

Australian Infrastructure Services

Following on from recent business trips to Europe and particularly Central Europe, it is apparent that the level of government infrastructure in Australia is far more advanced than many of its Central European counterparts. In response to this realization, **Australian Infrastructure Services Pty Ltd** was borne.

Australian Infrastructure Services is a member company of the TCG Group. Its main focus is to market Australian Government know-how into Central European Countries. The countries which make up what are today referred to as Central European Countries have established a union headquartered in Trieste, Italy, and called the Central European Initiative (CEI). This group was established as a result of "European architecture" which shows a great variety of multilateral regional co-operation, ranging from the mainstream organizations, such as the European Union, to sub-regional groupings. The CEI is the oldest and largest of sub-regional co-operation initiatives that emerged in Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of the communist system.

Founded by Austria, Italy, Hungary and Yugoslavia in 1989 as Quadrilateral co-operation, the CEI increased its membership to 10 by 1994, to 16 by 1996 and to 17 in 2000 with the accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The organisational structure of the CEI, as an intergovernmental forum for co-operation, is non-institutional and flexible.

Its activities are based on political decisions rather than international agreements, and the CEI has established an integrated framework for dialogue, co-ordination and co-operation among and between its member countries in the political, economic, cultural and parliamentary fields, creating. Thereby, an atmosphere of mutual understanding, in which national projects and transitional programmes are being discussed, planned, studied and implemented.

The directors of Australian Infrastructure Services, **Neville Stevens** and **Peter Fritz**, have strong contacts in Australia and Central European government circles, and have received strong support for the venture from both the European Union (EU) and the individual nations within the Central European Initiative (CEI).