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Trans-Pacific Partnership submissions
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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RE Japan, Canada and Mexico expressions of interest to join TPP negotiations

General Electric (GE) welcomes the Australian Government's leadership negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement with Brunei Darussalam, Chile, New Zealand, Singapore, Peru, United States of America, Vietnam and Malaysia.

Japan, Canada and Mexico have formally expressed interest in joining the TPP negotiations.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) has requested comments from stakeholders for the Australian Government's bilateral discussions with these countries regarding "their readiness to join, and their capacity to maintain both the ambition and pace of the negotiations".

GE has worked with Australian customers, partners and governments since its first major project; the installation of electric motors in Brisbane tramways in 1896.

Since then, GE has grown to be an employer of more than 5000 Australians across its businesses - Energy, Capital, Healthcare, Aviation and Transport.

GE has been actively engaged in the TPP negotiations and has worked with DFAT officials, including on the proposal for an environmental goods and services accord, and looks forward to participating in the next TPP Round in Melbourne in March.

GE believes that Japan, Mexico and Canada joining the TPP negotiations on terms consistent with the visit of the TPP as the gold-standard, 21st Century trade agreement will contribute to economic growth in these and other participating countries, including Australia, and to the further development, transparency and accessibility to these markets.

GE supports broadening the TPP's competitive advantage to new members in the Asia-Pacific region who share its liberalizing aims and are prepared to embrace its disciplines.

Specifically, GE believes new entrants to the TPP negotiations should:

- commit to no exclusions;
- agree with the previously agreed upon text;
- maintain the ambitious scope of the trade agreement; and
- affirm that the negotiations not be delayed in the process of admitting new participants.

Existing TPP members have set an ambitious timeline which GE supports.

Demand for GE products in areas such as power generation, transportation, quality healthcare and clean water is being driven in large part by the growing middle class in emerging markets.

A TPP with a common rule of origin, strengthened intellectual property protections, and new frameworks for regulatory cooperation, investment, state-owned enterprises and supply chains help GE meet the demands of these markets through the power of competition and free enterprise.

GE looks forward to continuing to work with the Australian Government to progress the TPP negotiations to an ultimate agreement.

GE also notes the statement by Prime Ministers Julia Gillard and John Key following the Joint Meeting of Australian and New Zealand Cabinet Ministers on January 29 reaffirmed that both "remained strongly committed to the goal of eliminating tariffs and other barriers to regional trade and investment, including through negotiation of the Trans-Pacific Partnership".

For further information, please contact GE Energy Infrastructure Policy Leader (Australia and New Zealand) Kirby Anderson on +617 3001 4339 or Kirby.Anderson@ge.com.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sargent", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Sargent
President and Chief Executive Officer
GE Australia and New Zealand