

OCONICS CASE STUDY

Hansard overhaul for Department of Parliamentary Services

Business problem

In 2009, the Australian Government recognised that its decade-old Hansard system, for recording parliamentary proceedings, was running out of steam.

Hansard produces transcripts of parliamentary proceedings for the Senate and the House of Representatives which are available on the Internet at www.parlinfo.aph.gov.au each morning after a sitting day. In addition, Hansard produces committee transcripts which also are available online.

Hansard, which is part of the Department of Parliamentary Services, decided to overhaul its core business system due to concern that the 10-year-old system had become expensive to maintain and cumbersome to use.

Oconics solution

After a competitive selection process, the Department of Parliamentary Services awarded a 6½ year, \$3.8 million contract to business software developer Oconics to redevelop and support the Hansard system that publishes proceedings of the Australian Federal Parliament.

The contract, which runs until October 2015, requires Oconics to provide five years of support once the new system is delivered by the end of 2010.

Founded in 2004, Oconics has undertaken ground-breaking software development projects for major clients including the Parliament of South Australia, SA Water and the NSW Department of Commerce.

Business benefits

Oconics is designing the new Hansard Production System using Microsoft SharePoint and Microsoft Office 2007 technology with a framework based around the Microsoft SQL Server database.

This redevelopment will provide all Hansard staff with Web 2.0 interfaces to the data whether they are in Microsoft Word or on the Web. This will give them easier access to information and streamline the workflows required to produce a document. It will also reduce manual interactions and swapping between unconnected systems, allowing fewer errors and producing more accurate record-keeping.

Oconics CEO Jonathan Ruckert said the Commonwealth Parliament Hansard contract had created greater visibility for Oconics in Canberra. "We are already discussing work with other Federal Government agencies," he said.

"We have experience in developing systems that integrate disparate systems and improve employee efficiency by automating business processes. One such system was the Hansard system that publishes records for the South Australian Parliament on the web. However, this project will be a much more complex and integrated project."

About Oconics

Oconics is an Australian-owned, multi-million-dollar company that develops business software for its customers, which include major corporations and government agencies. Listed as a BRW Fast Starter company in 2008, Oconics specialises in developing web-based applications.

To learn more about Oconics, visit www.oconics.com