



ASIC

Australian Securities & Investments Commission

InFocus

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ASIC Business Centres

For information on any company, advice on your annual return, document lodgement and fees or deregistering a company, simply contact the Business Centre nearest you.

Adelaide	08 8482 8000
Brisbane	07 3897 4000
Canberra	02 6246 8051
Darwin	08 8994 0950
Geelong	03 5229 2400
Gold Coast	07 5522 1960
Hobart	03 6245 8051
Melbourne	03 9240 3200
Perth	08 9441 4200
Sydney	02 9911 2500
Townsville	07 4721 8000
Wollongong	02 4475 9000

If you'd like to give information about a suspect company or you'd like to know about proper company practice, you can call the Infoline, 9 am to 5 pm weekdays, on

13 00 300 000

Internet: <http://www.asic.gov.au>
E-mail: infoline@asic.gov.au

ASIC launches Electronic Company Registrations



Susan Charteris, Managing Director of Corporate Express, is pictured above with Joy Hadley, Project Manager ECR and Ken Christensen, EDGE Systems Manager.

ASIC commenced its Electronic Company Registration (ECR) production pilot on 26 October 1998 with the first electronic registration of an Australian company. The company was registered by Sydney software developer and shelf company promoter Corporate Express (pictured) and was lodged via the internet, using a commercial cryptographic smartcard to authenticate the signatory.

ECR allows ASIC's clients to electronically prepare applications for registration, digitally sign them using private keys, stored on commercial cryptographic smartcards or diskettes, and transmit them to ASIC over the Internet or Austpac.

When ASIC receives these documents it authenticates the application, processes it into the National Corporate Database and transmits the certificate of registration back to the client. This system also allows associated payments to be made electronically.

ASIC has used leading edge technology in developing ECR. ASIC's ECR system is the first production application in Australia to use commercial smartcards for digitally signing information using public key technology. KeyPOST is ASIC's initial registration and certification authority, and the system has been designed to accept certificates issued by other registration and certification authorities to ensure that ASIC moves with this market as it matures.

ECR will simplify the company registration process, be a more efficient system for both ASIC and its clients and increase the level of service which ASIC can provide.

If you require further information on ECR, please contact Aaron Adam on 08 9261 4214 or e-mail him at aaron.adam@asic.gov.au.