

ECONOMIC RESPONSE PLAN SMART ECONOMY SCHEME

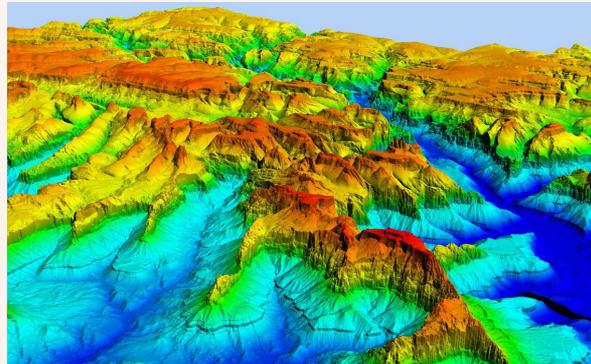
Supporting innovative ICT commercial ventures

Akau Film will use SMART Economy grant to launch high-tech aerial surveying service.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce it has awarded a \$49,500 grant to Akau Film Limited under the Government's SMART Economy Initiative (SMART). The SMART grant will enable Akau Film to launch an international-level aerial land surveying service in the Cook Islands.

Akau Film's Director Ioana Turia says the new Akau Aerial Surveying service will be faster and provide significantly more accurate surveying of large areas of land. "Our new service will combine drone surveying with the latest software to dramatically improve local land surveying capabilities. We will be able to export survey information in a multitude of formats, including accurate 3D modelling. This can then be imported straight into an architect's or engineer's design applications. The same system has provided significant benefits internationally, so we're excited to be able to bring it to the Cook Islands." SMART provides eligible businesses with fi-

financial support to make smart and productive commercial investment decisions that will accelerate the bounce back to a more complex and diverse Cook Islands economy.



"I'm pleased to be supporting Akau Films to provide this new and innovative service, which will be of huge benefit to both private and public sector organisations as it makes land surveying more efficient and effective" says Financial Secretary Garth Henderson. "Technology underpins productivity, competitiveness and profitability and drives economic growth across a

range of industries. Akau Aerial Surveying is an excellent example of this."

Akau Films expects the new service will be welcomed by large engineering and construction companies, environmental NGOs and government departments. Compared to current traditional surveying methods, the new technology requires significantly less time and effort to survey larger areas and provides a much higher level of detail.

The SMART Economy Initiative provides a mix of grants and tax credits to support new commercial business ventures providing innovative ICT applications and services to business and consumers in the Cook Islands and abroad.

To be successful, SMART applications must meet a range of criteria including innovation, clear potential to improve business, industry, sector or Cook Islands productivity, and matching private sector funding, direct and/or in-kind. MFEM staff are on hand to help applicants through the process.