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CrimTrac receives international recognition for ICT excellence

CrimTrac – the agency responsible for developing information sharing solutions for law enforcement – has received further recognition to add to this year’s two national awards for innovative ICT applications, after receiving a nomination at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) in the category of e-government.

CrimTrac was nominated for the APICTA 2008 award in e-government for its National Police Reference System (NPRS), an electronic platform that enables police and law enforcement agencies to exchange police information about people across all jurisdictions.

CrimTrac CEO Ben McDevitt, who attended the awards presentation in Jakarta on Saturday night, acknowledged the hard work of Australia’s police jurisdictions in bringing the project to fruition.

“CrimTrac has been working closely with police jurisdictions and law enforcement agencies for a number of years to develop this system and without their effort, we may have never reached this point,” Mr McDevitt said.

Earlier this year, the same system won the 2008 e-Award for Excellence in e-Government, as well as the Australian Information Industry Association’s iAward in the category of e-Government and Services.

“To win two national awards and a nomination for an Asia Pacific Award is a massive achievement, which speaks volumes for the quality of the information technologies CrimTrac is designing,” Mr McDevitt said.

“The National Police Reference System enables police to access information about people in various jurisdictions and identify whether individuals are a threat to the public, of interest to police or wanted by police.

“This system provides police with information critical to the day to day duties of community policing and, unlike previous systems which saw police maintain information within jurisdictional boundaries, this transcends borders and addresses the problem of offenders moving interstate to avoid detection.”

“Police and law enforcement bodies aren’t generally recognised for excellence in ICT, so for CrimTrac to be acknowledged in this way for its prowess in designing tools such as NPRS is quite significant. In fact, it’s a real honour for CrimTrac to be chosen to represent the Australian ICT environment.”

Held this year in the Indonesian capital of Jakarta, the annual Asia Pacific ICT Awards are a celebration of regional excellence in ICT, designed to stimulate innovation and creativity, promote economic and trade relations and offer business matching opportunities via exposure to investors.

Mr McDevitt said that NPRS would be rolled out across the country early next year, catering for more than 50,000 users and providing access to all police officers in the country.