

## The Australian Intergovernmental TelePresence System



“... frankly they are amazing. They are so good that you kind of lose sight of the fact that you are not in the same room as the people on the screen. No ‘clunkiness’, no voice delays, no fuzzy pictures and the sets are even set up so that you look like you are in the same room.”

Australian Government Minister for Finance, the Hon Lindsay Tanner, National Press Club, 11 March 2009

Against a backdrop of the most testing global economic conditions since the Great Depression, the Australian Federal Government found public servants were travelling extensively to support initiatives intended to deliver economic stimulus and reform Australia wide.

As the global economic crisis worsened over 2008, Government activity to deliver outcomes and resolve issues increased and extended.

“The Government currently spends somewhere around about A\$280 million a year on domestic airfares and a further substantial sum on international airfares.

We believe that over time we will be able to reduce that quite significantly... because much more business can be done through the TelePresence system. And that is obviously of considerable importance to a Finance Minister.”

Australian Government Minister for Finance, the Hon Lindsay Tanner, media conference, 27 February 2009

The hectic meeting schedules of public servants from all states and territories were becoming increasingly challenging to schedule. There was a sense that ‘meeting fatigue’ could also begin to undermine the Government’s ambitious reform agenda.

The Departments of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and Finance and Deregulation (DoFD) began to investigate whether a significant proportion of public servants’ travel could in fact be replaced by a nationally deployed suite of immersive, new generation TelePresence rooms.

In late 2008, the Australian Government announced it would fund the building of a National Intergovernmental TelePresence System. Initially, 20 Cisco TelePresence units will be deployed into sites in every state and territory: 13 x 6-seat TP3000 and 7 x 2-seat TP1000 units, a total of 92 seats. Three additional TP1000 units have been ordered as well, bringing to 23 the total number of units purchased.

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“We’ll save much more than airfares and lost working time. We’ll improve public sector productivity... meetings which might have required two weeks notice and therefore deferred a decision for two weeks, perhaps may happen in two days.”

Australian Government Minister for Finance, the Hon Lindsay Tanner, National Press Club, 11 March 2009



**Cisco TelePresence 3000**  
13 units



**Cisco TelePresence 1000**  
10 units

