



Locked Bag 35, North Ryde, NSW, 2113, Australia.
Tel: 1800 021 143 Fax: 61 2 9878 8179

NEWS

15 May 2007

BSA and MIPI welcome Federal Government funding to fight counterfeiters and pirates

The Business Software Alliance Australia Committee and Music Industry Piracy Investigations (*MIPI*) have welcomed the Federal Government's announcement that it will provide funding of \$12.4 million over two years to tackle the problem of intellectual property (IP) crime.

Commenting on the announcement, Dr Jim Macnamara, spokesperson for the BSA Australia Committee noted that illegal use and copying of IP is not a victimless crime as often thought. "Piracy hurts local software developers and resellers, confuses and misleads consumers, and also impacts on international software companies selling their products in Australia."

"We have to recognise that Australia is part of a global economy and thus address IP issues in an internationally consistent way, in concert with our trading partners. We believe the IP initiatives announced by the Attorney General last week are particularly relevant, certainly needed and overall a very good step forward for Australia," said Mr Macnamara.

Sabiene Heindl, the General Manager of MIPI stated "Music piracy adversely affects a range of people in the music industry – from up-and-coming artists, songwriters, sound technicians, graphic designers to music retailers. Ultimately consumers pay the price with less Australian music because less money in the industry necessarily translates to less investment in discovering and nurturing new Australian talent."

“MIPI welcomes the Attorney General’s continued commitment to addressing IP crime. The pledge of increased funds to fight IP crime complements the recent changes to the Copyright Act which among other things allow for police to issue on-the-spot fines for IP criminals.”

The Attorney General announced additional funding of \$8.3 million over 2 years to strengthen the capability of the Australian Federal Police to pursue serious and complex IP crime, particularly where organised or transnational criminal elements are involved, noting that the AFP will work closely with industry and other agencies, including overseas agencies. He also announced that the Commonwealth Director of Public Prosecutions will receive an additional \$4.1 million over two years for new prosecutors and training to enable the prosecution of IP crime and finance the pursuit of proceeds of crime.

Ends

The Business Software Alliance (www.bsa.org) is the foremost organization dedicated to promoting a safe and legal digital world. BSA is the voice of the world's commercial software industry and its hardware partners before governments and in the international marketplace. Its members represent one of the fastest growing industries in the world. BSA programs foster technology innovation through education and policy initiatives that promote copyright protection, cyber security, trade and e-commerce. BSA members include Adobe, Altium, Apple, Autodesk, Avid, BEA Systems, Bentley Systems, Borland, Breault Research Organization, CA, Cadence Design Systems, Cisco Systems, CNC Software/Mastercam, Dell, EMC, Entrust, Frontline PCB Solutions - An Orbotech Valor Company, HP, IBM, Intel, INUS Technology, McAfee, Microsoft, Minitab, Monotype Imaging, PTC, SAP, SolidWorks, Sybase, Symantec, Synopsys, Tekla, The MathWorks, Trend Micro and UGS.

Music Industry Piracy Investigations Pty Ltd (www.mipi.com.au) is an organisation that provides investigative and intellectual property right enforcement related services to the Australian music industry and engages in anti-piracy education in Australia. MIPI members include Sony BMG, Universal Music, EMI Music, Warner Music, APRA II AMCOS and a large number of small Australian music labels.

Interviews:

Jim Macnamara - Director & Spokesperson, BSA
Telephone: 0414 393 655

Sabiene Heindl – General Manager, MIPI
Telephone: 0412 969 653

Media Enquiries:

Pru Quinlan – Einsteinz Communications
Telephone: (02) 8905 0995
pru@einsteinz.com.au

Christy Hayes – MIPI Communications Manager
Telephone: 0422 604 668
mipi@mipi.com.au