

NEWS WEBSITE OF THE YEAR

Today's Paper

Markets Data

Menu

LOG OUT

MY PREMIUM AFR



Home / Street Talk

STREET TALK

Nov 6 2017 at 12:15 AM

Updated Nov 6 2017 at 12:15 AM

Save article

My Saved Articles

Print

License article

Scott Briggs rounds up big names for visa play, \$1b IPO contender



There are some interesting names emerging in the private consortiums bidding for contracts to run parts of Australia's visa system. Peter Braig

by Sarah Thompson Anthony Macdonald Joyce Moullakis

Former Nine Entertainment Group commercial director and long-time confidant to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Briggs, is spearheading an ambitious bid to create Australia's next \$1 billion-plus listed technology and business processes company.

Street Talk can reveal Briggs has put together a consortium of heavyweight financial markets and information technology players to bid for a federal government contract that could be worth billions of dollars.

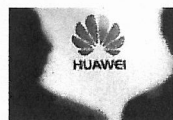
It is understood the group includes Briggs' new private investment firm Pacific Blue Capital, New York-listed software giant Oracle, PwC Australia, and funds manager

Latest Stories



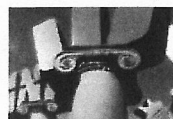
Kogan founders to reduce Kogan.com stake, again

29 mins ago



Huawei's quiet determination pays off

50 mins ago



Banking royal commission unveils initial hit list

46 mins ago

[More](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT

Top 100 Graduate Employers Guide



The new graduate job seeker's guide to the top 100 employers

SPONSORED CONTENT

Businesses of Tomorrow



How businesses are connecting to create a more innovative and stronger economy.

Ellerston Capital, which has helped raised capital to fund the first stage of the tender process. [Ellerston chief investment officer Ashok Jacob is overseeing the consortium as chairman.]

Qantas Airways and National Australia Bank are also involved, boosting the group's credentials to be the "Australian" option in a race set to play out under the watch of the Department of Immigration in coming months.

If successful, Briggs' consortium is expected to seek an ASX-listing, with investment bank Credit Suisse already lined up to advise on a potential float worth more than \$1 billion. However, investors have been told such a move could be some time away.

The plans were unveiled as part of a pitch to seed investors and key consortium members in recent months, many of which were locked into the deal during the past fortnight, sources said.

Briggs did not return calls seeking comment on Sunday.

The group is seeking to win the right to run large parts of Australia's visa and citizenship system, with the Department of Immigration looking for a private operator to modernise and streamline processes for the country's eight million visa applications each year.

The government released a consultation paper and kicked off talks with industry players and interested parties in June, including briefings in Sydney, Canberra, San Francisco, Singapore and Bengaluru.

It's released a detailed expression of interest document to various parties and is expected to return with more detail about the tender and bidding process in coming months.

Briggs' group is expected to go up against a number of consortiums, which are also said to be forming. IBM is understood to be heavily involved in one rival camp, working with consultants Anderson Group.

Australia Post, which plays a key role in Australia's passports and visa systems, is also said to be in-and-around the situation.

Sources close to the process said bidding groups would need expertise in building software infrastructure and financial players, which could help fund the new system and roll-out. That includes firms with vetting systems, such as biometric testing and facial recording, and deep-pocketed investors who could help fund the large IT project.

Interestingly, Briggs' consortium is believed to have also enlisted niche service providers Biometix and Aspen Medical.

Should Briggs' bid secure the contract, listing the business would help backers realise their investment, and allow ownership to transfer to new shareholders with a lower cost of capital and different time horizon. It would be a similar model to that used by electronic property records system PEXA, whose owners including the big four banks and state governments are actively considering a sharemarket listing now that its system is built and operating.

The visa system move is part of the government's wider push to create more efficient IT infrastructure and processes, and keep those jobs in Australia where possible,

SPONSORED CONTENT

Future of Healthcare



Data driven but human centred is the future of the health sector and Australia is poised to become a global powerhouse.

goodfood MONTH cit

enlighten
Night
Noodle
Markets

Advertisement

Related articles

Kogan founders to reduce Kogan.com stake, again

29 mins ago

Huawei's quiet determination pays off

50 mins ago

UBS seeks buyers for Ausdrill CEO's \$100m stake

1 hr ago

Insurer CBL in voluntary administration

Start-up raises \$10m to make video piracy impossible

17 mins ago

under the watch of assistant minister for digital transformation, Angus Taylor.

Recommended



Former LJ Hooker agent pleads to stay out of prison in \$6...



Love at first sight: Newlyweds snap up this house in 15...



Like talking down a menacing drunk in a bar



Domino's Don Meij and his five margin loan accounts



Buffett shares advice for surviving a market downturn

From Around the Web



How to create a transferable skills based CV

Promoted

Seek



The Jaguar Unleashed Event is now on

Promoted

Jaguar



If You Can Buy Just 1 Dividend Share, This Is It

Promoted

The Motley Fool



The Land Rover Main Event is now on

Promoted

Land Rover



Say hello to the Isuzu D-MAX. Go your own way!

Promoted

CarAdvice

powered by plista

- How MONA plans to keep its edge and stop its losses
- How to sell to 'The Pivotal' generation
- I make ugly things look beautiful, says this designer
- How Mossgreen spent other people's money before collapse
- Mossgreen exposes flaw in art auctions

- Five top Australian homes for sale this week
- Step back in time at Aman's newest resort
- Dream bedrooms: designs for sound sleep
- Sensory overload: welcome to Osaka
- Mountaineer Jon Muir talks about the day he died

- What to do when accusations go viral
- Why being an introvert is an asset in the C-suite
- Put a leash on the Earth Dogs for a prosperous Chinese year
- Robots are here but they want to help
- Podcasts: Technologies you need to know about

Special Reports

- Data and technology to transform the medical system
- Local cryptocurrency exchange gets certified
- Europe's alarm at China's Belt and Road initiative
- Sector growing in importance as technology takes hold
- Talking to a doctor a two-way conversation

My Premium AFR
 My Alerts Create alert
 Portfolio
 Account
 My Saved Articles (0)

Contact & Feedback
 About us
 Our Events
 FAQ
 Contact us

Markets Data
 Markets Overview
 World Equities
 Commodities
 Currencies

Brands
 The Australian Financial Review Magazine
 BOSS
 AFR Lists