



MEA CONFERENCE: Perth 2005
Venues: Convention & Exhibition
Centres [Plenary Session]

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- > There are approximately 550 ($\pm 10\%$) purpose built convention & exhibition centres worldwide.
- > Successfully maintained and operated, they are highly visible, landmark infrastructure and play a key role in a destination's integrated economic development strategy.



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- > CEC development is in a different stage of maturity in each of the five continents:
 - Western Europe is a mature market, with older plant & equipment requiring refurbishment/retrofit, with fewer new buildings coming online.
 - Eastern Europe is currently experiencing growth substantial growth.
 - South Africa is seeing new centres opened.
 - Asia/China is seeing expansion and/or new centres constructed.
 - North America is still seeing new centres coming online



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- > Despite the predictions, face to face meetings are here to stay but the ways of conducting meetings is becoming more sophisticated.

How will technology shape conferences & exhibitions of the future?

Do CECs really need to have the latest technology just to be seen as being competitive? If yes, who pays?



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- > An increasingly security conscious environment post S11 has irrevocably changed the way the meetings industry conducts its business.

What has been the implication for your industry sector?

Do you conduct a formal risk assessment for each piece of business that you place/operate?



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- > There is debate on whether or not each CEC needs to have a Headquarters Hotel. What is your view on the matter based upon your experience and/or client feedback?

- > There is an increasing trend for small to medium sized events to be booked or cancelled with short lead times.

What is your view based upon your experience and/or client expectations ?



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> Given the already competitive nature of the meetings industry, and coupled with an increase in meeting and exhibition capacity regionally, nationally and internationally, do you think that in the very near future supply will exceed demand in Australia ?

If so, what are the implications for the various stakeholders?