



Speech

Optus Centre Sydney Opening Ceremony

2 October 2007

Paul O'Sullivan, Optus Chief Executive

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to our celebration.

It is also a great honour to be joined by the Prime Minister, the Deputy Premier of NSW the Hon John Watkins, SingTel Group CEO Chua Sock Koong, SingTel Group board members John Morschel and Graham Bradley and other special guests.

I see our state of the art campus as a symbol of Australia and what it stands for.

We are a rapidly growing country with a love of innovation and design, a passion for new and emerging technology and a drive towards knowledge, competition and clever investment.

We are a country that relishes its diversity of race, opinion and education.

We're on the door step of Asia and are embracing the benefits that brings.

The elements I've just described are all at play here at Optus today. And every day.

This space is the workplace for 6,500 people, with its leading edge technology, is also a powerful physical demonstration of the scale and significance of Optus and its contribution to Australia's society and economy.

In just 15 years we are one of Australia's largest companies with annual revenues exceeding \$7 billion. And we invest more than \$1 billion each year into networks, IT systems and our people.

We serve millions of customers every day.

We provide direct employment for over 9,500 people and thousands more indirectly.

At the same time the new Optus campus is a compelling demonstration of the success of telecommunications policy in Australia in the past two decades, in reducing regulation and unleashing the power of competition.

Optus has been leading that charge for 15 years.

We've delivered better value, more choice and improved service to our customers through competitive and innovative products and services.

As we have just seen on the video, it has been a remarkable fifteen year journey for Optus and for Australian telecommunications, with many significant moments along the way.

One of the most significant was the 1996 launch of our new cable network, and Prime Minister Howard was present to make the first telephone call over that network.

It is therefore particularly pleasing that he is with us here again today to officially open our new campus.

The Howard Government has maintained a strong and consistent support for competition in the telecommunications industry - even in the face of some intense pressures to the contrary.

And the statistics reflect this support. Remarkably, competition in telecommunications has delivered \$12 billion worth of benefits to the economy since telecommunications was deregulated.

As is clear from the enormous scale of development here at Macquarie Park, the Government's policies have unleashed a vibrant and rapidly growing information technology and communications sector - with many of the key players clustered in this high-tech corridor around Macquarie University.

Optus arrival gives the corridor a powerful boost - which will be further reinforced because we expect many of our suppliers, customers and collaborators to move into the area as well.

It is becoming Australia's answer to Silicon Valley in California, Silicon Fen in Cambridge in the UK, and the high tech clusters around Bangalore in India.

That is why it was an ideal location for Optus' new national headquarters.

The design of the campus incorporates new facilities and new technologies. It is designed to stimulate new work practices and different ways of working together, to reinvigorate our culture, and to make us even more efficient and competitive.

Let me close with some facts about this facility.

It's the largest single tenant corporate facility in Australia.

It sits on land equivalent to the size of eight football fields, there are 6,400 work-points, over 2,500sqm of retail space and 6,000sqm of Training and Client Facilities.

We have gym, childcare facilities and a 4.5 Australian Building Green rating.

We are using and showcasing our own technologies including 3G, Voice Over IP and satellite.

Not only has Optus played a vital role in the industry and delivered enormous benefits to Australians everywhere, but we are also proud of the positive impact on the environment and the local community we are making and our acceptance in the North Ryde Community.

A special thanks to our local community partners and council members here to today!

Now, allow me to introduce Matthew Quinn, Managing Director of Stockland.