

## COLLABORATION WITH TAIWAN TO ENHANCE ACMA'S ANTI-SPAM ENFORCEMENT

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office and the Australian Commerce and Industry Office recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to increase cooperation between ACMA and the National Communications Commission a memorandum of understanding (NCC) of Taiwan in minimising spam originating from and being sent to end-users in their respective economies.

The MoU will assist ACMA in fighting spam through the establishment of information-sharing mechanisms with the NCC. Formal MoUs provide a clear basis for the sharing of information which assists in cross-jurisdictional compliance enforcement and a mechanism for identifying appropriate regulatory and enforcement contacts within a given jurisdiction.

The following anti-spam MoUs or joint statements to increase cooperation with other countries have previously been signed:

- the Seoul–Melbourne Multilateral Anti-Spam Agreement, which currently has 13 signatories from the Asia–Pacific region—ACMA chairs this group and provides it with secretariat support
- a bilateral MoU between Australia and Korea
- an MoU between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America and
- an Australia–Thailand joint statement on telecommunications and information technology. Australia also works with many

international organisations to develop and foster a coordinated global approach to reducing spam. For example, ACMA was a founding member of the London Action Plan (LAP), a major international network devoted to combating spam. LAP members include data protection agencies, telecommunications and consumer protection agencies, and companies such as Microsoft and McAfee.

ACMA also works with the International Telecommunication Union, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the Asia–Pacific Economic Cooperation Telecommunications Working Group (APEC TEL) to develop and foster a coordinated global approach to reducing spam.

ACMA now has an international network for sharing information through the arrangements it has in place. The June 2006 review of the *Spam Act 2003* recommended that 'cooperative anti-spam agreements with other jurisdictions should continue to be sought, with an emphasis on information sharing and collaboration on anti-spam enforcement'. The recently signed MoU to increase cooperation between Australia and Taiwan is part of ACMA's implementation of the recommendations of this report.

The MoU and information about ACMA's international anti-spam activity are on the website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to: For the public: Consumer & community advice > Spam & e-Security > How ACMA is fighting spam > International cooperation).

## ACMA connects with Standards Australia to update EMC standards

ACMA has entered into a new cooperative arrangement with Standards Australia to facilitate the inclusion of contemporary standards for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) into the mandatory requirements. This came out of a recognition that rapid developments in technology can give rise to the potential for standards-based regulatory arrangements to lag behind industry practices.

The new arrangements, which are expected to increase industry participation, will enhance an already robust industry self-regulatory arrangement and result in effective and positive outcomes for industry. It will reinforce an already effective partnership between industry and ACMA.

The arrangement follows a recommendation by ACMA's Communications Technical Regulation Advisory Committee (CTRAC). Through the committee, ACMA sought the opinion of industry on options for updating the list of mandatory standards. CTRAC also considered which industry bodies have the necessary skills and expertise to make recommendations on new standards to be incorporated into the arrangements.

In 2006, ACMA identified a need for a timely and responsive mechanism for incorporating new EMC standards into the regulatory arrangements that would assist industry while still meeting spectrum management requirements. CTRAC also recognised the need for the industry arrangements for EMC to be effective and relevant for the benefit of both consumers and industry and to support Australia's international trade objectives.

The committee agreed that Standards Australia is the peak body with the requisite expertise, in its

technical committee for Electromagnetic Interference (TE-003), to make recommendations on appropriate EMC standards. TE-003 is responsible for developing Australian EMC standards and has broad representation from Australian industry. It is also active in international standardisation and provides Australian input to the development of international EMC standards.

CTRAC recommended that Standards Australia be asked to take on the role of making ongoing recommendations to ACMA on appropriate standards for inclusion in the EMC regulatory arrangements. TE-003 has already commenced in its role by reviewing the existing suite of industry standards in the EMC arrangements to bring them up to date. This work will contribute to the finalisation of the latest edition of the instruments for the EMC regulatory arrangement expected to be finalised in December.

The Australian EMC arrangement, introduced in 1997, has mandatory labelling and emission requirements for all electrical and electronic equipment supplied to the Australian market. This originally consisted of eight mandatory product family standards, which was extended to 113 national and international standards in 2001 following extensive consultation with industry and community stakeholders. The list of standards has largely remained unchanged since then.

More information about the EMC regulatory arrangement is on the ACMA website at [www.acma.gov.au](http://www.acma.gov.au) (go to For licensees & industry: Licensing & regulation > Equipment compliance & labelling (A-Tick/C-Tick) > Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) compliance & labelling).