

WIN Fast Forward - Constructing a Blueprint for the Future of Information Systems in the Trade Commissioner Service

The flow of information, goods and services around the world occurs at a staggering rate that is only increasing - and trade commissioners need tools that help them keep pace. Information systems play a paramount role in achieving this goal. At the Export Development Division(TCE), we are consulting with trade commissioners, commercial officers and commercial assistants in posts around the world to give shape to the future direction of information technology in the Trade Commissioner Service. Thus far, we have visited or held videoconferences with approximately 20 posts from six continents. These consultations will allow us to find out which system features are most crucial to the posts, to map out how services are delivered by posts, and collect feedback on preliminary concepts of how future systems might look and operate.

What will come out of this consultation process?

- 1) A compilation of the feedback from all the posts consulted.
- 2) A blueprint for information technology renewal in the Trade Commissioner Service. This blueprint will map out where we go next in buying or building information systems, ensuring that the needs of the TCS are met in order of priority.

"You cannot mandate productivity, you must provide the tools to let people become their best."

Steven Jobs
Founder, Apple
Computers

Both of these documents were reviewed by the Trade Systems Advisory Group, composed of 20 representatives from posts and 10 representatives from Canada (headquarters, Team Canada Inc., etc.) when the Group met in Ottawa at the end of March.

Team Canada Web site

The recently-enhanced Team Canada Web site offers a wealth of current and historical information for members of the general public, the media and Team Canada mission participants. Prior to a mission, Team Canada invitees will be able to register for a mission on-line. Registered delegates will be able to access our secure site, which gives

market intelligence specially prepared for mission members, complete delegation lists and plenty of other Team Canada-related information. During the mission, the public site will have daily webcasts of Team Canada events from the host country as well as the most recent press releases, speeches and success stories from the mission.

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