

Title	The BizPortal Platform
Organisation	Companies and Intellectual Property Commission (CIPC)
Innovation	<p>The BizPortal Platform enables CIPC partnership with banks which enables customers using the Platform to apply for a business bank account as part of company registration process. Customers have an option to open a business bank account with the bank of their choice. No paper or images are involved in this process, it is purely based on the exchange of data. Technically, web-services were used to enable this functionality. Web-technology offer a range of benefits in that it allows real-time integration and speedy results. Company registration through BizPortal Platform is instantaneous provided that the necessary fees are paid. Through collaboration with SARS, UIF and Compensation Fund, companies receive relevant registration or reference number as soon as the registration is concluded via BizPortal. From a customer perspective, there is no need therefore to visit multiple government institutions before being able to do business. There is only one online form to fill, which caters for all data that is required by each partner organisation. In terms of technology, APIs is used to communicate with each collaborating partner. Data is exchanged in real-time. Further collaboration with the Department of Trade and Industry and Competition (the DTIC) and BEE Commission resulted in Exempted Micro-Enterprises (EMEs) being able to apply for and receive BEE Certificates (Affidavits) via BizPortal. The option for a customer to choose a preferred bank (out of 6 banks) in order to open a business account soon after completing a company registration process is unique to BizPortal and the CIPC.</p>
Impact	<p>a). The turnaround time in company registration process was reduced drastically from 20 to 30 days instantaneous or 24 hours, depending on the availability of funds.</p> <p>b). Complaints about data capturing errors were reduced significantly.</p> <p>c). Through collaboration with SARS, UIF, Compensation Fund, ZADNA (domain authority), BEE Commission and the banks via BizPortal has become a one-stop shop for business owners.</p>
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