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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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**SYDNEY, Australia, June 23, 2003**

Forge Data Solutions (Forge) is happy to announce that the Department of Finance and Administration has renewed their status as an Endorsed Supplier to the Federal Government.

The Endorsed Supplier Arrangement (ESA) provides pre-qualification for businesses in the Information Technology, Major Office Machines, Commercial Office Furniture and Auctioneering industries to sell to the Commonwealth Government. It is mandatory for Commonwealth Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997 (FMA Act) agencies to use the ESA when purchasing Information Technology (IT) and Major Office Machines (MOM) products and services.

The ESA is supported by an Internet based Application and Search system. Businesses apply online and once endorsed can update their supplier information, as they require. An Endorsed Supplier's business information is promoted by publishing these details on the Internet made available through the Search system. Government buyers use the Search system to find information on suppliers, its outlet/dealer networks and the products and services they offer.

"We are very happy that Forge has successfully retained its Endorsed Government Supplier Status," explains Will Rooke, Director of Forge Data Solutions. "It's a wonderful opportunity for us to continue to promote our products and services to the Government agencies who have always been keen and loyal customers."

Only companies who comply with the criteria are awarded the Endorsed Government Supplier status. The criteria used includes assessment of industry development activities in Australia, financial viability, favourable referee reports, product and service compliance with the agreed industry standards and an appropriately signed Head Agreement.