

## **Fact-sheet: Government initiatives to support a Digital New Zealand**

The ICT Sector Report and the High Technology Manufacturing Report together provide an in-depth analysis into the performance of New Zealand's high-tech sectors.

The Government is investing \$28.6 million in three ICT graduate schools to deliver industry-focused education and research that builds connections between tertiary education providers and high-tech firms.

The number of domestic students completing qualifications in IT at the bachelors or higher level has increased 47 per cent from 1,095 in 2008 to 1,610 in 2015.

Callaghan Innovation provides about \$130 million annually in R&D Growth Grants and Project Grants to help high-tech companies innovate and grow.

Callaghan Innovation's Accelerator Programme supports start-up companies to be investment ready by working with them to develop their ideas over twelve weeks into an investment pitch.

Callaghan Innovation's new technology incubators also help commercialise complex, new to the world, intellectual property.

\$15 million of additional funding was announced in Budget 2016 for The Pre-Seed Accelerator Fund and the ICT accelerator programme. These support early stage hi-tech companies commercialise, expand and export.

The Government has invested more than \$2 billion in world-class communications infrastructure in two major initiatives that will deliver faster, better internet: the Ultra-Fast Broadband (UFB) and the Rural Broadband Initiative (RBI) programmes.

Over 921,000 households, businesses, schools and hospitals are now able to connect to UFB. UFB uptake has reached 21.3 per cent and the build is at 63 per cent.

The Government is investing an additional \$210 million to extend UFB and a further \$150million to extend the RBI and tackle mobile black spots on rural highways

A review of the Telecommunications Act 2001 is underway to make sure New Zealand has the right laws for communications networks after 2020, to meet the needs of consumers and businesses, and to help keep our economy growing.

Government announced a \$22.2 million investment for a national Computer Emergency Response Team, or CERT, to combat cyber-attacks and cyber-crime.

STRATUS, led by the University of Waikato's Dr Ryan Ko, is a six-year, \$12.2 million cyber security project, funded by MBIE to deliver a platform of software, human capability and technical resources for New Zealand industry and government organisations.

The Government is rapidly changing regulations to allow the development of new and innovative technologies like unmanned aerial vehicles. These include the recent announcement of a regulatory framework for space to enable the launch of rockets and satellites from New Zealand.

The New Zealand story promotes New Zealand food, education, tourism and the hi-tech sector in a single compelling brand story. It helps build New Zealand's profile internationally to benefit our exporters. An extra \$3.6 million over four years has been allocated in Budget 2016 for expansion of the New Zealand Story.

As part of Better Public Services government agencies are working to make it easier for businesses to transact with the government. A key plank of this work is the new New Zealand Business Number.

Results 9 and 10 are making it easier for people and businesses to interact with Government by joining up government services and using digital and online tools. The R9 Accelerator is encouraging the development of the Govtech sector in New Zealand.