

SMART ECONOMY GRANT

Supporting innovative ICT commercial ventures

SMART grant helps launch new data network support services provider, Czechmate

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Management (MFEM) is pleased to announce that the Government's SMART Economy Scheme is helping fund Czechmate Limited (Czechmate). Czechmate will use the grant to further extend their services to now provide essential diagnostics and certification services for copper and fibre-optic installations and networks. The Cook Islands Government investment in the Manatua submarine fibre-optic cable has brought high speed, low latency, and highly reliable internet connectivity to Rarotonga and Aitutaki. Now Czechmate will provide diagnostic, certification, advanced analysis, and auditing services to support optimum performance of the network. MFEM Financial Secretary Garth Henderson says: "A reliable network is the backbone of a modern business and government working environment, being essential for productivity, efficiency, and providing services to customers. We are delighted to be supporting Czechmate as the first local diagnostics and certification provider. I believe Czechmate's services will bring

a step-change in developing a truly effective and reliable network for our people." Czechmate owner Martin Stetka says his business will offer diagnostic and certification services for current and new copper and fiber optic installations and networks. Czechmate will also provide advanced analysis and auditing services for old installation and newly build data cabling plants. "Imagine you're having electrical work done at your home or business. You would want your electrician to follow the proper wiring guidelines to ensure safety and that you don't end up with major problems later. The same is true for low voltage structured data cabling. There are specific certification guidelines that ensure it is installed, connected, and working properly," says Martin. "Cable certification for new and existing networks helps end users to avoid downtime and ensure their office or home network is working as efficiently as it should be. It also confirms if the installation has been done correctly before the job is completed. Certification brings the added benefit of the long-term warranties provided by cable vendors

for professionally certified installations." Thanks to the SMART grant, Czechmate is now able to provide a comprehensive range of services for copper and fibre optic networks. Financial Secretary Garth Henderson says: "Applications to the SMART Economy Initiative closed on 29 January 2021. Since July 2020, the initiative has received nearly 90 Stage 1 applications. To date, 19 Stage 2 applicants have been approved by the SMART Panel for SMART grant funding totaling nearly \$1.4 million."

