



Export Council of Australia
The Voice for Australia's Exporters

AGGRESSIVE TRADE AGENDA GAINS STRONG SUPPORT

Thursday 20 November 2014

Joining the World Trade Organisation Agreement (WTO) on Government Procurement (GPA) is a real triumph for Australian exporters as it provides guaranteed access to 43 WTO member's government procurement markets, estimated to be worth more than US\$1.7 trillion says the Export Council of Australia.

And the timing is right as GPA coverage is expected to expand significantly with countries including China, whose total government procurement market is estimated to be worth \$1.5 trillion, expected to join in the near future.

Chief Operations Officer for the Export Council of Australia Lisa McAuley says we completely support Minister Robb's actions and acknowledge the significance of this opportunity for exporting businesses. The agreement offers transparency and non-discrimination and Australia needs to be a part of it so we can negotiate on the world stage."

"The Export Council of Australia is currently working closely with DFAT to host a round table with business leaders on this topic," Ms McAuley said.

Australian's are benefiting significantly from access to the United States' government procurement market, negotiated as part of the bi-lateral FTA in 2005. This agreement opened up the US federal government procurement market valued at US\$535 billion (2011) annually to Australian companies, as well as 31 of the US state governments.

Managing Director of United States Connect Ian Smith says the Australia United States Free Trade Agreement (AUSFTA) has made it easier for Australian companies to do business in the market. With many of the tariff reductions and quota increases now in force we have greater access for Australian service suppliers than ever before."

"I'm a strong believer in the value of the AUSFTA so just imagine what the World Trade Organisation Agreement on Government Procurement could do for Australian Exporters," Mr Smith said.

Current members of the GPA include the EU's 28 Member States, Canada, Japan, South Korea, the United States, Hong Kong, Iceland, Israel, Norway, Singapore, Switzerland, Liechtenstein & Taiwan.

The Export Council of Australia encourages interested parties to make a written submission to government through the DFAT GPA webpage: <http://dfat.gov.au/trade/negotiations/wto-agreement-on-government-procurement.html>

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