



**Asia-Pacific
Economic Cooperation**

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Agenda Item: 10.1

APEC Star Database Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR)

Purpose: Information
Submitted by: Australia



**37th Small and Medium Enterprises Working
Group Meeting
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APEC STAR DATABASE

Services Trade Access Requirements (STAR)

What is the STAR Database?



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- www.servicestradeforum.org
- A business-friendly, on-line tool that provides a single, easily-accessible source of information
- Operates through a series of drop down menus
- Meets the needs of individual services providers.

Why do we need it?



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- Why the services sector?
- Increases the transparency of rules and regulations affecting market access
- Centralises widely dispersed information in a single repository
- Presents it in a user-friendly way

How was it developed?



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- Phase 1 – Australian-funded, five economies, five services sectors completed 2010
- Phase 2 – Jointly funded by Australia and APEC, expanded to cover 11 APEC economies, completed 2011
- Phase 3 – Jointly funded by Australia and APEC, covers *all* APEC economies, *three* new services sectors for 15 economies, completed end 2012.

Next steps



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- Reviewing STAR Database and further service sector workshops
- Regional Workshops between regulators and industry to discuss market access
- Plans to further publicise website