



Perth accounting and consulting firm, Stantons International, joins Russell Bedford global network

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Worldwide professional services group Russell Bedford International has announced the appointment of Stantons International as its member firm in Perth, Western Australia.

PR9.NET November 26, 2004 - Russell Bedford International - the global network of independent accounting, audit and consulting firms - has strengthened its coverage in the Asia-Pacific region by taking on Stantons International as its member firm in Perth, Western Australia.

Stantons has some 60 personnel and has been operating as an accounting and audit practice for over 25 years. The firm's head office is located in West Perth, a key commercial and business district in the state capital of Western Australia. It also has a branch office in Darwin, capital of Australia's Northern Territory.

The firm's partners include John Van Dieren (head of the External Audit and Corporate Services division), Keith Lingard (in charge of International Projects) and Neil Joyce (responsible for Tax Compliance and Tax Consulting).

Stantons' main activities are: statutory audit, with clients including 42 public companies listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX); internal audit, with most of the work being for state government departments and trading entities; international consulting, mainly on aid-funded projects in the Asia-Pacific region for the Asian Development Bank, AusAID and the World Bank; corporate tax consulting; and general tax services and accounting for small and mid-size businesses.

Earlier this year, Stantons was placed third amongst Australian accountants advising on successful IPOs on the ASX, based on the number of listings in the six months to 30 June 2004. In 2003 Stantons was fourth, and in 2002 fifth by number of IPOs.

Clients of the External Audit division include many mineral exploration and production companies, along with some well-known private enterprises, such as Skywest, Western Australia's largest regional airline. The firm is also a preferred supplier to the Auditor General of Western Australia for external audits of government authorities under contract.

The Internal Audit division is among the leading practices in this field in Perth and undertakes internal audit, probity audits, efficiency and effectiveness reviews and IT audit, mainly for Government.

On the international consulting side, Stantons has recently commenced several new assignments including: an audit capacity building technical assistance programme in Azerbaijan for the World Bank; an AusAID-funded institutional strengthening project in Papua New Guinea; and a public sector governance technical assistance project in the Solomon Islands funded by the Asian Development Bank.

Another recent win for the firm is a major assignment for an Australian public listed company that sells manganese into China. Stantons will be assisting in the development of a new manganese mine in the Northern Territory of Australia by ensuring that all significant contracts are properly tendered, assessed and awarded in accordance with modern corporate governance standards.

Russell Bedford's network in the Asia-Pacific region has been growing quickly. Over the last three years, in addition to the new member in Perth, firms have joined in Sydney, Singapore, Seoul, Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur. Now the group is seeking to take on more firms in the principal cities of Australia and New Zealand, with a view to creating a regional network in Australasia.

For further information, contact John Van Dieren at Stantons International on +61 8 9481 3188, or Kempton Bedell-Harper at Russell Bedford International on +44 20 7410 0339. Alternatively, visit the websites at www.stanton.com.au and www.russellbedford.com.

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About Russell Bedford International

Russell Bedford International was established in 1983 by a group of medium-sized independent audit and accounting firms aiming to counter the market dominance of the major multi-national accounting groups.

Russell Bedford is now a closely-connected global network of independent accountancy and business consultancy firms in key locations around the world, and is represented in some 50 countries in Europe, the Americas, the Middle East, Africa and Asia-Pacific.

All Russell Bedford affiliates are well-established firms offering international business advice and services to local and multinational clients. Most provide a full range of services comprising accounting, auditing, tax advice, general business guidance and financial consulting. In addition, many have special expertise in particular fields, such as international taxation or information technology.

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