

SMART ECONOMY GRANT

Supporting innovative ICT commercial ventures

SMART grant helps launch Sky Lounge cybersecurity

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce that a SMART Economy Initiative grant has been awarded to Sky Lounge Limited (Sky Lounge) to help establish the Cook Islands' first cybersecurity services company. Sky Lounge supports development and growth of the Cook Islands' digital economy by keeping businesses, consumers, and Government safe from cyber-attacks.

Our new high-speed internet connectivity enables our people to shop, chat, do business, learn, and play online, and Sky Lounge owner Patricia Short has a vision to ensure we do all these things safely. "As the Cook Islands becomes increasingly connected, our servers and networks need to be strengthened to prevent attacks from institutional hackers," says Patricia. "We're very grateful for the SMART grant, which is helping us to establish our business operations so we can support a safe digital environment here in the Cook Islands."

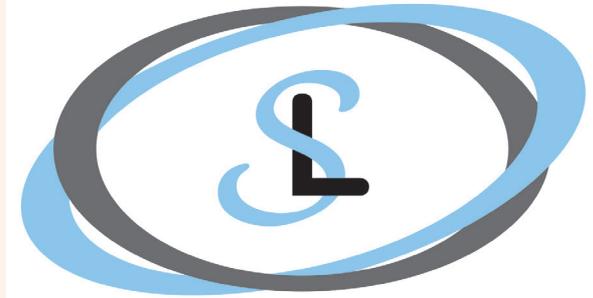
MFEM Financial Secretary Garth Henderson says Sky Lounge services are essential

to economic health in the digital era. "Government's investment in the Manatua Cable, our SMART Initiatives, and our recent isolation from the world have all contributed to an increase in our reliance on ICT applications and services to do business and to connect with people overseas. While this is transforming our economy for the future, it also means we need critical IT applications and services such as the cybersecurity being offered by Sky Lounge."

As our country modernises and our digital capabilities catch up with larger economies, cyber-attacks are expected to increase. The Sky Lounge dedicated cyber forensics lab provides a full suite of services to protect individuals, businesses, and government departments from cyber-attacks and help them recover from security breaches.

As Sky Lounge develops, the company plans to tap into the vast US market to grow and provide employment and training opportunities for local Cook Islanders. The company is also offering workshops to engage the existing tech community, attract tech-curious individuals, and help raise

public awareness of cybersecurity.



SKY LOUNGE
CYBERSECURITY

"As the Cook Islands becomes increasingly connected, our servers and networks need to be strengthened to prevent attacks from institutional hackers"

-Patricia Short, Sky Lounge owner

