

TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 22 June 2017

\$2.9 million to expand ultra-high speed internet network

The 2017-18 State Budget includes \$2.9 million to expand the Gig City program, putting South Australia at the forefront of next-generation broadband services.

The Gig City program involves the roll-out of ultra-high speed internet of up to 100 times the national average to identified innovation precincts.

The additional \$2.9 million over four years will fund the expansion of the Gig City program to additional innovation precincts and co-working spaces, as well as the development of a digital roadmap for the state.

With ultra-fast internet, entrepreneurs and start-ups can develop leading-edge ideas that will drive economic development, attract investment, create new jobs and position South Australia as a world-leader in a rapidly evolving innovation economy.

The 2017-18 State Budget also includes \$2.5 million over three years to support the State Government's commitment to innovation.

Background

Gig City was first announced in the 2016-17 State Budget, with \$4.65 million over four years allocated to the roll-out of the ultra-high speed internet.

The additional funding brings the State Government's investment in the program to almost \$7.6 million.

The network will connect key innovation precincts with fast broadband speeds of one gigabit per second, and up to 10-gigabits per second, if businesses invest in additional technology.

Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis

Expanding our Gig City program will competitively position South Australia for global investment, economic development and jobs growth in new industries.

Importantly, it gives us a competitive advantage over other Australian locations, enabling us to attract and retain young talent.

We are already recognised for our innovation initiatives, support programs for entrepreneurs and smart-city solutions.

Taking affordable gigabit connection to more locations will ensure innovative and technology-advanced companies can thrive in our affordable and vibrant state.

Quotes attributable to Science and Information Economy Minister Kyam Maher

We know that the global economy will increasingly be driven by digital technologies, and Gig City gives innovative companies, entrepreneurs and cultural creatives new opportunities to thrive.

Gig City will help our state's entrepreneurs and technology intensive companies to further engage in the global digital economy, delivering business growth and new jobs of the future.

Our \$2.9 million investment to expand the Gig City network will enable our state to build on our capabilities across 3D printing, automation and robotics, remote sensing technologies and the Internet of Things.

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