to Customs generated a "Tradegate Fee" which covered the network cost. A proportion of that fee was also put away which evolved into 2 industry funds:

- the Cargo Automation Development Fund (CADF) – we understand all funds have now been exhausted: and
- the AITTIDF

IS THERE AN END DATE FOR THE AVAILABILITY OF THESE FUNDS?

No, however the AITTIDF can only continue until all existing funds (we estimate to be in excess of \$1.3M) are exhausted via approved projects.

COMPILE was turned off on 3 February 2006 with Tradegate, soon after, also being wound up as a result of a move to the Integrated Cargo System (ICS) and the use of Internet protocols providing modern, cheaper and more efficient communications. Since this time, no further financial contributions have been made to the fund.

ARE THERE ANY SECONDARY PURPOSES FOR THE FUND?

No, appropriately the AITTIDF Chair has confirmed that there no secondary purposes for the fund – all funds will be dedicated to fund approved projects.

WHAT SHOULD YOU KNOW TO APPLY?

The AITTIDF Chair has provided a word of caution reminding applicants that directors of the fund must exercise independent judgement and have no material or personal interest on all funding proposals and consider each application equally - therefore, each applicant must seek funding on their merits through the published procedure without director assistance - NOTE: approaches to individual directors may jeopardise an application.

For further information, members are encouraged to contact the AITTIDF secretary Ms Cath Wright at secretariat@itdfund.org.au who will assist you in making a funding application by using the funding kit as noted on the AITTIDF website <http://www.aittidf.org.au/> .

"KEEPING AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL TRADE MOVING"



Australian Peak Shippers Association Inc. (APSA)

