



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard 21 April 2004

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Frequentis

Hon. P. D. BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (10.00 a.m.): I have a further detailed statement in relation to Frequentis and what it means for Queensland. I highlight that we are now getting a critical mass of aviation expertise and skills. That will create jobs. Frequentis will set up an Australia Trade Coast, joining a host of other companies including EADS, Australian Aerospace, Raytheon, Smiths Aerospace, Qantas, Virgin Blue, Cellnet and Sandvik. I seek leave to have the remainder of my ministerial statement incorporated in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

I announced the Frequentis decision in Vienna on my recent trade and investment mission to Europe.

Frequentis maintains and develops communication and information systems for air traffic control management and public safety and transport and employs 560 people worldwide.

This large Austrian company claims a market share of 30% in the field of Voice Communication for Air Traffic Control and has become the world's market leader in this sector.

The company's systems are also used in public safety (for rescue, police and fire-fighting), the maritime business, Tetra digital mobile radio-communications, as well as railways and public transport.

My government's Trade and Investment Office in London and the Department of State Development and Innovation have been involved in negotiations with executives at the Vienna headquarters of Frequentis.

They demonstrated the advantages of Queensland, including the support of my pro-business government, low taxes, low set-up and operating costs, skilled workers, excellent training, educational infrastructure and the aviation hub that already exists.

Mr Speaker, no incentives were used to persuade the company to come to Queensland.

Since 1998 we have developed an aviation and aerospace industry in Queensland that has created more than 4,200 new jobs.

The Frequentis regional headquarters will create a significant number of new jobs in Brisbane as the company grows, with the majority of them being highly skilled.

More importantly, the arrival of Frequentis adds to the critical mass of aviation companies here and increases our allure to other aviation companies.

It reinforces my government's Smart State vision, and our determination to see Queensland become an aviation hub for the Asia Pacific region.

Allan McDonagh, Managing Director of Frequentis Australasia Pty Ltd, said that Frequentis identified a number of reasons for locating its Australasia headquarters in Queensland.

These included the availability of highly skilled workers, the good quality lifestyle to attract and retain staff and the ability to source suitable business accommodation with room for expansion.

This is no flight of fancy Mr Speaker. This is the mark of a progressive, proactive government that doesn't rest on its laurels.

We are busy promoting Queensland because we have a great product to promote and because we are determined to deliver jobs and real investment.