JOINT NEWS RELEASE

14 June 2017

Singapore's National Trade Platform wins international award for best e-business digital initiative

The National Trade Platform (NTP) project led by Singapore Customs and the Government Technology Agency of Singapore (GovTech) has emerged the winner in the e-business category of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) Prizes 2017[1].

The WSIS Prizes recognise outstanding digital projects worldwide which foster socio-economic development across categories such as e-government, e-environment, e-science and media. The winners of the 18 categories were announced on 13 Jun 2017 at the annual WSIS Forum held in Geneva, Switzerland.

This is the first time that a digital initiative from Singapore has won in any of the 18 categories of the WSIS Prizes since the inception of these prizes in 2012. The NTP beat four other projects[2] to come up tops in the e-business category. Receiving the award for the NTP were Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General, Singapore Customs, and Mr Tan Eng Pheng, Senior Director (Clusters Group), GovTech.

Currently being developed, the NTP – which will replace the existing TradeNet and TradeXchange[3] systems – is a one-stop next-generation trade information management platform to support companies in the trade and logistics industry and adjacent sectors such as trade finance. The NTP will be progressively rolled out from end-2017.

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[1] The World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) is a global summit under the United Nations (UN) that seeks to build a people-centric, inclusive and development-oriented Information Society. The WSIS Prizes is an international contest to evaluate and recognise individuals, governments, civil society, local, regional and international agencies, research institutions and private-sector companies for outstanding success in implementing development-oriented strategies that leverage on ICT as an enabler of development.

[2] The four other projects are "eTrade for All" from Switzerland, "LABORA" from Mexico, "Intelligent Waiter Robot" from Pakistan and "Online Administrative Executive Service" from Saudi Arabia.

[3] TradeNet was launched in 1989. It is Singapore's single trade permit clearing house, incorporating Whole-Of-Government (WOG) trade regulatory requirements. Through TradeNet, importers, exporters and freight forwarders can make B2G transactions such as the declaration of permits. TradeXchange was launched in 2007. It is a secure and neutral IT platform which enables exchanges of trade and logistics documents and data amongst private sector companies, as well as with the Government.

The NTP will help businesses to streamline work processes, reduce inefficiencies of manual trade document exchange, and leverage data analytics for insights from their trade data, so as to be well-equipped for the digital economy.

"Singapore's Smart Nation vision has been perfectly transmitted in the NTP project. As the next-generation platform, NTP will enhance the competitiveness of local SMEs in international trade and promote Singapore as a strategic destination of choice for Traders, Shippers, Logistic and Trade Finance Companies around the globe. CommGate is proud to be part of this strategic national project," said Moonshi Mohsenruddin, CEO & Founder, CommGate.

In August 2016, the NTP was also conferred the best Smart City Project under the Economic Development category of the International Data Corporation's (IDC) 2016 Smart City/Asia Pacific Awards (SCAPA).

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ANNEX

Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General, Singapore Customs (left in photo) and
Mr Tan Eng Pheng, Senior Director (Clusters Group), GovTech (right), received the
WSIS Prizes for the National Trade Platform's win in the e-business category.

Mr Tan Eng Pheng, Senior Director (Clusters Group), GovTech (left in photo) and
Mr Ho Chee Pong, Director-General, Singapore Customs (right), received the WSIS
Prizes for the National Trade Platform's win in the e-business category.

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