



1 February 2017

## Release of Citizenship Information

The attached information has been released under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA Act). The documentation relates to an application for New Zealand citizenship by Mr Peter Thiel.

Information has been redacted in reliance of the following provisions of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(a) of the OIA Act – the protection of the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; and/or
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA Act – would be likely to unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information; and/or
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA Act – maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through fee and frank expression of opinions.

## Information withheld

Some documents have been withheld in reliance of the following provisions of the Act:

- Section 9(2)(a) of the OIA Act – the protection of the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons; and/or
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii) of the OIA Act – would be likely to unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is subject of the information; and/or
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) of the OIA Act – maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through fee and frank expression of opinions.

These documents relate to standard information required to assess eligibility, and include immigration material, overseas police checks and commercial material.

Further information has been withheld in reliance of Section 9(2)(g)(i), this includes a draft submission – a copy of the final submission has however been released as part of the attached documentation.

The Department has taken into account the circumstances of this particular case. We consider that the reasons to withhold the information given above, are not outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make that information available.

**For the Secretary of Internal Affairs**

CIT 2011000002 SP WGN 1

22 June 2011

## MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

## APPLICATION FOR NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP

CITIZENSHIP  
Raraunga

Identity Services Group

Te Ratonga Tuakiri

Boulcott House

47 Boulcott St, PO Box 10680

Wellington 6143, New Zealand

Freephone 0800 22 51 51

Facsimile +64 4 382 3406

Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Applicant: Mr Peter Andreas Thiel  
 Date of birth: 11 October 1967  
 Place of birth: Frankfurt, Germany  
 Present citizenships: German and U.S.

## SUMMARY

## Reason for submission

Mr Thiel does not meet the 'presence in New Zealand' and 'intention to continue to reside in New Zealand' requirements for a grant of citizenship. Mr Thiel considers he has exceptional circumstances that mean a grant is in the public interest.

## General information

Mr Thiel and his agent have written to you concerning this application and a copy of their letters and your responses are at Tags A, B and C.

*Presence in New Zealand*

To meet this requirement, Mr Thiel must have been in New Zealand as a permanent resident for at least 1,350 days in the five years preceding this application. He does not meet this requirement because he was in New Zealand as a permanent resident for [REDACTED] days in those years. Mr Thiel has never lived in New Zealand.

*Intention to continue to reside in New Zealand*

To meet this requirement, Mr Thiel must intend to continue to reside in New Zealand or intend to work outside New Zealand for an approved organisation (e.g. a New Zealand business).

Mr Thiel lives in the U.S. He has stated that, if granted citizenship, he would continue to reside there to manage his American companies. Given Mr Thiel's current situation, the Department considers he is unable to meet the 'intention to continue to reside in New Zealand' requirement at this time.

## Exceptional circumstances and public interest

You may grant Mr Thiel citizenship if satisfied he has exceptional circumstances that mean a grant would be in *the public interest*.

Mr Thiel considers his exceptional circumstances relate to his skill as an entrepreneur and his philanthropy. Public interest arises from Mr Thiel utilising his skills in New Zealand and on behalf of New Zealanders, and through his philanthropic activities in this country.

He has provided evidence to verify his skill set and has testimonials from noted New Zealand business and political figures attesting to the work he is doing in New Zealand.

Examples of his entrepreneurial skills include:

- Co-founding PayPal (a secure internet payment system)
- Investing in Facebook (he was the first outside investor)

In New Zealand he has established a venture capital fund to fund innovative companies. To date he has invested [REDACTED] into the online accounting business 'Xero' and made a [REDACTED] investment in Pacific Fibre Limited (a company which plans to lay a fibre-optic cable between New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. to improve broadband service). Through his representatives in this country Mr Thiel has discussed the establishment of a technology company incubator in Auckland and using his connections in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand companies to the U.S. Further examples are provided in the body of this submission and in the tagged information.

Rod Drury (CEO and founder of Xero) and Sam Morgan (founder of Trade me, co-founder/chairman of Pacific Fibre and director of Fairfax Media) have written to the Department in support of Mr Thiel's application.

Mr Thiel has demonstrated his philanthropy through making a million dollar donation to the Christchurch earthquake relief fund.

Mr Thiel wishes to be granted citizenship from both a personal and professional perspective. Mr Thiel's entrepreneurial skills are what make him exceptional and this claim is supported by the success he has had in business, and further validated by the letters of support and additional documentation that accompanied his application. Mr Thiel states that being a New Zealand citizen would enable him to represent the country on the international stage and give him greater confidence in mobilising New Zealand's talented entrepreneurs.

When making your decision about this application you need to consider whether Mr Thiel's abilities as an entrepreneur and his work as a philanthropist are proof that he has exceptional circumstances and whether his use of these abilities is in the public interest.

Given the investment Mr Thiel has made in New Zealand companies and the support and contacts he is able to provide, the Department is of the view that granting Mr Thiel citizenship would be in the public interest due to his exceptional circumstances.

Recommendation

- The Department recommends you **approve** Mr Peter Thiel's application for citizenship under section 9(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act 1977 (public interest due to exceptional circumstances).

*Geoff May*

Geoff May  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

Grant of citizenship **APPROVED**

Grant of citizenship **DECLINED**

*Nathan Guy*  
Hon Nathan Guy  
Minister of Internal Affairs

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Mr Peter Andreas Thiel

## CRITERIA FOR THE GRANT OF CITIZENSHIP

This application is being considered under section 8 (citizenship by grant) and section 9 (grant of citizenship in special cases) of the Citizenship Act 1977. A copy of the relevant legislation is attached at Tag D.

Section 8(1) of the Citizenship Act provides that you may authorise the grant of New Zealand citizenship to any person who:

- a) has attained the age of 16 years; and
- b) is of full capacity; and
- c) satisfies you that he or she meets the six standard requirements listed below.

### Requirements met

Mr Thiel, who has attained the age of 16 years and is of full capacity, clearly meets the following requirements:

- entitlement to reside in New Zealand indefinitely;
- good character;
- sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship; and
- sufficient knowledge of the English language.

### Requirements not met

Mr Thiel does not meet the following requirements:

- presence in New Zealand; and
- intention to continue to reside in New Zealand or to work for an approved organisation (e.g. a New Zealand company).

### Presence in New Zealand

Mr Thiel first visited New Zealand in 1995 and has been to New Zealand four times. He was granted permanent residence on 24 July 2007. To meet the 'presence in New Zealand' requirement, Mr Thiel must have been in New Zealand as a permanent resident for at least 1,350 days in the five years preceding this application.

Mr Thiel does not meet this requirement because he was in New Zealand as a permanent resident for [REDACTED] days in those five years. He has never lived in New Zealand but has purchased a property in Parnell and has made an offer for the purchase of a holiday home in Queenstown. A calculation of his time in New Zealand as a permanent resident is at Tag E.

### **Accepting a shorter period of presence in New Zealand**

You may accept a shorter period of 'presence in New Zealand' if satisfied Mr Thiel has exceptional circumstances and was in New Zealand as a permanent resident for at least 450 days of the 20 months before applying for citizenship.

Mr Thiel was in New Zealand as a permanent resident for [REDACTED] days in the 20-month period. Therefore his application cannot be considered under this provision.

### **Intention to continue to reside in New Zealand**

To meet this requirement Mr Thiel must intend to continue to reside in New Zealand or intend to work outside New Zealand for an approved organisation (e.g. a New Zealand company).

Mr Thiel lives in the U.S. He has stated that, if granted citizenship, he would continue to reside there to manage his American companies. Given Mr Thiel's current situation, the Department considers he is unable to meet the 'intention to continue to reside in New Zealand' requirement at this time.

### **Exceptional circumstances and public interest**

You may grant Mr Thiel citizenship if satisfied he has exceptional circumstances that mean a grant would be in the public interest.

His lawyer, [REDACTED] at Bell Gully, has written to the Department about Mr Thiel's circumstances (see Tag F). He has provided information to demonstrate that Mr Thiel is a 'world class' entrepreneur and a philanthropist. He has also provided testimonials from prominent New Zealand business figures who validate these claims.

Mr Thiel's credentials as an entrepreneur include founding Clarium (an American based investment management company), being a founder of PayPal (an e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the internet), being an early investor in Facebook and establishing the Founders Fund (a capital fund that focuses on early-stage technology investments).

He has also set up a venture capital fund in New Zealand which seeks to fund innovative New Zealand companies, has invested [REDACTED] with Xero (an online accounting business) and in December 2010 he finalised a [REDACTED] investment in Pacific Fibre Limited (which plans to lay a fibre-optic cable between New Zealand, Australia and the U.S. to improve broadband service). In addition Mr Thiel has made a recent investment of [REDACTED] into Auckland-based Book Track Holdings Limited, which is developing a movie style sound track system for E-books.

[REDACTED] recently met Hon Dr Wayne Mapp, the Minister of Science and Technology, to discuss the possibility of setting up an 'IT Seed Centre Entrepreneurial Hub' that would offer scholarships to people with innovative ideas in

Information technology. Mr Thiel's representatives have also met with officials from the Ministry of Science and Innovation to discuss the establishment of an Auckland-based technology company incubator and setting up a 'landing pad' in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand companies to the U.S.

As a world class entrepreneur Mr Thiel believes that with the right support New Zealand can achieve a place at the top of the world's list of best countries for entrepreneurs. Mr Thiel states that New Zealand is one of the best places in the world for establishing businesses. The New Zealand government's support of the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund shows a clear commitment of promoting innovation in New Zealand.

Mr Thiel has stated that through his global networks and connections he would promote New Zealand entrepreneurs and their products on the world stage and would be proud to do so.

██████████ has provided letters from Rod Drury (CEO and founder of Xero) and Sam Morgan (founder of Trade me, co-founder/chairman of Pacific Fibre and director of Fairfax Media) validating the skills and connections that Mr Thiel has (see Tag G). ██████████ has also advised that Mr Thiel consulted the Prime Minister and Cabinet members about how his company could contribute to the venture capital market in New Zealand.

██████████ is contending that Mr Thiel's entrepreneurial skills are what makes him exceptional and this claim is supported by the success he has had in business and further validated by the letters of support and additional documentation that accompanied his application. See Tag H.

The public interest in Mr Thiel's situation stems from him applying his skills in New Zealand through setting up a venture capital fund and investing in and providing assistance to New Zealand companies. He is also presenting at a conference in Auckland in July (along with the Prime Minister).

Mr Thiel has additional claims to having exceptional circumstances through his philanthropic work. ██████████ has stated that Mr Thiel has established the Thiel Foundation in the U.S., which supports a number of organisations which are dedicated to supporting the cause of freedom. His philanthropy has extended to New Zealand through his donation of one million New Zealand dollars to Christchurch Earthquake Fund, facilitated by Mark Weldon Chief Executive of NZX on behalf of the Prime Minister. This donation connects his exceptional circumstances (i.e. his generosity and philanthropy) to public interest.

Mr Thiel has stated that he wishes to be granted citizenship from both a personal and professional perspective. Mr Thiel's entrepreneurial skills are what makes him exceptional and this claim is supported by the success he has had in business and further validated by the letters of support and additional documentation that he has provided. He states that being a New Zealand citizen would enable him to represent this country on the international stage and give him greater confidence in mobilising New Zealand's talented entrepreneurs.

commendation

The Department recommends you **approve** Mr Thiel's application.

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all enquiries please quote  
CIT 2011000002

18 January 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
E 21, 48 Shortland Street, Vero Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

#### NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP

Thank you for including the payment of \$100.00 for the translation of your birth certificate and baptism certificate. For citizenship purposes we only require the birth certificate to be translated.

I have now arranged a refund of \$50.00. This refund will be sent to the person who originally paid your fee within the next three weeks.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 20 April 2011 14:41  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: IS All  
Subject: FYI: QUAKE RECOVERY: Million Dollar Donation

**BELL GULLY**

**QUAKE RECOVERY: Million Dollar Donation**

Press Release by Bell Gully at 2:25 pm, 20 Apr 2011

Peter Thiel, a high-profile US entrepreneur with several New Zealand investment interests, has made a NZ \$1 million donation to the Christchurch earthquake appeal fund.

Mr Thiel, the first outside investor in Facebook and co-founder of PayPal, has a keen interest in emerging New Zealand technology companies. He has made investments in Xero and Pacific Fibre through his New Zealand-based venture capital fund, Valar Ventures, which is focused on providing capital and assistance to New Zealand entrepreneurs planning to expand into the US market.

"Now that we know the scope of the damage in Christchurch, it's time to start planning how to rebuild it" Mr Thiel said. "I hope that everyone who sees the potential for a restored Canterbury will lend their time, talent, or resources to renewing the region and its economy, for the sake of all New Zealand".

ENDS

**Story Classifications:**

**General:** Disasters and Natural Events

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# CITIZENSHIP

## Citizenship Act 1977

**8. Citizenship by grant**—(1) The Minister may authorise the grant of New Zealand citizenship to any person, including a person who may be a New Zealand citizen by descent, who—

- (a) has attained the age of 16 years; and
- (b) is of full capacity; and
- (c) applies for citizenship in the prescribed manner; and
- (d) satisfies the Minister that he or she meets each of the requirements specified in subsection (2).

(2) The requirements referred to in subsection (1) of this section are:

- (a) That the applicant is entitled, in terms of the Immigration Act 1987, to be in New Zealand indefinitely;
- (b) That the applicant was present in New Zealand—
  - (i) For a minimum of 1350 days during the 5 years immediately preceding the date of the application; and
  - (ii) For at least 240 days in each of those 5 years, - being days during which the applicant was entitled in terms of the Immigration Act 1987 to be in New Zealand indefinitely;
- (c) That the applicant is of good character;
- (d) That the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges attaching to New Zealand citizenship;
- (e) That the applicant has sufficient knowledge of the English language;
- (f) That the applicant intends, if he is granted New Zealand citizenship, either —
  - (i) To continue to reside in New Zealand;
  - (ii) To enter into or continue in Crown service under the New Zealand Government, or service under an international organisation of which the New Zealand Government is a member, or service in the employment of a person, company, society, or other body of persons resident or established in New Zealand.

9. **Grant of citizenship in special cases**—(1) Without limiting anything in section 8, the Minister may, upon application in the prescribed manner, authorise the grant of New Zealand citizenship to any person, including a person who may be a New Zealand citizen by descent,—

(c) if the Minister is satisfied that granting a certificate of New Zealand citizenship to the applicant would be in the public interest because of exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian or other nature relating to the applicant;

(2) In considering whether to authorise the grant of New Zealand citizenship to any person under subsection (1), the Minister—

(a) may have regard to such of the requirements of section 8(2) (as subject to section 8(3) to (9)) as the Minister thinks fit.

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 April 2011 8:17  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Press release - Facebook investor Peter Thiel headlines ideas conference on the future of New Zealand  
**Attachments:** ICE Ideas Conference\_Peter Thiel\_FINAL.pdf

PSE PRINT

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 5 April 2011 6:38  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Press release - Facebook investor Peter Thiel headlines ideas conference on the future of New Zealand

FYI, this went out from the ICEHOUSE over the weekend.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 02, 2011 8:33 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Press release - Facebook investor Peter Thiel headlines ideas conference on the future of New Zealand

**ICEHOUSE**  
business growth centre

**10** BUSINESS GROWTH 2007-2011

START UP OWNER-MANAGED NETWORK LEAGUE ANGELS EVENTS

[REDACTED]  
Good coverage this morning in the Herald on Sunday ...

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/headlines.cfm?c\\_id=3](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/business/news/headlines.cfm?c_id=3)

Also -

press release went out to our 'in-house networks' this morning  
informal tweeting, with quite a bit of re-tweeting going on  
general distribution to all media tomorrow and our monthly ICEHOUSE newsletter that goes to 10,000 people

Our plan is to release details of more speakers in a planned but spontaneous manner over the key period in the lead-up to early bird closing.

The 'entrepreneurs' that we serve and work with across NZ (about 3000 to-date) are the hardest to attract, so we have some special pricing for them

Thanks for the help - and hope you are happy with coverage, we are

[REDACTED]



THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND  
BUSINESS SCHOOL

bnz





Forbes.com recognises The ICEHOUSE as one of the top 10 Technology incubators in the World

From: [Redacted]

Sent: Sunday, 3 April 2011 8:34 a.m.

Subject: Press release - Facebook investor Peter Thiel headlines ideas conference on the future of New Zealand

Please find attached ICEHOUSE press release.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

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## Facebook investor Peter Thiel headlines ideas conference on the future of New Zealand

An investor who helped get Facebook off the ground, billionaire American technology entrepreneur Peter Thiel, will visit New Zealand as the keynote speaker at an ideas conference aimed at accelerating New Zealand's prosperity over the next 10 years.

The ICEHOUSE business growth centre is hosting the ICE Ideas conference on 8 July. The speaker line-up includes a who's who of New Zealand & International business leaders.

Mr Thiel is an entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist. He has founded and helped launch numerous world-class companies--from PayPal to Facebook—and also manages Founders Fund, a Silicon Valley venture capital fund.

Mr Thiel's involvement in the conference continues his interest and commitment to New Zealand, following on from his investments in Kiwi technology companies Xero and Pacific Fibre.

"New Zealand is a vibrant and growing country with a great deal to offer the world," said Mr Thiel. "Its inventive spirit and open economy will support the next generation of great companies, many of which we'll be discussing in July."

ICEHOUSE CEO Andrew Hamilton says the conference will bring interesting and different people together.

"The ICEHOUSE experience has been that good things happen when you get like-minded people together in an inclusive forum like this. Generating ideas and encouraging interaction are the objectives of the day and we think the speaker line-up is as good as any assembled in New Zealand."

"When we considered celebrating our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we wanted to look ahead and help New Zealand chart the path for the next 10 years, which is why we have put this day together. The ICEHOUSE itself will be announcing at the conference its commitment to lifting the success of New Zealand's businesses and we will be challenging others to deliver the remainder. Now more than ever, as a country we need to accelerate our presence on the global stage."

The conference is a collaborative effort with organisations such as The University of Auckland Business School, Kea New Zealand [www.keanewzealand.com](http://www.keanewzealand.com) and the Sir Peter Blake Trust [www.sirpeterblaketurst.org](http://www.sirpeterblaketurst.org) who are champions of Leadership Week, which finishes on the day of the ICE Ideas conference. It is also supported by MSI (Ministry of Science and Innovation), HP, BNZ, A-TEED (Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development Limited) & NZTE (New Zealand Trade & Enterprise) – organisations which aim to pave a more prosperous future for New Zealand.

The one day event aims to bring together great thinkers and action-oriented people.

"This is not a job summit or a knowledge wave, rather a forum for people to showcase their big idea, challenge or lesson that could benefit New Zealand; and to meet with people who can help make them happen. The ICEHOUSE's role in this is really as the facilitator and connector," says Hamilton.

The format will alternate speakers with informal break-out sessions and discussions. It will be rapid fire, fun and energetic. Other confirmed speakers in addition to Mr Thiel include leading international entrepreneur & author on innovation Rob Adams; Sochiro Fukutake, Chair and CEO of global education group Benesse Corporation; Rod Drury, CEO of Xero & Director NZX; Derek Handley, co-founder of The Hyperfactory; and Sir Ray Avery of Medicine Mondiale and New Zealander of the Year. There will be around 30 speakers throughout the day.

The conference will be opened by the Mayor of Auckland, Len Brown, and will feature an emerging group of Kiwi Entertainers, J Geek & the Geeks who are currently trending on YouTube.

#### ENDS

Contact information

**Andrew Hamilton**

CEO

The ICEHOUSE

[a.hamilton@theicehouse.co.nz](mailto:a.hamilton@theicehouse.co.nz)

+ 64 274 960 101

For more information on the ICE Ideas conference -

<http://www.theicehouse.co.nz/Internal/InternalAboutUs/10YearAnniversary/tabid/364/language/en-NZ/Default.aspx>

Bios of confirmed speakers, among the approximate 30 speakers on the day:

- Peter Thiel – co-founder PayPal, first external investor in Facebook, managing member of the Founders Fund
- Rob Adams – entrepreneur, VC & Angel Investor and author of two books on innovation, *Good Hard Kick in the Arse* and *If You Build it Will They Come?*
- Sochiro Fukutake – Chairman and CEO of Benesse Corporation, a leading global company in the area of education, language, nursing care and publishing which also has Berlitz Corporation as one of its subsidiaries
- Rod Drury – CEO of Xero, co-founder of Pacific Fibre, Board Member of NZX and champion for New Zealand High Tech community
- Derek Handley – co-founder of The Hyperfactory a leading mobile advertising corporation which was purchased by US media giant, Meredith Corporation
- Sir Ray Avery – founder of Medicine Mondiale, Blake Medalist and New Zealander of the Year



## About Peter Thiel

Peter Thiel is a technology entrepreneur, investor, and philanthropist.

Mr Thiel first gained attention for innovations in banking and start-up finance. Today he is known as the mentor of the PayPal mafia of entrepreneurs, as well as for his warnings of a coming technology deficit with severe economic consequences. He works to accelerate innovation to prevent such a crisis by identifying and funding promising technology ideas and by guiding successful companies to scale and dominate their industries.

In 1998, Mr Thiel made e-commerce easier, faster, and more secure by co-founding and leading PayPal, which now has 94 million active financial accounts. It also serves as a platform on which developers invent customized payment solutions for consumers and businesses.

Since selling PayPal to eBay in 2002, Mr Thiel has funded many of the world's most successful start-ups, including as the first external investor in Facebook. In 2005, building on his personal success as a venture capital investor, Mr Thiel established the Founders Fund, a leading and widely emulated Silicon Valley venture capital firm. In addition to successfully identifying some of the best emerging companies in Silicon Valley, the Founders Fund has pioneered new management incentive structures to allow founder liquidity and better align their interests with investors. Through the Founders Fund, as well as through his private investment, Mr Thiel invests in the next great generation of tech companies, such as SpaceX, Palantir, LinkedIn, Causes, Quantcast, Robotex, and many more.

Mr. Thiel earned a B.A. in philosophy from Stanford University and a J.D. from Stanford Law School, where he occasionally teaches on globalization and sovereignty. His articles have appeared in Policy Review, First Things, and the Wall Street Journal. He lives in San Francisco.

In 2010, the Economist gave Mr. Thiel and Max Levchin its Innovation Award for business process.

Mr Thiel is also the chairman of the Investment Committee of Valar Ventures, a New Zealand venture capital fund he launched in 2010 to invest in the most promising Kiwi technology companies. Valar Ventures seeks to partner with New Zealand entrepreneurs to help them build successful, global technology companies. To date, Valar has made two investments, totaling \$4.5 million, in New Zealand companies Xero and Pacific Fibre.

For more information on Mr Thiel's work in New Zealand, please visit Valar's website at <http://valarventures.com>.

### About The ICEHOUSE

The ICEHOUSE is a business growth centre that includes: business growth programmes for SMEs; a business incubator for start-ups; and New Zealand's largest group of Angel Investors. It is a collaborative partnership between The University of Auckland Business School, BNZ, HP and NZTE with support from Ernst & Young and Microsoft. It was established in 2001 in recognition of the importance of SMEs to the New Zealand economy.

The ICEHOUSE's purpose is to take responsibility for delivering 1000 of the 3000 firms needed to get New Zealand into the top half of the OECD by 2020. It works with a range of SMEs, from start-ups to established multi-million dollar enterprises.

Over 3000 entrepreneurs and business owners have already experienced The ICEHOUSE growth difference – new expertise and skills, valuable global network connections and investment pathways.

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[REDACTED]

**From :** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 11 October 2010 8:24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Interview with Peter in the WSJ

Pse print

This email is sent subject to Bell Gully's standard disclaimer.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sun Oct 10 14:14:24 2010  
**Subject:** interview with Peter in the WSJ

THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW OCTOBER 9, 2010

Technology = Salvation

An early investor in Facebook and the founder of Clarium Capital on the subprime crisis and why American ingenuity has hit a dead end.

By HOLMAN W. JENKINS JR.

The housing bubble blew up so catastrophically because science and technology let us down. It blew up because our technocratic elite told us to expect an ever-wealthier future, and science hasn't delivered. Except for computers and the Internet, the idea that we're experiencing rapid technological progress is a myth.

Such is the claim of Peter Thiel, who has either blundered into enough money that his crackpot ideas are taken seriously, or who is actually on to something. A cofounder of PayPal and an early investor in Facebook (his stake was recently reported to be around 3%), Mr. Thiel is the unofficial leader of a group known as the "PayPal mafia," perhaps the most fecund informal network of entrepreneurs in the world, behind companies as diverse as Tesla (electric cars) and YouTube.

Mr. Thiel, whose family moved from Germany when he was a toddler, studied at Stanford and became a securities lawyer. After PayPal, he imparted a second twist to his career by launching a global macro hedge fund, Clarium Capital. He now matches wits with some of the great macro investors, such as George Soros and Stanley Druckenmiller, by betting on the direction of world markets.

Those two realms of investing—narrow technology and broad macro—are behind his singular diagnosis of our economic crisis. "All sorts of things are possible in a world where you have massive progress in technology and related gains in productivity," he says. "In a world where wealth is growing, you can get away with printing money. Doubling the debt over the next 20 years is not a problem."

"This is where [today is] very different from the 1930s. In the '30s, the Keynesian stuff worked at least in the sense that you could print money without inflation because there was all this productivity growth happening. That's not going to work today.

"The people who bought subprime houses in Miami were betting on technological progress. They were betting on energy prices coming down and living standards going up." They were betting, in short, on the productivity gains to make our debts affordable.

We'll get back to what all this means. Mr. Thiel wants to meet me at a noisy coffee shop near Union Square in Manhattan. Because a Fortune writer invited to his condo wrote about his butler? "No," Mr. Thiel tells me. "And I don't have a butler."

His mundane thoughts these days include whether Facebook should go public. Answer: Not anytime soon.

As a general principle, he says, "It's somewhat dangerous to be a public company that's succeeding in a context where other things aren't."

Mr. Thiel sees truth in three different analyses of our dilemma. Liberals, he says, blame our education system, but liberals are the last ones to fix it, just wanting to throw money at what he calls a "higher education bubble."

"University administrators are the equivalent of subprime mortgage brokers," he says, "selling you a story that you should go into debt massively, that it's not a consumption decision, it's an investment decision. Actually, no, it's a bad consumption decision. Most colleges are four-year parties."

Libertarians blame too much regulation, a view he also shares ("Get rid of the FDA," he says), but "libertarians seem incapable of winning elections. . . . There are a lot of people you can't sell libertarian politics to."

A conservative diagnosis would emphasize an unwillingness to sacrifice, necessary for great progress, and once motivated by war. "Technology has made war so catastrophic," he says, "that it has unraveled the whole desirability of it [as a spur to technology]."

Mr. Thiel has dabbled in activism to the minor extent of co-hosting in Manhattan last month a fund raiser for gay Republicans, but he has little taste for politics. Still, he considers it a duty to put on the table the idea that technological progress has stalled and why. (To this end, he's working on a book with Russian chess champion and democracy activist Garry Kasparov.)

You don't have to agree with every jot to recognize that his view is essentially undisputable: With faster innovation, it would be easier to dig out of our hole. With enough robots, even Social Security and Medicare become affordable.

Mr. Thiel has not found any straight line, however, between his macro insight and macro-investing success. "It's hard to know how to play the macro trend," he acknowledges. "I don't think it necessarily means you should be short everything. But it does mean we're stuck in a period of long-term stagnation."

Some companies and countries will do better than others. "In China and India," he says, "there's no need for any innovation. Their business model for the next 20 years is copy the West." The West, he says, needs to do "new things." Innovation, he says, comes from a "frontier" culture, a culture of "exceptionalism," where "people expect to do exceptional things"—in our world, still an almost uniquely American characteristic, and one we're losing.

"If the universities are dominated by politicians instead of scientists, if there are ways the government is too inefficient to work, and we're just throwing good money after bad, you end up with a nearly revolutionary situation. That's why the idea that technology is broken is taboo. Really taboo. You probably have to get rid of the welfare state. You have to throw out Keynesian economics. All these things would not work in a world where technology is broken," he says.

Perhaps it really does fall to some dystopian science fiction writer to tell us what such a world will be like—when nations are unraveling even as a cyber-nation called "Facebook" is becoming the most populous on the planet.

Mr. Jenkins writes the Journal's Business World column



Scoop

<http://www.scoop.int.nz/2010/10/22/44/30-11/591517/paypal-founder-pumps-4mln-into-xero.html>

## PayPal founder pumps \$4mln into Xero

Friday, 22 October 2010, 11:02 am  
Article: BusinessDesk

### PayPal founder to join Xero advisory board, pumps in \$4mln

by Paul McBeth

Oct. 22 (BusinessDesk) - Xero Ltd., the accounting software company, has tapped PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel for \$4 million to help fast-track its expansion in the U.S.

Thiel, who helped set up online payments company PayPal and later sold it to eBay for US\$1.5 billion, will buy about 2.7 million shares in Xero in a private placement to help support the company's expansion into the U.S., giving him about 3% ownership.

Once the deal is done, he will join Xero's U.S. Advisory Board. The shares climbed 3.6% to \$1.54 in trading today, and are down 8.6% this year.

"With the support of Peter and his team, we believe we are now strongly positioned to enter the U.S. and capitalise on the opportunity that this market represents," chief executive Rob Drury said in a statement.

"Access to their extensive networks will provide a major boost as we take on Quickbooks in the vast U.S. small business market."

Xero entered the U.S. market last year when it appointed Dell Inc. executive Andy Lark to be its first member on the company's U.S. Advisory Board, and in May last year it won two Webby awards.

In January, Xero entered into an arrangement with American online banking services provider Yodlee Inc. to offer its accounting system.

(BusinessDesk) 10:58:59

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## An Unorthodox Take on Philanthropy

By PUI-WING TAM

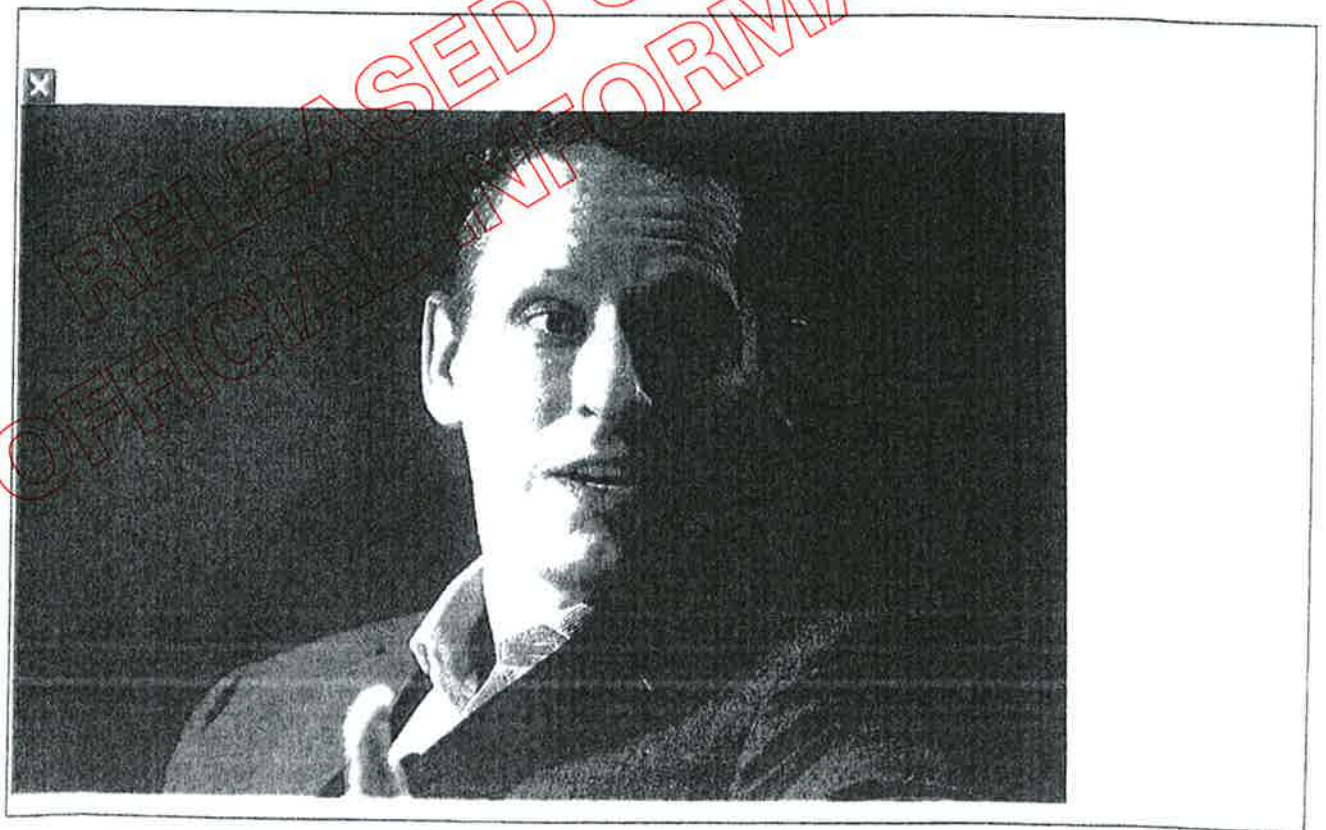
Peter Thiel co-founded electronic-payments service PayPal and currently runs hedge fund Clarium Capital and venture-capital fund Founders Fund, which has invested in start-ups such as Facebook Inc. Now the entrepreneur-investor has also turned his energy to philanthropy.

[View Full Image](#)



Bloomberg News

Peter Thiel sponsored a program to pay students to forgo college and spend their time on innovative projects.



That doesn't mean Mr. Thiel is giving to traditional causes. Instead, his Thiel Foundation supports futurism and liberty through organizations such as the Sens Foundation, which is focused on regenerative biotechnologies, and Imitatio, which concentrates on a theory that people imitate others and desire objects that others own, thereby spurring competition and violence. Underlining his unconventional approach, Mr. Thiel recently

**WSJ:** Who are the Silicon Valley laggards in giving?

**Mr. Thiel:** Not going that way. No laggards.

**WSJ:** What reaction did you get when you recently announced you would give \$100,000 each to 20 students to not attend college and instead do other projects?

**Mr. Thiel:** The overwhelming reaction has been positive. There was a generational divide where a lot of the most positive reaction was from younger people. Then there were other people who went to college in the 1960s and 1970s when it was basically free and don't understand what's happened now with amassing a quarter-million dollars in debt [because of college fees].

For a lot of people, it's already a borderline decision whether they stay in college or do something else because the costs have gotten so high. They could spend the next 20 years paying off debts, and that weighs on people in some very big ways.

The broader goal was to start a conversation between education and entrepreneurship; we don't think the link is automatic.

We've gotten a lot of interest so far. There have been hundreds of applications from people with SAT [scores on individual parts of the test] in the 700s to 800s, with average GPAs of 3.6 and a decent international representation.

**WSJ:** Have you gotten any angry calls from parents?

**Mr. Thiel:** Not yet.

Write to Pui-Wing Tam at [pui-wing.tam@wsj.com](mailto:pui-wing.tam@wsj.com)

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### Back to the Future with Peter Thiel

The hedge-fund billionaire says we need more innovation to end less hard-funding — to open a new frontier

**P**eter Thiel may be most famous for his role (portrayed as Wallace Langham in *The Social Network*) as the venture capitalist who gave “The Facebook” the angel investment it needed to really launch. Before that, Thiel was known in Silicon Valley circles as the “Don of the PayPal mafia,” his official role at the e-commerce site was founder and CEO, and more generally for his centrality as an investor in tech startups. Now, Thiel serves as the president of Clarium Capital, a hedge fund that (though it may suffered recently) made substantial gains by betting against the housing market in 2007.

Though he’s primarily a businessman, Thiel has dabbled in libertarian activism. Most recently, he caused a stir by establishing the **Thiel Fellowship**, which will select 20 college students under the age of 20 and pay them \$100,000 each to drop out of college and embark on entrepreneurial careers. Thiel is also an intellectual of astonishing breadth and depth who finds time, while running a major hedge fund, to produce thought pieces that survey the Western Canon, the geopolitical landscape, and financial economics at a gallop (such as [this one](#) for the *Hoover Digest*).

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NRO's Matthew Shaffer spoke with the philosopher-CEO in a wide-ranging conversation about net neutrality, the higher-education bubble, the future of seasteading, income inequality, why the wealthy have gone blue, Leo Strauss, and more. Thiel wants to take his back to the future, in other words, like in the 1950s, imagine how innovation — technological and otherwise — can radically improve our lives.

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## Billionaire Facebook Investor Peter Thiel Pours Money Into His "Utopia," New Zealand

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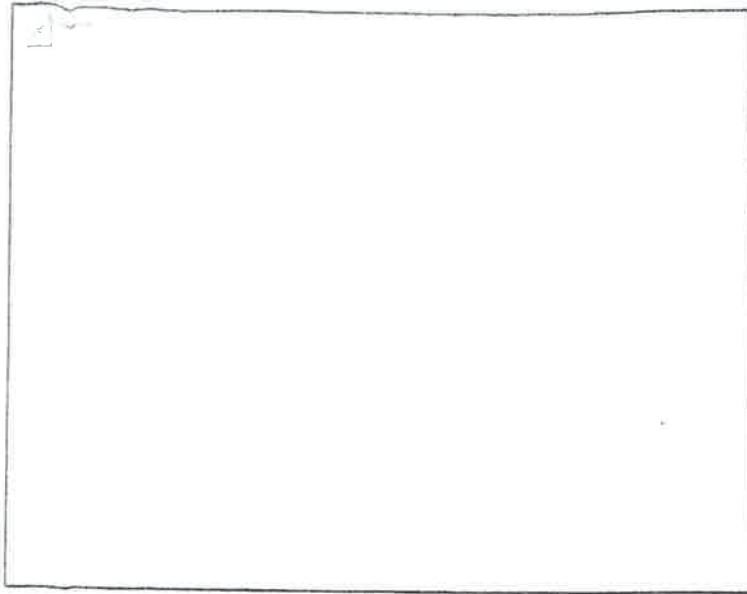
Peter Thiel, famous for making billions off Facebook, tells us he's finally found "utopia" – New Zealand.

Thiel has been investing heavily in the country.

He's already made two noteworthy venture investments there in the space of a few months. In October 2010, he invested \$3 million in [online accounting](#) firm Xero, which is based (and publicly traded) in New Zealand. Then he invested \$4 million in Pacific Fiber, an ambitious company that is building a fiber-optic cable from Australia to New Zealand to the US and is raising \$300-400 million more to do so.

These investments aren't just one-offs. Thiel has set up a local venture firm called Valar Ventures. Valar Ventures LP was registered in New Zealand in July 2009, more than a year before Thiel's first known New Zealand investment, and is managed by Valar Capital Management LLC, based in San Francisco, according to official records. Valar Ventures LP's offices are at prominent New Zealand law firm Bell Gully, which suggests it doesn't have full time staff yet. Peter Thiel founded two other companies in New Zealand: Second Star Limited, where he is sole shareholder, and Silverarc Advisors.

The people associated with these New Zealand companies, all of them close associates of Thiel at his hedge fund Clarium Capital, show how serious Thiel is about New Zealand. Valar Capital Management is managed by Nathan Linn, VP of Finance at Clarium. On the boards of Thiel's New Zealand companies are Matt Danzeisen, Principal at Clarium, James Fitzgerald, COO and General Counsel at Clarium, and Andrew McCormack, VP Corporate Development at Clarium and previously Thiel's assistant at PayPal.



Peter Thiel is a PayPal co-founder, early Facebook investor and hedge fund manager

Thiel is nothing if not an ambitious, long-term thinker, so what's the big picture here? What could the famously contrarian investor possibly see in a country of 4 million people whose economy is mostly based on agriculture and tourism?

Here's a thought: maybe Peter Thiel wants to turn New Zealand into the next Silicon Valley. Or maybe even the libertarian utopia of his dreams.

Investing in a huge undersea fiber optic cable is typically a safe, low-return investment, which isn't the kind of investments Thiel goes after. But bringing high speed internet into New Zealand would be a first step to turning the country into a new Silicon Valley.

The name of Thiel's firm Valar Ventures comes from J.R.R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings universe. Thiel is a huge Tolkien fan and the Lord of the Rings movies were filmed in New Zealand. In Tolkien's legendarium, the Valar are deities who created the world of Middle-Earth (portrayed by New Zealand in the movies) and then descended on it to help nurture its infancy and development.

Reached about this idea, Thiel said: "New Zealand is already utopia. But Silicon Valley and New Zealand can learn a lot from each other, and we want to help make that happen." So Thiel is clearly in it for the long run.

Thiel is very libertarian, and New Zealand already has some of the most free-market policies in the world. Thiel is also a donor to the Seasteading Institute, a foundation that wants to create libertarian self-sustaining colonies out at sea. A popular libertarian cause is the "Free State Project" to get tens of thousands of libertarians to emigrate to New Hampshire and take over the government democratically to reshape the state according to libertarian ideals.

Thiel has been frustrated at US policies and generally been bearish on the US economy. He believes that the world needs a new wave of radical innovation in fields like artificial intelligence and robotics to escape impending disaster and has seemed increasingly skeptical that the US, the world leader in innovation, can deliver that.



Do not meddle in the affairs of billionaires...

Image: A.MoviePhoto

So what are Thiel's chances of turning New Zealand in a new tech mecca?

We spoke with a tech entrepreneur who lived in New Zealand who said that the country has a lot of potential as a tech hub. When asked about the culture, the person said: "They're a brand new country, 160 years old. They have no fear of innovation or failure." They also mentioned the country's relaxed, laid back atmosphere. Sounds a lot like Silicon Valley to us.

Less Californian: the government is very efficient and business-friendly. The immigration services will actually put a foreign entrepreneur in touch with potential investors -- not something you can exactly say of the US's byzantine immigration system, or most other countries' for that matter. Utopia indeed.

New Zealand already has a handful of world-beating startups like Wine-Searcher.com, the world's top wine search engine, which is based in Auckland. A quick survey of online jobs listings in New Zealand shows great demand for developers. So there's definitely the makings of something.

There's a precedent in Israel, also a young, small, gorgeous "island" nation with an immigrant population that kick-started one of the world's most vibrant tech industries.

After the financial crisis, the New Zealand government unveiled plans to turn New Zealand into an offshore financial hub: because of its location, the New Zealand markets are the first to open each day, which could give an edge to firms located there. This is something that could come in handy to Thiel's hedge fund. Xero, the company Thiel invested in, was founded in 2006 and went public in 2007, so their stock market seems much less broken than the US's.

Tech, high finance, small government -- when you think about it, it makes perfect sense for Thiel. As big fans of rugby and startups, we think Thiel's involvement in New Zealand is an awesome story. We can't wait to see how it develops.

Click here for more info: Taking Photos of New Zealand IP Address - Billionaire Peter Thiel's Location  
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Read more: <http://www.businessinsider.com/peter-thiel-new-zealand-2011-1#ixzz1B2HmVNcJ>

# Business

## NZ's new Facebook friends

A United States tech billionaire who has a stake in the world's biggest social network is investing in New Zealand and buzzing about our potential.

**Hamish Fletcher** looks at the wild world of Peter Thiel



Turn to E3



## The Telegraph

# Facebook investor and PayPal co-creator Peter Thiel believes Mark Zuckerberg's site is worth \$150bn

There's a good chance you're on Facebook. You may even be a recent joiner who helped catapult the world's biggest social networking site pass the 600m user mark.



Peter Thiel invested \$500,000 in Facebook when it had just 1m users. Today his stake is worth closer to \$2bn



By Richard Blackden

11:00PM GMT 12 Mar 2011

If so, you probably know you've helped make Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg incredibly rich. But he's not alone.

In the summer of 2004, Zuckerberg and Sean Parker, who would briefly be president of the site, turned up at the San Francisco home of Peter Thiel on the hunt for an investment in what was then a barely known start-up. They walked away with \$500,000 and left Thiel with a stake in a site that, with under 1m users, was in need of a friend. Seven years on and Thiel's stake is worth closer to \$2bn.

Last week he was announced as one of six Facebook billionaires named on the annual Forbes list of the global super-rich.

But don't worry, you can grab a slice of the fortune. Thiel is donating money to help someone establish a sea city - yes, somewhere at least 50 people can live off the coast - by 2015. Or, if you're under the age of 20, you can apply to him for a grant of up to \$100,000 should you have a great business idea. Zuckerberg's character was the star of the Oscar-winning film *The Social Network*, but scriptwriters'

interest must have been pricked by Thiel's story.

Entrepreneur, futurologist, hedge fund manager, philanthropist, investor and writer - in an age of ever greater specialisation, the 43-year-old is moving at increasing speed in the opposite direction. "I do think there is something to be said for being a generalist in our society," Thiel said. Reversing the ageing process, robotics, artificial intelligence and human rights are all fields that The Thiel Foundation is using his cash to pursue.

Intel Capital chief Arvind Sodhani: "We need more start-ups"

Why The Social Network is essential viewing for entrepreneurs

Facebook bid to tackle bullying

Sorrell sees 'speculative froth' in Facebook valuation

Russians value Facebook at \$76bn

Facebook users get movie rentals

Thiel always enjoyed going against the grain. As a student of philosophy at California's Stanford University, he co-founded *The Stanford Review*, a paper that railed against political correctness. Contrarians can, of course, be easily dismissed. That's less easy when some of their bets have reaped fortunes. Thiel himself is clear on the subject of money. "It would be one of the biggest mischaracterisations that we're doing this primarily as a way of making money," he says.

He first made plenty of it co-founding online payments company PayPal in December 1998 with Elon Musk and Max Levchin, whose parents had emigrated from the Ukraine to the US. By 2002 it was on the Nasdaq in the first big flotation after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Before the year was out eBay had swallowed it in a \$1.5bn deal that is estimated to have netted Thiel more than \$50m. So what did he learn from the PayPal chapter? "The big lesson people learnt existentially is that it's hard but doable. That's a good mindset with which to approach most problems."

The temptation is to be cynical when someone who is very wealthy says what they do is not really about the money. It feels a bit like a football manager saying it's all about the beauty of how the team plays, not whether they win or lose. But such an approach would be to neglect something that seems core to Thiel. At PayPal, he and Levchin talked about their online payments system as creating a new world currency free from government control. Armed with a definition of entrepreneur that includes - but isn't limited to - making money, it becomes clearer why Thiel took a bet on Zuckerberg's then little-known start-up.



"In many ways, Facebook is exhibit A," he explains. "If it had been run by people trying to make money they would have sold it for \$1bn in 2006 to Yahoo!. That was a much lower priority than building a business to change the world."

Facebook is shaping the future, but for some the valuation of the site is beginning to echo the dotcom bubble of the late 1990s. 2011 opened with a controversial investment by Goldman Sachs that attached a \$50bn price tag to the site that Mark built. That's been heading north on the secondary market on which Facebook shares can be traded. Sir Martin Sorrell, the founder of advertising giant WPP, warned this week that the value now given to the likes of Facebook is marked by some "speculative froth".

While admitting that there's "not much I can say on the subject that won't sound biased" Thiel ventures that "the current valuation is about one third of Google. If you think about what it [Facebook] is doing to change the world there's a decent argument that it's worth as much as Google."

You discover that Thiel, who was born in Germany but grew up in California, doesn't much like the company that Sergey and Larry built. The world's biggest search engine was truly innovative, he says, but is now more of a bet against developing new ways of navigating the web. Ditto IBM, Dell, Microsoft and Oracle. Just because a company pioneered a fundamentally disruptive technology doesn't mean they always will.

"Facebook has been the big breakthrough technology company of the last seven to eight years," Thiel believes, before adding "that the very odd thing about Facebook is it is so singular. Its specific success is masking a general failure."

Although it began in a university dormitory on the other side of America, Facebook is the latest flowering of Silicon Valley. The eclectic mix of entrepreneurs, investors and engineers that call the area on the edge of San Francisco home proved a perfect incubator. Just as it had to Google, Apple, Sun Microsystems and many before that. Beyond the world's financial capitals, it's somewhere most people could locate on a global business map. It was also, of course, the backdrop to the birth of PayPal.

That doesn't stop Thiel nipping at the hand that helped feed him. "I still think that Silicon Valley has more innovation than anywhere else in the world. It has not been enough to move the dial," he explains. "I do think it's odd that the internet and the mobile internet are really the only areas that people have been focused on." Even so, it remains an area of focus for Thiel. Founders Fund, a venture capital firm that he co-founded in 2005 with two ex-PayPal colleagues, has scored some significant successes investing in this area. One investment, for example, Ironport, which develops email and security software for the web, was snapped up by Cisco in 2007 for \$830m. Powerset, a business fashioning new technology for search engines, was bought by Microsoft for an estimated \$100m.

If Thiel is prepared to point out what he sees as the limitations of Silicon Valley, he's scornful of a lack of innovation beyond computing power and the web. "Computer technology and the internet in particular has been the one dramatic exception in the past four decades in what has otherwise been stagnation." As the upheaval in North Africa keeps oil prices above \$100 a barrel and threatens to send them higher, a lack of alternatives to crude is one example he cites. "The reality is that if there were no fundamental shortages, then these tensions [in Libya] would not be so destabilising," Thiel argues. "It frequently gets

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<http://www.stuff.co.nz/business/industries/4521214/Pacific-Fibre-adds-Facebook-and-Paypal>

Last updated 05:00 08/01/2011

Pacific Fibre has added PayPal founder and Facebook board member Peter Thiel to its list of backers, which includes New Zealand heavyweight entrepreneurs Sam Morgan, Stephen Tindall, and Rod Drury.

Thiel's presence will give Pacific Fibre more clout in accessing the US market and securing some \$300 million in finance needed to build an underwater cable to rival the monopoly Southern Cross cable, part-owned by Telecom, linking New Zealand to Australia and the US, co-founder Lance Wiggs told BusinessDesk.

Thiel is investing through Valar Ventures LP, which took a 2.4% share of Pacific Fibre on December 24, according to Companies Office documents.

"He brings a lot of smarts to the table," Wiggs said. "They're Internet people, they understand the economic benefits, they understand it's a good business case."

The investment comes just two months after Valar injected \$4 million into Drury's accounting software company, Xero, to help that firm break into America. The market took his investment as a vote of confidence and doubled Xero's share price.

Thiel, who helped set up online payments company PayPal and was one of Facebook's first big investors, recently urged Silicon Valley leaders to fund technology that could be viewed as outlandish, dubbing it "breakthrough philanthropy".

Pacific Fibre plans to build a cable between Australia, New Zealand and the US in a bid to improve local broadband services which have to go through Telecom's link to access international content, and has already secured Pacific in partnership in construction and management of the link.

Wiggs said Pacific Fibre faces a busy year and it's already negotiating with potential financiers and customers.

"We're in the market right now," he said. "The next four months will be critical."

The project itself, which will see some 13,600 kilometres of cable laid linking Australia, New Zealand and the US, is "underground but ductable," Wiggs said.

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# THE NATIONAL BUSINESS REVIEW 24/7

## PayPal founder takes strategic stake in Xero

Laura Birdwin Page | October 22, 2010

Online accounting systems company Xero focusing on the importance of developing its strategic relationships in the United States off the bat of a fresh \$4 million deal with PayPal co-founder Peter Thiel.

In 2004 Mr Thiel was also the first outside investor in social networking giant Facebook. In 2002 PayPal the online payments company he helped to form and then led, was sold to eBay for \$US1.5 billion.

Xero chief executive Rod Drury told the National Business Review said the most significant part of the deal with Mr Thiel was access to networks and highlighted the importance of early public listing on the NZX.

"We've been able to use the public market to get risk capital for expansion and growth ... and good globally savvy investors are interested in New Zealand," he said.

"Having a New Zealand public company is making it easier to do these deals and a key part of the strategy was listing early and getting the money to get resources quickly allows the deal."

Xero's next big step is the going live with bank feeds in the United States following an agreement announced last January with Yodlee.

Yodlee's software will be used to extend automated daily bank account feeds to Xero's online accounting products.

Following that Mr Drury said Xero was addressing a "whole lot" of partnership opportunities in the US and was also looking at establishing a team in San Francisco.

The deal with Peter Thiel validates that drive," he said.

Access to their extensive networks will provide a major boost as we take on [competitor] Quickbooks in the vast US small business market.

"We have taken a measured approach to our US market entry so far. With the support of Peter and his team, we believe we are now strongly positioned to enter the US and capitalise on the opportunity that this market represents."

Mr Thiel's investment will be made through his New Zealand investment company Valar Ventures LP. The capital raising made via a placement, was expected to close next week priced at \$1.4912 a share, the volume-weighted average share price of Xero over the 30 trading days prior to October 20.

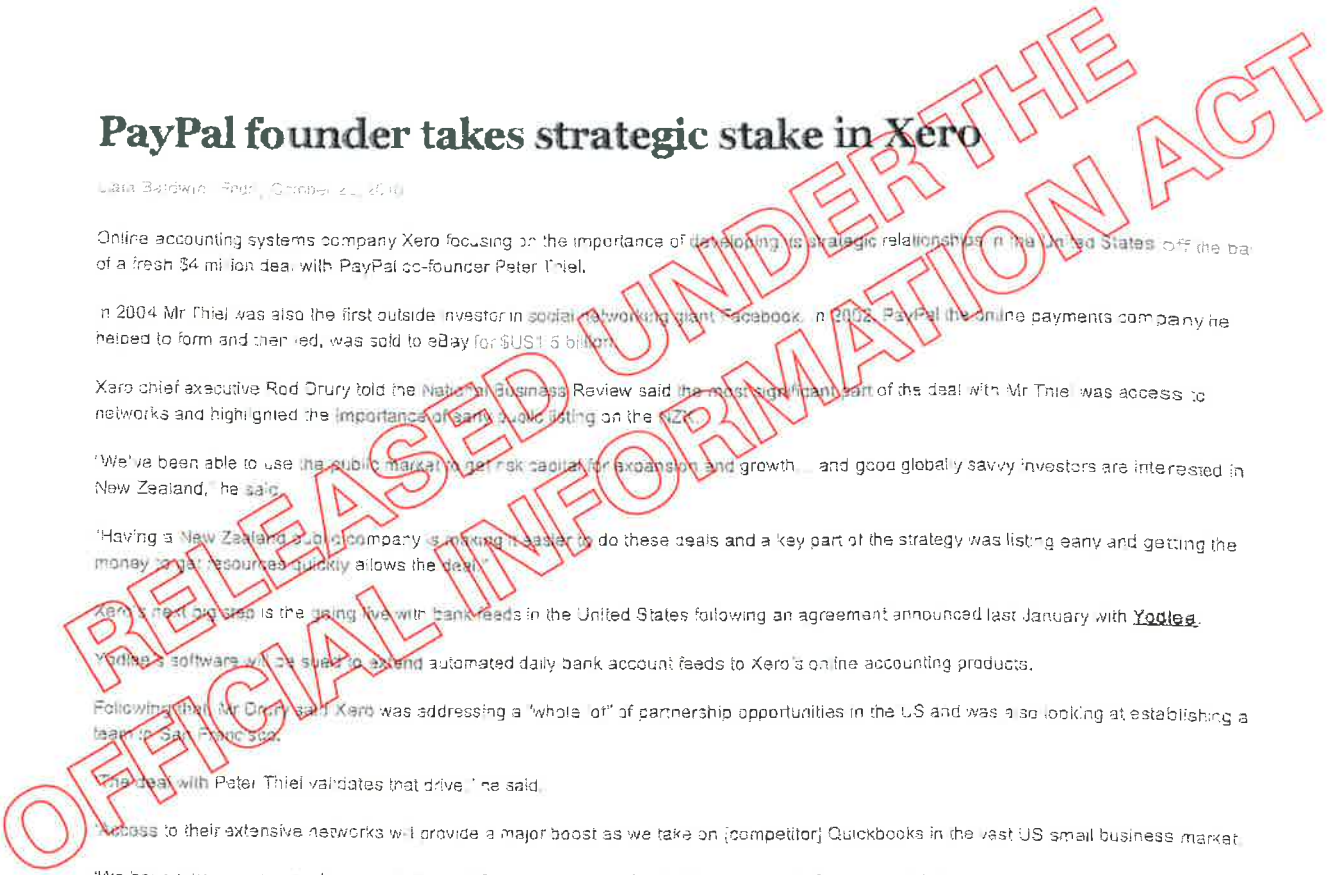
Xero's share price rose 4.7% on the news and this morning were trading at \$1.56 (NZX [XRO](#)).

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Subject: Long Businessweek

Peter Thiel: 21st Century Free Radical  
Never mind enormous yachts: Peter Thiel is spending his billions on space travel, life extension, artificial intelligence, and paying top students not to go to college.

By Romesh Ratnesar

On a chilly December night, a few hundred people gathered at San Francisco's Palace of Fine Arts for an event called Breakthrough Philanthropy. For an hour the guests engaged in the familiar social rituals of Silicon Valley, trading business cards and startup ideas over sushi, spring rolls, and pinot noir, before filing into an auditorium to listen to fundraising pitches from eight nonprofit organizations. The groups had disparate agendas, but all shared a fantastic vision for changing the world—defy death through regenerative medicine! Harness intelligence from machines smarter than the human brain! Build self-governing communities on the high seas! They also had a common benefactor: Peter A. Thiel, the iconoclastic, libertarian 43-year-old venture capitalist and macro-hedge-fund investor. When the speakers finished, James R. O'Neill, who runs the Thiel Foundation, introduced his boss as someone "who works every day to reshape the world and focus on solutions to problems other people overlook."

Thiel emerged from backstage, wearing a navy blue striped shirt, jeans, and a blazer. "The future is not an abstraction," he said. "It's something we are all participants in, helping to create and forge and shape." Thiel is not a natural performer. He has a flat, mechanical delivery that instantly deflates his attempts to inspire. After three and a half minutes, he wrapped up his remarks and encouraged the audience to stay, schmooze, and "start building the future for the 21st century."

Thiel followed the crowd into the main hall, where a Stanford University freshman named Max Marmer was waiting. Marmer had come to the event in part because of Thiel's latest philanthropic brainchild: a program that will award fellowships of \$100,000 to 20 entrepreneurs under the age of 20, on the condition that they drop out of college for two years to pursue their ventures full-time. Marmer, who's launching a business consulting startup with two friends, decided to apply for the fellowship as soon as he heard about it on Facebook. At the Palace of Fine Arts, Marmer introduced himself to his idol. For the next five minutes "it was mostly me talking," Marmer says. Thiel steered him toward a partner in the Founders Fund, Thiel's venture capital firm, who agreed to listen to Marmer's pitch. Marmer has informed his parents that, whether he wins a Thiel Fellowship or not, he is dropping out of Stanford.

Three of America's defining tech geniuses are renowned college dropouts—Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg left Harvard University; Steve Jobs hung around Reed College but was enrolled for only one semester—and it has almost become expected that visionary technologists will stop everything to pursue a ripening idea. It's worth remembering, however, that Gates, Zuckerberg, and Jobs are anomalies. Thiel thinks it's the anomalies who matter and thinks he can create more of them. Whether you view his plan as cause for celebration or horror depends on your take on America's future. Are we hobbled by a deficit of risk or too much of it? Does government spending stimulate innovation or obstruct it? Are America's best universities assets or liabilities?

Despite his fund's disastrous recent performance—Clarium Capital Management fell about 23 percent in 2010, the third straight year of declines, according to investors—Thiel is financially set for life. He co-founded PayPal (EBAY) with Elon Musk and Max Levchin, was the first outside investor in Facebook, and owns a stake in a bevy of promising tech companies, from LinkedIn to Halcyon Molecular to Palantir Technologies. He made the Forbes 400 before he reached 40. After being portrayed in *The Social Network*, Thiel is perhaps the most famous venture capitalist in the world.

Despite all that, he remains troubled. Absent rapid, groundbreaking scientific breakthroughs, Thiel foresees an age when, he says, "people will have a lower quality of life, where people won't be able to retire, where governments are pushed toward more and more austerity. That will lead to a more constrained, pessimistic future. That's a big part of what is happening, and that trend is likely to continue."

Thiel has thus far put his money into the kind of bleeding-edge technologies he says can expand human possibility and stave off the future he fears: nanotechnology, artificial intelligence, robotics, space exploration. A science fiction junkie, he adheres to a worldview shaped as much by French social theorists as by *Star Trek*. "I wouldn't necessarily categorize him as a pessimist, though he can be," says David O. Sacks, a college friend who worked with Thiel at PayPal and has since founded Yammer, a social networking service. "He is very bullish about technology, but he just doesn't think it's happening fast enough."

Even as Thiel pushes for a bolder future, Clarium has conspicuously bet against present macroeconomic trends—and lost. While Thiel's views, including predictions that the U.S. would face the threat of deflation and that the dollar and oil would rise, mostly have come true, the losses reflect poor market timing and risk management, according to several current and former clients. "It doesn't matter if a manager is correct in his long-term views if they don't get the timing right or manage volatility along the way," says Donald A. Steinbrugge, managing partner of Agecroft Partners, a Richmond (Va.) consulting firm that advises investors and hedge funds. Since 2008 the fund's assets have fallen 90 percent. Thiel has closed the fund's New York office and acknowledges the need for stricter risk controls. "If he was Joe Hedge Fund Manager, he would have to live and die by his track record, but that's not the case with Peter," says Tammar Kamet, president of Toronto-based Iluka Consulting Group, which advises clients on investing in hedge funds. "He's got his fingerprints on two of the most successful Web services ever developed."

Still, Clarium's free fall has exposed Thiel to attacks from those who see his investment strategy and his philanthropic ventures as expressions of a reckless, preening vanity. No initiative has provoked more howls than the "20 Under 20" Thiel Fellowship, hatched by Thiel and his foundation staff on a flight from New York to San Francisco last October and announced by Thiel during an appearance at the TechCrunch conference the next day. Writing on Slate.com, Jacob Weisberg condemned the plan as an "appalling," "nasty" idea that will encourage college students to "halt their intellectual development around the onset of adulthood, maintaining a narrow-minded focus on getting rich as young as possible, and thereby avoid the siren lure of helping others or contributing to the advances in basic science that have made the great tech fortunes possible."

Such critiques only help to confirm Thiel's hunch that he is right, in his view. The business credo that a college education is a prerequisite for professional advancement is, he believes, precisely the reason to encourage people to try something else. "I don't think I believe in market efficiency," he says. "If I believed in an efficient market, then none of the stuff I'm doing makes any sense."

In the various accounts of Facebook's founding, Thiel is almost always cast as a remote, brooding master of the universe, the archetypal tycoon in a black wing chair, stroking a cat. In *The Accidental Billionaires*, the 2009 book that is the basis for *The Social Network*, Thiel is described as "secretive and incredibly competitive." Also "scary as hell."

The day after the Breakthrough Philanthropy event, Thiel arrives for lunch at a restaurant overlooking the San Francisco Marina in a blue Mercedes sports car. He's modestly built, with angular features, and he has an engaging, if slightly awkward, conversational manner; on several occasions Thiel starts to answer questions while his mouth is half full. Asked about Clarium's dismal 2010 performance, he replies, "We've had a rough year. We've got some things wrong. But over time, I think we've gotten more right than we've gotten wrong." He adds: "It's not the right thing to focus on a six-month horizon. The future happens over a very long period of time. My mindset is to make sense of where things are going over the next decade and to try to think about a set of problems people haven't asked questions about."

One of Thiel's frequent themes is the folly of promoting "extensive" gains over "intensive" breakthroughs. He believes that governments and investors have an "extensive" bias when it comes to science and technology, a desire to replicate or "extend" what has already been shown to work. He perceives a dangerous shortage of the kinds of ambitious, "intensive" innovations he says are ultimately necessary for long-term growth. "My thesis is that the world is too heavily geared in the extensive direction," he says. "It's what everyone would like: a sure thing, something that gets a predictable return. I don't think that model is the right one for our world anymore. But the alternative is necessarily quite risky. And so there's no safe alternative."

Born in Frankfurt, Thiel had an itinerant childhood. His father's career as a chemical engineer took the family to South Africa, Namibia, and Ohio before the Thiels settled in the Bay Area in the late 1970s. (Thiel has a younger brother, Patrick.) At San Mateo High School, Thiel finished first in his class and was a nationally ranked chess master. He majored in philosophy at Stanford, where he studied under René Girard, a French émigré professor who coined the term "mimetic desire," the idea that people want things they perceive as objects of other people's desire, giving rise to a herd mentality. To Thiel, mimetic desire provided a way to explain everything from stock market bubbles to political correctness on campus.

In 1987, Thiel founded The Stanford Review, a conservative newspaper that became an outlet for student jeremiads against multiculturalism, speech codes, affirmative action, feminists, and ethnic and gay campus groups. Sacks, who worked with Thiel at the Review and succeeded him as its editor, says, "We thought the people on campus were way outside the mainstream, and if the people who were funding the university—the alumni, the donors, the American taxpayer—knew what was going on, they would be pretty outraged."

Thiel stayed at Stanford for law school and remained embroiled in the culture wars, co-authoring a book with Sacks in 1995, *The Diversity Myth*, which decried multiculturalism at the university. He clerked for federal judge James L. Edmonson, wrote speeches for former Education Secretary William J. Bennett, and worked at Sullivan & Cromwell and Credit Suisse First Boston in New York before moving back to California in 1996. In 1998, Thiel met Levchin and, over breakfast in Palo Alto, launched the company that became PayPal. Thiel and his co-founders defined their mission in historical terms. They saw PayPal as a vehicle for realizing the libertarian dream of a global financial marketplace in which transactions took place entirely outside the reach of governments. The company's T-shirts read THE NEW WORLD CURRENCY. "There was an idealistic element to it—that's what everyone within Peter's circle of friends talked about," says Alay Royan, a PayPal veteran who is now the managing director of Clarium. "The business side was secondary to the vision."

Thiel says that "there were a lot of cool, interesting questions we wanted to engage in, but at the same time we had to develop a very detailed, specific plan" to enable people to buy and sell items seamlessly on eBay (EBAY). It worked: PayPal weathered the Internet bust and went public in February 2002. Eight months later, eBay bought the company for \$1.65 billion. Thiel, who had initially invested \$240,000, walked away with \$60 million, which he used to launch Clarium Capital, the hedge fund, and the Founders Fund, an early-stage venture capital shop. Two years later he agreed to a meeting with Zuckerberg, then a Harvard sophomore, and Sean Parker, a co-founder of Napster who was helping Zuckerberg raise funding for his fledgling social networking site, Thefacebook. Thiel lent Zuckerberg and Parker \$500,000 in exchange for a 10 percent stake in the new company. Thiel sold half his shares in 2009, mostly to Digital Sky Technologies. Based on Facebook's current valuation—a number that fluctuates depending on whom you ask and, seemingly, the minute you ask—a conservative estimate of his remaining stake is about \$1.5 billion.

There's no evidence that Thiel's good fortune has softened his edges. After he was subject to ridicule on the Internet for revealing in 2007 that he lived at the Four Seasons in San Francisco and drove a McLaren, he has guarded his privacy and lashed out at those who invade it. When the gossipy website Valleywag outed Thiel as gay in late 2007, he responded by branding it "the al-Qaeda of Silicon Valley" and calling its reporters terrorists. In a 2009 essay titled "The Education of a Libertarian" published on the Cato Institute's website, Thiel wrote, "I no longer believe democracy and freedom are compatible" and that the "broader education of the body politic has become a fool's errand." Most notoriously, the essay suggested that the advent of women's suffrage in the 1920s had "rendered the notion of 'capitalist democracy' into an oxymoron," as women, in Thiel's view, tend not to support laissez-faire policies.

Thiel is now at pains to play down his image as a radical ideologue. "I do tend to think that a libertarian society in which there is more economic and personal freedom is a better society, but there are all sorts of caveats," he says. Take Facebook. "If you believed in radical autonomy and the idea that we're all self-contained individuals—a kind of caricature version of Ayn Rand's world—then the social networking thing would be one of the most ridiculous things imaginable. Why in the world would you care about friends or sharing or being connected with other people? I'm very skeptical of centralized power, and I believe personal and economic freedom are important—but I also believe we are living together on the same planet and that human society exists and that human beings are born into this world and live and develop."

Except for a few donations in the most recent electoral cycle (to Rand Paul and in support of marijuana legalization), Thiel has given up on politics. He says he is "not dogmatic" about whether government should play a role in stimulating the kinds of intensive technological innovations he thinks the country needs, just that he believes the political class isn't smart enough to make it happen. "Only 35 out of 535 members of Congress have any background in science or technology," he says. "That's why I believe the government thing is so hard to fix—the people there don't actually believe these are important problems. Maybe the answer would be to change the other 500 people and replace them with engineers. But then you're not really talking about a practical option."

In Thiel's view, the biggest threats to innovation emanate not from Washington but from a sector Americans tend to view as one of the country's greatest strengths: higher education. His antipathy for its elite universities dates to his time attending one. In *The Diversity Myth*, Thiel predicted that unless they reformed themselves, institutions such as Stanford would face "massive and unprecedented displacement... New educational venues may arise and meet demands that are no longer being satisfied by the existing institutions." Where once he subscribed to the idea that the system could be fixed from within, Thiel is now certain some students are better off opting out of it altogether. "A necessary condition for a bubble is that [something] is believed to be extremely valuable, but which very few people are thinking about," he says. "And my only candidate for a bubble in the U.S. right now is education." He continues: "People can't do anything entrepreneurial or innovative or even nonprofit—anything that's not safe and well-paying—because they have this mountain of debt. And so education is something that has become a retardant to technological innovation and progress, even though the common perception is the exact opposite."

The Thiel Fellowship is probably the first scholarship aimed at college-age students that stipulates that recipients not go to college. Representatives from Thiel's five-person foundation say they have received a few hundred applications from more than 25 countries. Applicants had to submit two 1,000-word personal statements. One was in response to: "Tell us one thing about the world that you strongly believe is true, and that most people think is not true." The other answered: "How do you want to change the world?" Once selected, the 20 winners will be given \$100,000 to cover living expenses in the Bay Area while they spend two years developing the Next Big Thing. Thiel insists that the goal isn't necessarily to find the next Zuckerberg, but rather to prod more young people to question what they're getting out of their college experience.

"The main thing I'd say is that people should think about it," he says. "I certainly did not. I got good grades in high school. I went to college. I got good grades in college. I went to law school. When I look back, I have no regrets. But if I could do it over, I would have reflected on it a lot more rather than it being this thing that I reflexively did."

There is something irksome about Thiel's critiques of a system from which he has benefited so handsomely. And it's easier to extol the virtues of the Silicon Valley entrepreneur's life when you are already leading the fantasy version of it. Thiel's vision of a society full of entrepreneurs and innovators developing life-extending technologies is a seductive one and may well be the only hope for avoiding chronic economic decline. But it's worth asking whether people will truly be better off if more bright young students follow the path Max Marmer has chosen.

A month after meeting Thiel at the Palace of Fine Arts, Marmer has quit school and moved out of his parents' home in San Francisco. He's living in the pool house behind a friend's place in Atherton, near Palo Alto, where he and his partners are working on a startup devoted to developing a "management science" for boosting the success rate of other startups. "Have you seen *The Social Network*? The house looks a little like that," Marmer says over the phone in early January. "A few people who have come by have actually said, 'Oh, it's just like Facebook.'"

Marmer is waiting to hear whether he has won a Thiel Fellowship, though he's concerned that his age—he turned 20 in September, before applications were due—may disqualify him. Regardless, Marmer says he has found his purpose. "People talk a lot about college as one of the best times of their lives. But it was pretty clear I had to make [a] choice between enjoying campus life or continuing to pursue my passion for entrepreneurship. I tried to do both, and when that wasn't working, I decided to choose this." If all else fails, Marmer says, he can always go back to Stanford someday. "They're really flexible. I can take up to two years leave of absence, and even after that I've heard it's not that hard to get back in. If I change my mind, I know I haven't really closed any doors behind me."

He pauses, then says: "But I don't anticipate that. If this doesn't work out, I'll probably go and start another startup."

With Saijel Kishan. Romesh Ratnesar is a Schwartz Fellow at the New America Foundation.

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THE WEEKEND INTERVIEW OCTOBER 9, 2010  
Technology = Salvation

An early investor in Facebook and the founder of Clarium Capital on the subprime crisis and why American ingenuity has hit a dead end.

By HOLMAN W. JENKINS JR.

The housing bubble blew up so catastrophically because science and technology let us down. It blew up because our technocratic elite told us to expect an ever-wealthier future, and science hasn't delivered. Except for computers and the Internet, the idea that we're experiencing rapid technological progress is a myth.

Such is the claim of Peter Thiel, who has either blundered into enough money that his crackpot ideas are taken seriously, or who is actually on to something. A cofounder of PayPal and an early investor in Facebook (his stake was recently reported to be around 3%), Mr. Thiel is the unofficial leader of a group known as the "PayPal mafia," perhaps the most fecund informal network of entrepreneurs in the world, behind companies as diverse as Tesla (electric cars) and YouTube.

Mr. Thiel, whose family moved from Germany when he was a toddler, studied at Stanford and became a securities lawyer. After PayPal, he imparted a second twist to his career by launching a global macro hedge fund, Clarium Capital. He now matches wits with some of the great macro investors, such as George Soros and Stanley Druckenmiller, by betting on the direction of world markets.

Those two realms of investing—narrow technology and broad macro—are behind his singular diagnosis of our economic crisis. "All sorts of things are possible in a world where you have massive progress in technology and related gains in productivity," he says. "In a world where wealth is growing, you can get away with printing money. Doubling the debt over the next 20 years is not a problem."

"This is where [today is] very different from the 1930s. In the '30s, the Keynesian stuff worked at least in the sense that you could print money without inflation because there was all this productivity growth happening. That's not going to work today.

"The people who bought subprime houses in Miami were betting on technological progress. They were betting on energy prices coming down and living standards going up." They were betting, in short, on the productivity gains to make our debts affordable.

We'll get back to what all this means. Mr. Thiel wants to meet me at a noisy coffee shop near Union Square in Manhattan. Because a Fortune writer invited to his condo wrote about his butler? "No," Mr. Thiel tells me. "And I don't have a 'butler.'"

His mundane thoughts these days include whether Facebook should go public. Answer: Not anytime soon.

As a general principle, he says, "It's somewhat dangerous to be a public company that's succeeding in a context where other things aren't."

On the specific question of a Facebook initial public offering, he harks back to the Google IPO in 2004. Many at the time said Google's debut had reopened the IPO window that had closed with the bursting of the tech bubble, and a flood of new tech companies would come to market. It didn't happen.

What Google showed, Mr. Thiel says, is that the "threshold" for going public had ratcheted up in a Sarbanes-Oxley world. Even for a well-established, profitable company—which Google was at the time—the "cost-benefit trade-off" was firmly on the side of staying private for as long as possible.

Mr. Thiel was early enough in the Facebook story to see himself portrayed in the fictionalized movie about its birth, "The Social Network." (He's the stocky venture capitalist who implicitly—very implicitly—sets the ball rolling toward cutting out Facebook's allegedly victimized cofounder, Eduardo Saverin.)

Today, Mr. Thiel (the real one) has no remit to discuss the company's many controversies. Suffice it to say, though, he believes the right company "won" the social media wars—the company that was "about meeting real people at Harvard."

Its great rival, MySpace, founded in Los Angeles, "is about being someone fake on the Internet; everyone could be a movie star," he says. He considers it "very healthy," he adds, "that the real people have won out over the fake people."

Only one thing troubles him: "I think it's a problem that we don't have more companies like Facebook. It shouldn't be the only company that's doing this well." Maybe this explains why he recently launched a \$2 million fund to support college kids who drop out to pursue entrepreneurial ventures.

Mr. Thiel is plegmatic about his own hedge fund, which took a nasty hit last year after being blindsided by the market's partial recovery from the panic of 2008. Listening between the lines, one senses he faces an uphill battle to convince others of his long-term view, which he insists is "not hopelessly pessimistic."

"People don't want to believe that technology is broken. . . . Pharmaceuticals, robotics, artificial intelligence, nanotechnology—all these areas where the progress has been a lot more limited than people think. And the question is why."

In true macro sense, he sees that failure as central to our current fiscal fix. Credit is about the future, he says, and a credit crisis is when the future turns out not as expected. Our policy leaders, though, have yet to see this bigger picture. "Bernanke, Geithner, Summers—you may not agree with the them ideologically, but they're quite good as macroeconomists go," Mr. Thiel says. "But the big variable that they're betting on is that there's all this technological progress happening in the background. And if that's wrong, it's just not going to work. You will not get this incredible, self-sustaining recovery."

And President Obama? "I'm not sure I'd describe him as a socialist. I might even say he has a naive and touching faith in capitalism. He believes you can impose all sorts of burdens on the system and it will still work."

The system is telling him otherwise. Mankind, says Mr. Thiel, has no inalienable right to the progress that has characterized the last 200 years. Today's heightened political acrimony is but a foretaste of the "grim Malthusian" politics ahead, with politicians increasingly trying to redistribute the fruits of a stagnant economy, loosening even more forces of stagnation.

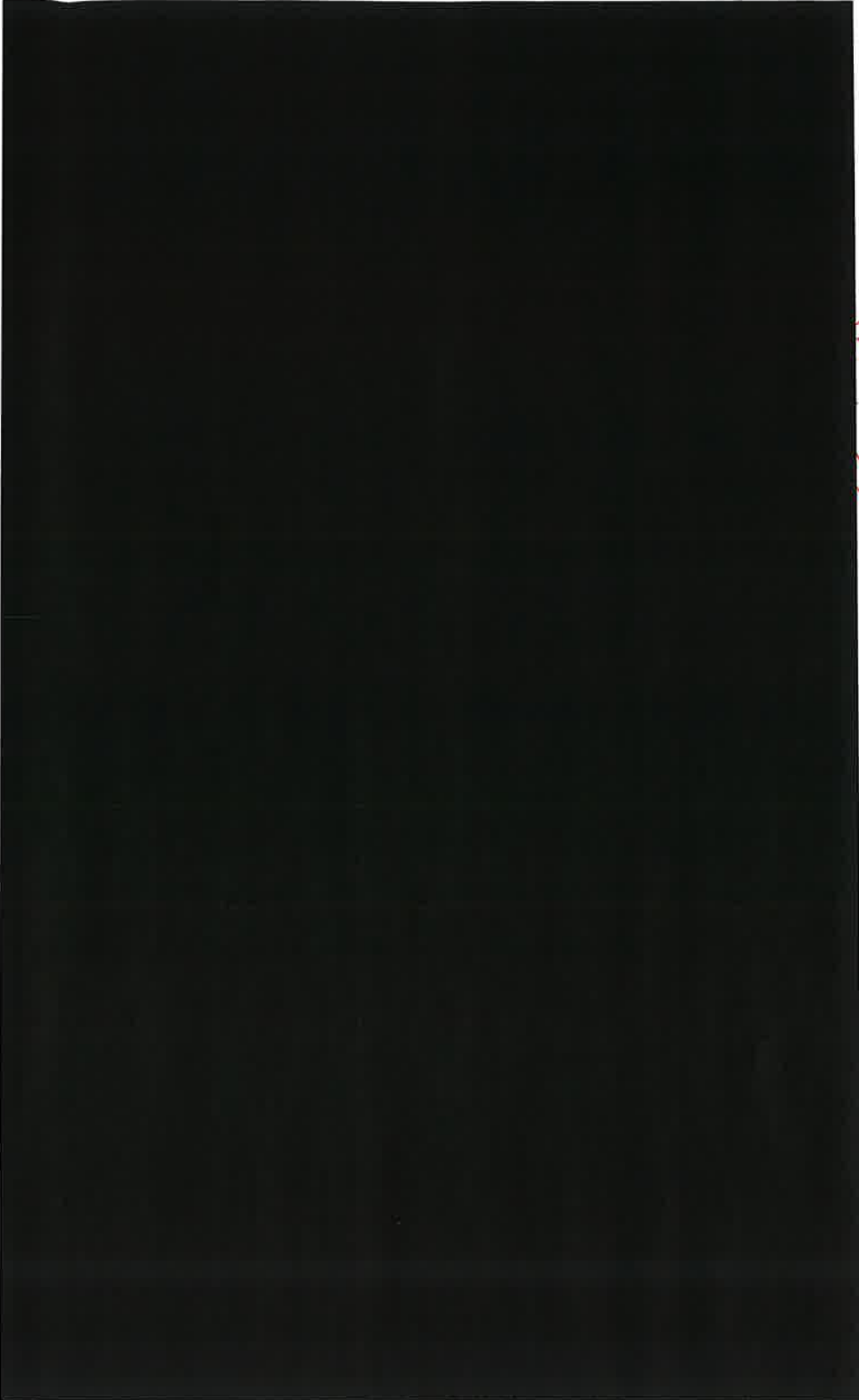
Question: How can anyone know science and technology are under-performing compared to potential? It's hard, he admits. Those who know—"university professors, the entrepreneurs, the venture capitalists"—are "biased" in favor of the idea that rapid progress is happening, he says, because they're raising money. "The other 98%"—he means you and me, who in this age of specialization treat science and technology as akin to magic—"don't know anything."

But look, he says, at the future we once portrayed for ourselves in "The Jetsons." We don't have flying cars. Space exploration is stalled. There are no undersea cities. Household robots do not cater to our needs. Nuclear power "we should be building like crazy," he says, but we're sitting on our hands. Or look at today's science fiction compared to the optimistic vision of the original "Star Trek": Contemporary science fiction has become uniformly "dystopian," he says. "It's about technology that doesn't work or that is bad."

The great exception is information technology, whose rapid advance is no fluke: "So far computers and the Internet have been the one sector immune from excessive regulation."

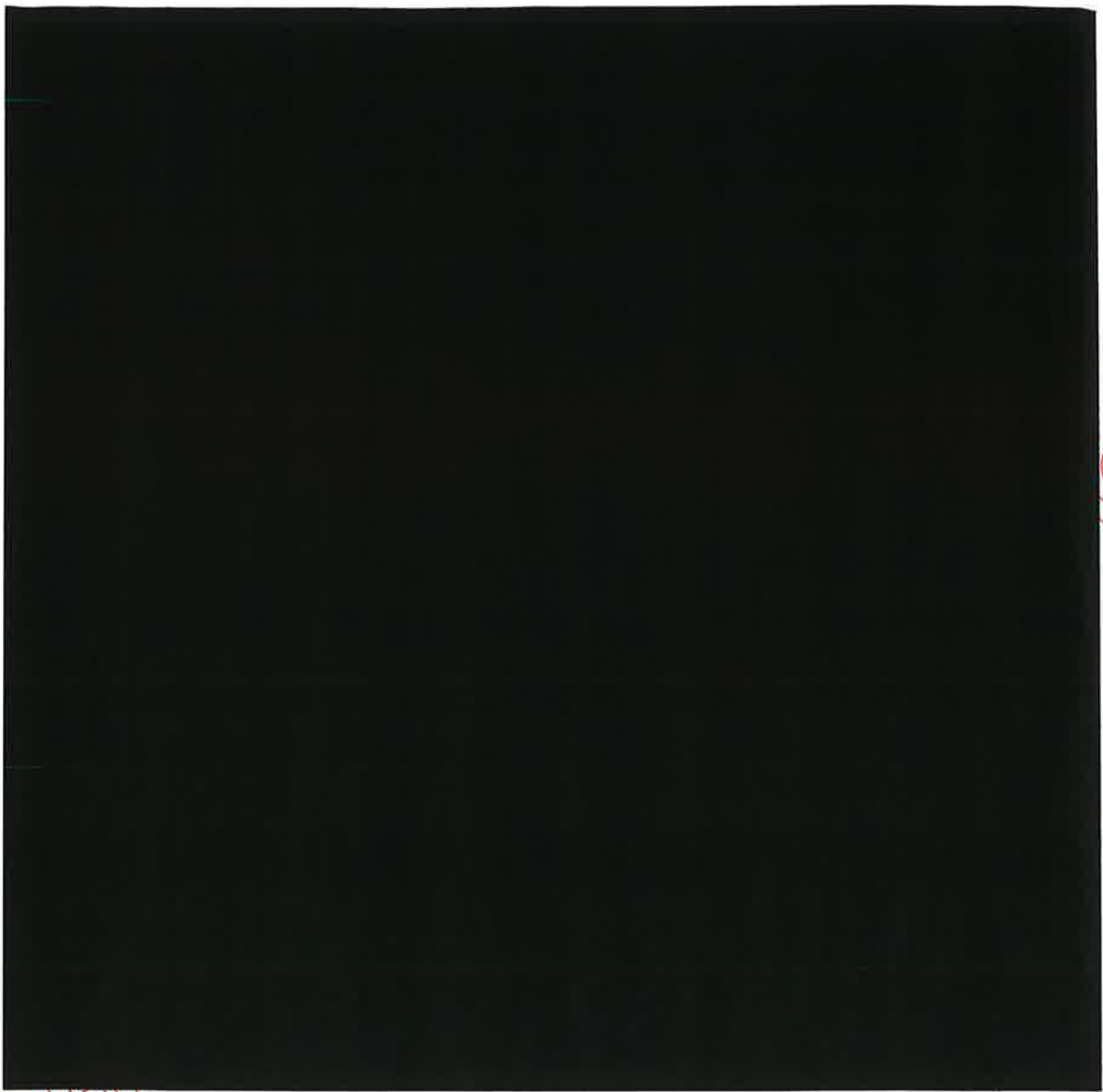
Mr. Thiel delivers his views with an extraordinary, almost physical effort to put his thoughts in order and phrase them pithily. Somewhere in his 42 years, he obviously discovered the improbability of getting a bold, unusual argument translated successfully into popular journalism.

Event



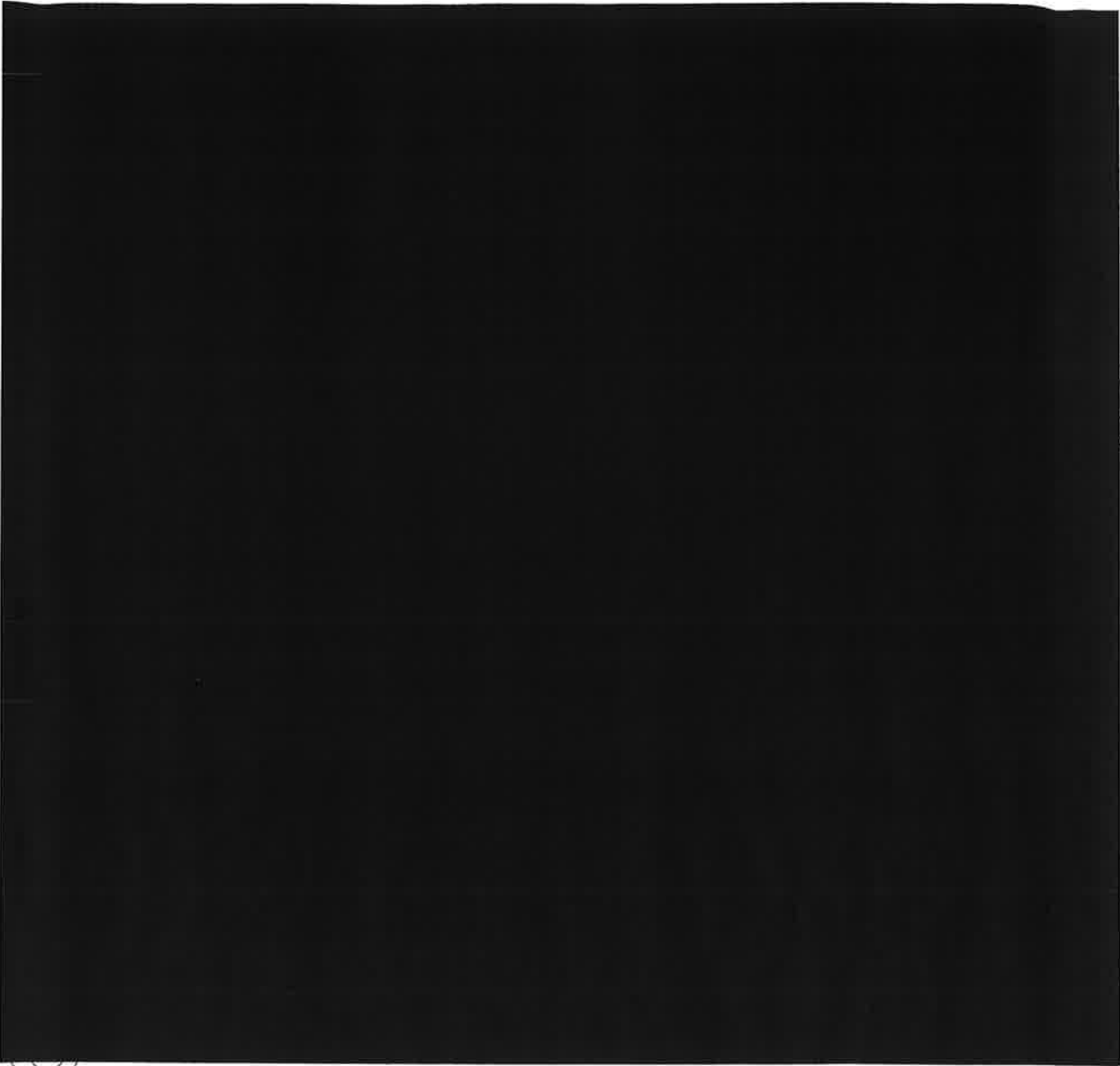
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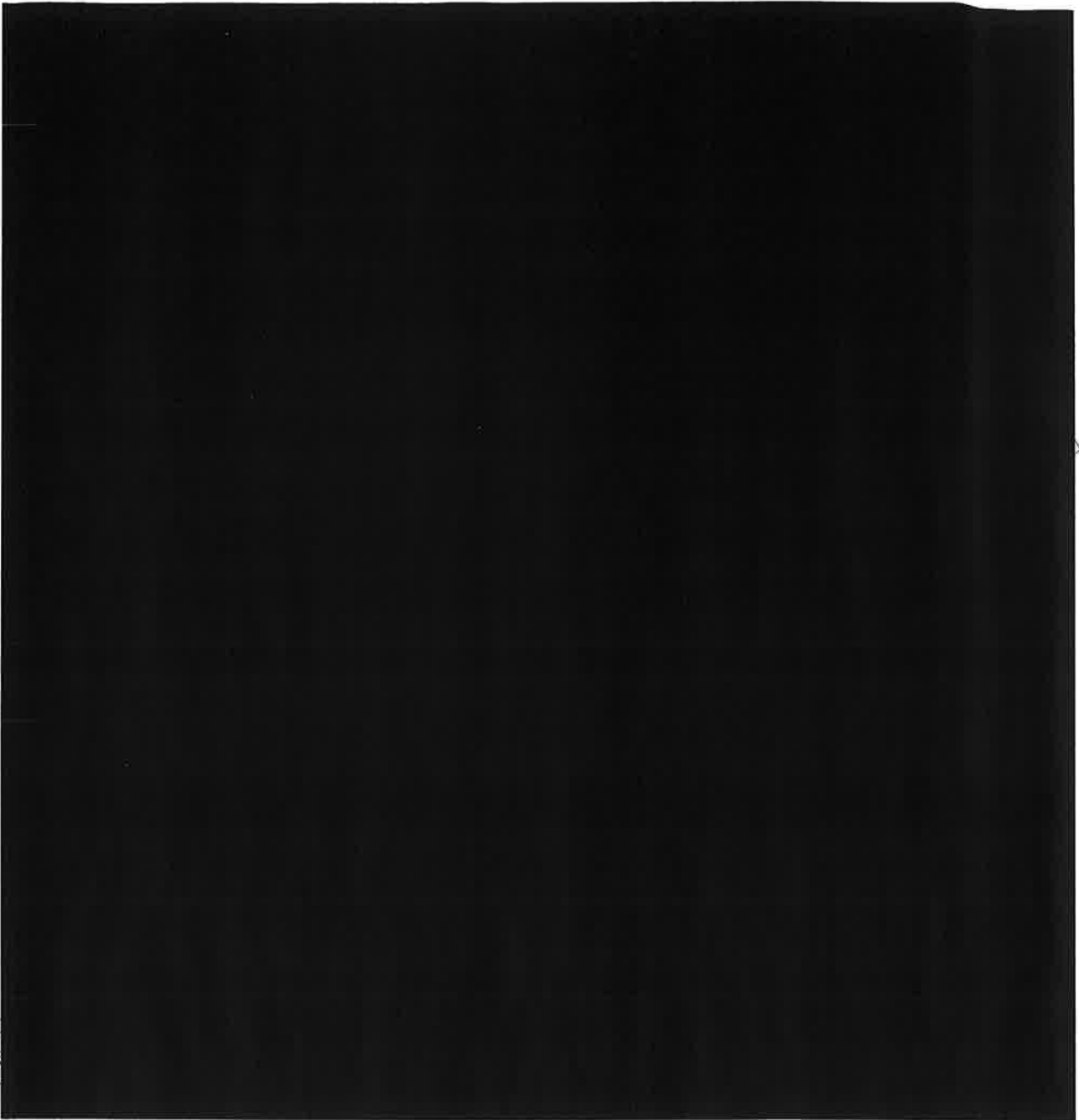
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15 July 2011

[REDACTED]  
NZ Consulate General  
2425 Olympic Blvd Ste 600E  
Santa Monica Ca 90404

**NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP: Peter Andreas Thiel**

Address: Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199 AUCKLAND 1140

Telephone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

The Minister of Internal Affairs has approved a grant of citizenship to (**Applicant's name**) subject to **him** taking the (**Affirmation**) of Allegiance.

The Minister has also authorised an overseas ceremony for **Peter Andreas Thiel**

I would be grateful if you would contact **Peter Andreas Thiel** using the above contact details and arrange for **him** to attend before the High Commissioner, or another appropriately delegated New Zealand representative, to take the of Allegiance.

Please fax the completed Confirmation Form attached to this letter (Fax: +64 9 363 7785) to advise the Department of the ceremony date and venue. The ceremony date must be at least **4 weeks** in advance to give the Department time to complete the necessary documentation and forward it by Diplomatic Bag to you.

For the certificate to be valid the must be administered and the certificate presented on the date which you advise the Department will be the date of the ceremony.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

Direct telephone line: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]



Confirmation Form

For all enquiries please quote:  
CIT: 2011000002

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

██████████  
Ceremonies Team  
Citizenship  
Identity Services  
P.O. Box 6147  
AUCKLAND 1010

Dear ██████████

I will be able to administer the of Allegiance to \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Applicant: Peter Andreas Thiel

Date of Ceremony: \_\_\_\_\_  
(At least four calendar weeks after the date of reply)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(administrator's address)

Administrator's contact phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely,

(Signature)

FULL NAME OF ADMINISTRATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: \_\_\_\_\_

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Fax this form to: +64 9 363 7785

For all enquiries please quote  
CIT: 2011000002

03 August 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

**New Zealand Citizenship: Peter Andreas Thiel**

Congratulations on becoming a New Zealand Citizen

Your citizenship certificate is an important document. We suggest that you store it carefully in a safe place along with your other legal documents.

The certificate should not be altered or amended in any way or it will become invalid. If any of the details on the certificate are wrong, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Ceremonies Officer  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

DDI: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

For all enquiries please quote  
CIT: 2011000002

03 August 2011

[REDACTED]  
NZ Consulate General  
2425 Olympic Blvd Ste 600E  
Santa Monica Ca 90404

Dear [REDACTED]

**New Zealand Citizenship – Peter Andreas Thiel**

Thank you for confirming the arrangement of a New Zealand citizenship ceremony on **Friday, 12 August 2011**.

Please find enclosed a citizenship certificate [REDACTED] for presentation to **Peter Andreas Thiel** who has indicated that he wishes to take the Oath of Allegiance on the Bible or other Holy Book (copy enclosed).

This certificate contains many security features to prevent counterfeiting. These have led to the Department adopting the policy of no longer requiring the signatures of any authorised person who issues certificates. A valid certificate will have a seal in the bottom left-hand corner.

**For the certificate to be valid the Oath of Allegiance must be administered and the certificate presented on Friday, 12 August 2011.**

At the conclusion of the ceremony, please fax the Confirmation of Attendance Form back to the Department to update **Peter Andreas Thiel's** citizenship record.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Ceremonies Officer  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs  
DDI: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]

Confirmation of Attendance Form  
CIT: 2011000002

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

██████████  
Ceremonies Team  
Citizenship  
Identity Services  
PO Box 10680  
WELLINGTON 6011

Dear ██████████

I confirm that:

Name: **Peter Andreas Thiel**  
Certificate Date: **Friday, 12 August 2011**  
Certificate Number: ██████████

attended before me and took the of Allegiance on:

Date of Taking: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The same date as shown on the certificate)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation:

Who  
Designation  
Where

**PLEASE FAX THIS FORM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY TO:**  
Fax: + 64 4 382 3406  
CEREMONIES TEAM, WELLINGTON

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

For all enquiries please quote  
CTF 201100002

05 July 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Veroo Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

Congratulations! The Minister of Internal Affairs has approved your application for New Zealand citizenship.

Citizenship will be granted to you at a ceremony in your area where you will take the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance and be presented with your citizenship certificate.

If you change your address please write to us immediately so that we can ensure that you do not miss your ceremony. It is important you attend a ceremony within the next 12 months or the approval for the grant of citizenship may lapse.

Please note that this letter is not proof of New Zealand Citizenship. It indicates that the Minister has authorised the grant of New Zealand Citizenship. An applicant becomes a New Zealand citizen only when a certificate of New Zealand citizenship has been issued.

*We will write to advise the date of your ceremony as soon as this has been arranged.*

If you have any queries please contact us at the address below:

Ceremonies team, Citizenship Operations  
The Department of Internal Affairs  
PO Box 6147  
Wellesley St  
AUCKLAND 1141  
Free Phone: 0800 22 51 51  
Fax: +64 9 363 7785  
Email Address: [CitizenshipCeremonies@dia.govt.nz](mailto:CitizenshipCeremonies@dia.govt.nz)

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Ceremonies Officer  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

For all enquiries please quote  
CIT 2011000002

20 January 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

**NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP**

I am writing regarding your application for New Zealand citizenship.

Please find enclosed your personal documents that accompanies your application. I have made photocopies of these documents for your file and do not need to sight them again.

Should I require any additional information in relation to your application I will contact you directly.

When the processing of your application has been completed it will be sent to the Minister for a decision and you will be advised of the outcome in writing accordingly.

If you alter your address, travel overseas or have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

Enclosed: 1 birth certificate  
1 baptism certificate  
1 translation  
4 photos  
1 receipt

For all enquiries please quote  
CIT 2011000002

29 April 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140



Dear Mr Thiel

**NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP: Your Personal Details**

When your application is completed, it will be sent to the Minister of Internal Affairs for consideration and you will be sent a letter with the result.

I am writing now to confirm how your details will be recorded on your citizenship certificate if your application is approved. (Please note this is not an approval letter).

If your application is approved, your citizenship certificate will record your details as:

Peter Andreas **Thiel**

Male born at Frankfurt, Germany on 11 October 1967

*Please contact me **URGENTLY** if these details are **wrong**, or you intend to **officially** change your name from how it is shown here. We cannot change this record after your application is approved.*

*The Passport Office will use the details recorded on your citizenship certificate when issuing a New Zealand passport to you, unless you change your name in the future. It is important that you check the details recorded above and tell me immediately if there is a mistake.*

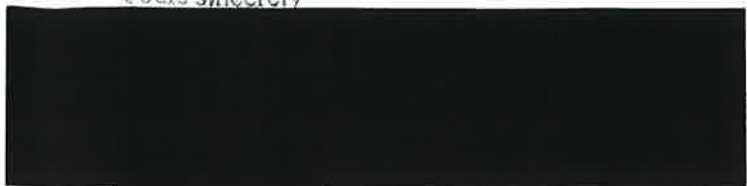
Please note that becoming a New Zealand citizen **may affect your right to keep your current citizenship and passport**. Please contact your embassy or government representative if you need more information about this.

It is important you tell us immediately if you change your address or intend to travel overseas. If you do not keep us up-to-date with your contact details, or respond to our requests for information, after six months your application will be presented to the Minister for a decision based on the available information.

If you do travel overseas before you become a citizen, you will have to use your current passport or a Travel Document, and you should make sure you have a valid resident's visa from Immigration New Zealand.

If you have any questions about your application, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the Citizenship Case Officer.

Citizenship Case Officer  
Department of Internal Affairs

Direct Line:

Email Address:

A black rectangular redaction box covering the direct line and email address information.

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



► Fits Foolsap

**CourierPost** 

**eCOtrackpak** 

PLEASE DELIVER THIS ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PACKAGE TO:

COMPANY / NAME: MV P A Miel

ADDRESS: peter Miel

Bell gully

121, 48 Shortland street POSTCODE: 1140

PHONE: verco centre

ATTENTION: PO BOX 4199

CITY: AUCKLAND

PLEASE COMPLETE ADDRESS PANEL WITH FULL DETAILS. FOR USE WITHIN NEW ZEALAND ONLY.

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ADULT GRANT CHECKSHEET

FILE NUMBER: 2011000002

NAME: Mr. Peter Anderson  
 Thru

Task	Requirements	1st	2 <sup>nd</sup>	C	Comments
Initial Tasks	correct form completed	✓	✓	✓	
	correct COS type & CO	✓	✓	✓	
Matching	applied before - PID checked	✓	✓	✓	
Fees	correct fee paid	✓	✓	✓	\$570.20
	date full fee paid entered	✓	✓	✓	5/01/2011
Entry	first entry to NZ date entered	✓	✓	✓	[Redacted]
Identity Documents	required documents provided	✓	✓	✓	X2 translations
	documents copied & certified	✓	✓	✓	
Personal Details	date of birth	✓	✓	✓	11/10/68
	place & country of birth	✓	✓	✓	Frankfurt, Germany
	gender	✓	✓	✓	Male
	current citizenship(s)	✓	✓	✓	USA
Names	current names	✓	✓	✓	
	previous marriage names	✓	✓	✓	
	other names	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Contact	address & local authority	✓	✓	✓	
Presence in NZ with PR for 5 Years	trips under 128 days per year	✓	✓	✓	
	total trips under 477 days	X			doesn't meet sub
	PR for 240+ days per year	X			
	PR for 1350+ total days	X			
Intention	intention to continue to reside	X			doesn't meet sub Answer Q20 incomplete
English	document & form evidence	✓	✓	✓	
	interview conducted	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Character	form questions answered	✓	✓	✓	
	standard checks completed	X			
	referral to IIP considered	✓	✓	✓	
	detrimental comments	✓	✓	✓	checked character references
Ceremony	oath or affirmation	✓	✓	✓	oath
	attend with family & x-ref	✓	✓	✓	N/A
Photo	photographs	✓	✓	✓	
Stat Dec	statutory declaration (incl R & P)	✓	✓	✓	
Final Tasks	applicant error updated	✓	✓	✓	
	personal details letter sent	✓	✓	✓	
	payment page destroyed	✓	✓	✓	

Signed & Dated Case Officer:

Signed & Dated 2<sup>nd</sup> Checker:



OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT  
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COVER SHEET 632

Team: WGN1  
Case Officer: [REDACTED]

Application Status: CHECK  
Application Type: 5GRANT

201100002  
Application Ref: 885553  
Oath/Affirm: Oath

Biodata ID: [REDACTED]  
Given Name: Peter Andreas  
Family Names: THIEL  
Present Citizenship(s): American

Title: Mr  
Gender: M

Person No.: 11-Oct-1967  
Date of Birth: 11-Oct-1967  
Place of Birth: Frankfurt  
Country of Birth: Germany

List of Fees

Fee Recorded in A2G System

Amount \$ 0.00

Receipt No 0

Date Full Fee Paid: 05-Jan-2011

Date Fee Created: 05-Jan-2011

Address Details

Postal

Residential

[REDACTED]

Agent

Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
Centre  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verso  
P O Box 4199  
Auckland  
1140  
New Zealand

Phone  
Fax

Phone  
Fax

[REDACTED]

Phone  
Fax

[REDACTED]

General Application Details

Eligibility Action: SUBMIS  
Minister's Outcome

Schedule Type:  
Subm. User ID: [REDACTED]

Schedule ID

Date Minister Acted:

Approval Letter  
Date:

Date Effective:  
(Certificate Date)

Date Registered:

Ceremony Date:  
Box Number:

Lapse Date:

Archive Details:

Ceremony Details

Private Ceremony: N  
Venue Name:  
Local Authority 77

Attend with Family: N

Available After Date:  
Ceremony Seat:

Overseas

Certificate Details

Certificate Number:  
Cancelled/Error Certificates List  
Certificate Number

Certificate Status:

Print Date:

Printed

Status

Section of the Act/Reason 8(1) 131 Full Capacity and Prescribed Manner .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(2)(a) Entitled to Reside Indefinitely in NZ .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(3)(a) 5 Year Residential Requirement .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(3)(c) Good Character .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(2)(d) Responsibilities and Privileges .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(2)(e) English Language .....  
Section of the Act/Reason 8(2)(f) Intention to Continue to Reside .....

Eligibility Flag Y Submission Flag N  
Eligibility Flag Y Submission Flag N  
Eligibility Flag N Submission Flag Y  
Eligibility Flag Y Submission Flag N  
Eligibility Flag Y Submission Flag N  
Eligibility Flag Y Submission Flag N  
Eligibility Flag N Submission Flag Y

Application History List

Status Application Data Correct Date Created 05-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Allocate to Team Date Created 05-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Create Date Created 05-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Manually Matched Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Start Processing Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Allocate to Case Officer Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status New Event(s) Added Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Interview Results Modified Date Created 06-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 19-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 20-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 20-Jan-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 09-Mar-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 22-Mar-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 22-Mar-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Data Correct Date Created 07-Apr-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 29-Apr-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 29-Apr-2011 Created By [REDACTED]  
Status Application Maintained Date Created 29-Apr-2011 Created By [REDACTED]

Status Applicant Error(s)  
Status Application Checked

Date Created 29-Apr-2011  
Date Created 29-Apr-2011

Created By [Redacted]  
Created By [Redacted]

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[REDACTED]

**From:** New Zealand Consulate - San Francisco [nzconstf@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, 7 January 2011 4:10 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Re: New Zealand Citizenship

**Categories:** To be done

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your e-mail. I did, indeed, sight Mr. Peter Thiel's American passport, and I compared all pages of the original with all the pages of the copy which I certified.

I hope this information helps. Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
New Zealand Honorary Consul - San Francisco

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thu, January 6, 2011 3:07:34 PM  
**Subject:** New Zealand Citizenship

Hello [REDACTED]

My name is [REDACTED] and I am a New Zealand citizenship case officer.

I have noticed that you certified a true and correct copy of Mr Peter Thiel's American passport. As per our policy and procedure we require that all pages are certified, you have only certified the front of his passport.

As per conversation with my Manager it is fine for us to accept this certified copy of this passport as long as you can confirm that you did sight the original passport.

I look forward to hearing from you real soon.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Case Officer  
Identity Services  
For Secretary for Internal Affairs  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

CAUTION: This email message and any attachments contain information that may be confidential and may be LEGALLY PRIVILEGED. If you are not the intended recipient, any use, disclosure or copying of this message or attachments is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email message in error please notify us immediately and erase all copies of the message and attachments. Thank you.

# Refund Request Form

Request ID: 146755  
 Request Status: Approved  
 Created on: 14/01/2011

Originator: [Redacted]  
 Approver: [Redacted]  
 Completed on: [Redacted]

## Requestor

Requestor name:	Mr Peter THIEL	
Street/Road:	[Redacted] Bell Gully, Level 21, 43 Shortland Street, Verco Centre, Po Box 4199	Daytime phone no:
Suburb:		Email address:
City:	AUCKLAND 1140	Client reference:
Country:	New Zealand	

## Transaction details

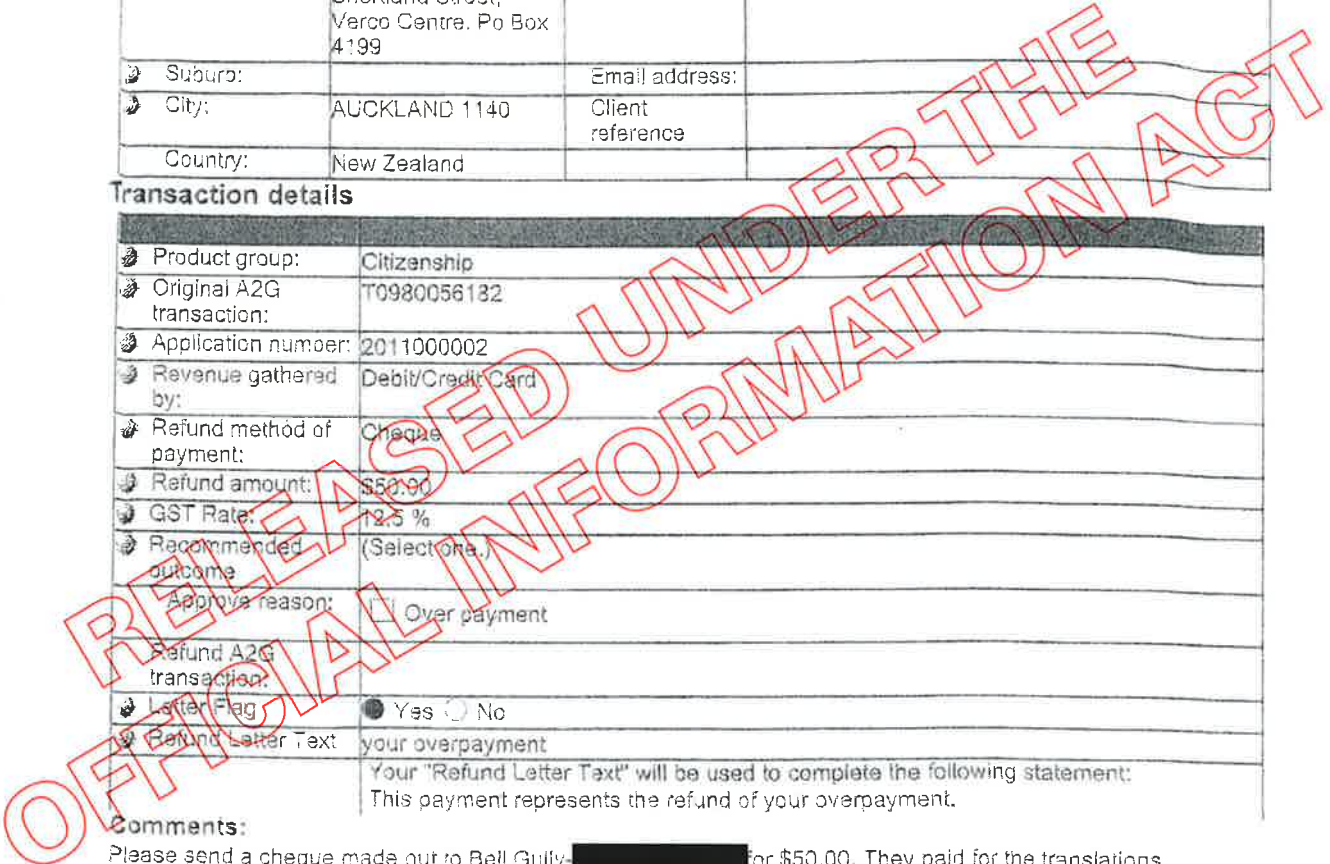
Product group:	Citizenship
Original A2G transaction:	T0980056132
Application number:	2011000002
Revenue gathered by:	Debit/Credit Card
Refund method of payment:	Cheque
Refund amount:	\$50.00
GST Rate:	12.5 %
Recommended outcome:	(Select one)
Approve reason:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Over payment
Refund A2G transaction:	
Letter Flag:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No
Refund Letter Text:	your overpayment Your "Refund Letter Text" will be used to complete the following statement: This payment represents the refund of your overpayment.

## Comments:

Please send a cheque made out to Bell Gully-[Redacted] for \$50.00. They paid for the translations originally. - 14/01/2011 12:08:33 p.m. [Redacted]

## Request status

Request status:	Approved
Originator:	[Redacted]
Approver:	[Redacted]
Refund Administrator:	IS Refunds
Finance Administrator:	[Redacted]
Creation date:	14/01/2011
Cancellation date:	
Completion date:	
Approver's Signature:	[Redacted] Date Signed: 14/01/2011



TO: TRANSLATION SERVICE  
Level 13, Prime Property Tower  
86-90 Lambton Quay,  
WELLINGTON

DATE: 06 January 2011

Application Number: CIT 2011000002

FEE PAID: \$100.00

CITIZENSHIP OFFICE TRANSLATION REQUEST

Applicant Name: Mr Peter Andreas THIEL

NUMBER OF DOCUMENTS: 2

TRANSLATION REQUIRED

BIRTH CERTIFICATE 2

MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE 1

DEED POLL

OTHER

COMMENTS:

PLEASE RETURN TO: [REDACTED]

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

# Application for New Zealand Citizenship

Raraun ō Aotearoa - Pakeke

2011000002

Ad  
(16 years)



**1** Before you start, read the 'Application guide for adults and children' and check that you have things. You will need to send them with your application.

- your birth certificate or your country's equivalent
- your current passport (or most recent if it has expired)
- your application fee of \$460.00 per adult
- two passport-sized photographs (less than six months old)

You might also need to send other documents

You must send your original documents. DON'T send photocopies, they will not be accepted.

This form is a statutory declaration. Please make sure the information you provide is true and correct. If it is later found that you have provided false or misleading information, you may be denied / lose New Zealand citizenship, or face criminal charges, or both.

Go online to [www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz) for more information.

**2** How to answer

- you must answer all the questions on this form
- use a blue or black pen
- tick answers in boxes like this
- print answers in CAPITAL letters like this A B C D
- when you see this icon it means you need to take extra care with your answers

**3** What is your full name?

Title, please tick one of the following options

- Mr     Mrs     Ms     Miss    Other (please specify)

First and middle names

PETER ANDREAS

Surname or family name

THEL

**4** Are you?

- Male     Female     Other

You will need to send your original birth document with your application.

**5** What is your date of birth?

11/10/1967

If your birth document is not in English, it will need to be translated. See pg 17 of the guide.

**6** Where were you born?

City, town or village where you were born

FRANKFURT

Country where you were born

GERMANY

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14 People use different names for all sorts of reasons.  
Have you used any other names during your life?

15 List all other names you are known as, or have been known as. For example: married names, maiden names, official changes of name, English names, names used at school or work, kunya names, adoptive names or any other names.

First name(s)	Surname or family name	Why did you use this name?	When did you use this name? (e.g. 1993-2009)
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

15 Now some questions about your parents.

When we say mother or father we mean your birth or legal adoptive mother, father or parents.

Your mother's details.

Mother's first and middle names

SUSANNE

Mother's surname or family name

THIEL

Mother's citizenship(s)

GERMANY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Please complete this information, even if your mother has died.

16 Your father's / other parent's details.

Father's first and middle names

KLAUS FRIEDRICH

Father's surname or family name

THIEL

Father's citizenship(s)

GERMANY

Please complete this information, even if your father has died.

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# Application for New Zealand Citizenship

Raranga Aotearoa - Pakeke

# Adult

(16 years or older)

**1** Before you start, read the 'Application guide for adults and children' and check that you have these things. You will need to send them with your application.

- your birth certificate or your country's equivalent
- your current passport (or most recent if it has expired)
- your application fee of \$460.00 per adult
- two passport-sized photographs (less than six months old)


You might also need to send other documents

You must send your original documents. DON'T send photocopies, they will not be accepted.

This form is a statutory declaration. Please make sure the information you provide is true and correct. If it is later found that you have provided false or misleading information, you may be denied / lose New Zealand citizenship, or face criminal charges, or both.

Go online to [www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz) for more information.

**2** How to answer

- you must answer all the questions on this form
- use a blue or black pen
- tick answers in boxes like this
- print answers in CAPITAL letters like this A B C D
- when you see this icon it means you need to take extra care with your answers 

**3** What is your full name?

Title, please tick one of the following options

Mr     Mrs     Ms     Miss     Other (please specify)

First and middle names

PETER ANDREAS

Surname or family name

THEL

**4** Are you?

Male     Female     Other

**5** What is your date of birth?

11/10/1967

**6** Where were you born?

City, town or village where you were born

FRANKFURT

Country where you were born

GERMANY

You will need to send your original birth document with your application.

If your birth document is not in English, it will need to be translated. See pg. 17 of the guide.

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**7** What country or countries do you have citizenship from now?

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**8** Apart from the ones you listed in question **7**, have you ever been a citizen of any other countries?

Yes Print them here  No → go to **9**

GERMANY

**9** Is this the first time you have applied for New Zealand citizenship?

Yes

No I have applied before

**10** In the last five years, what passports / travel documents have you had? Print the details in the table below.

Include all expired passports / travel documents for all countries.

Passport / travel document number

which country is this passport / travel document from?

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Remember: If you have the original passports, you need to send them with our application

**11** Do you have a current New Zealand driver licence?

[REDACTED]

**12** Have you ever been married or joined in a civil union?

[REDACTED]

**13** You will need to provide all the original documents of each marriage, divorce, or civil union with this form.

How many times have you been married or in a civil union? Print the number here

Print the details of each in the table below

First name of your wife / husband / civil union partner

Surname of your wife / husband / civil union partner, before marriage / civil union

Date of marriage / civil union



14 People use different names for all sorts of reasons.

Have you used any other names during your life?



15 Include all other names you are known as, or have been known as. For example: married names, maiden names, official changes of name, English names, names used at school or work, kunya names, adoptive names or any other names

[Redacted]

First name(s)

Surname or family name

Why did you use this name?

When did you use this name? (e.g. 1993-2009)



15 Now some questions about your parents.

When we say mother or father we mean your birth or legal adoptive mother, father or parents.

Your mother's details

Mother's first and middle names

S U S A N N E

Mother's surname or family name

T H I E L

Mother's citizenship(s)

G E R M A N Y , U N I T E D S T A T E S O F A M E R I C A

Please complete this information, even if your mother has died.

Please complete this information, even if your father has died.



16 Your father's / other parent's details

Father's first and middle names

K L A U S F R I E D R I C H

Father's surname or family name

T H I E L

Father's citizenship(s)

G E R M A N Y

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Where do you live?

Put the full address in the spaces below.

Street number Flat number  
 Street name  
 Suburb Postcode  
 Town / city  
 Email address (if any)  
 Home phone Work / cell phone (if any)



What is your postal address?

This is where we will send your documents, papers and letters.

Same as above, where I live  go to

I want my documents sent to this address

Name  
 Street number PO Box number  
 Street name  
 Suburb Postcode  
 Town / city



Where have you lived in the last five years?

Include places you have lived in New Zealand and overseas  
 If you need more space, please use another piece of paper and attach it to your application.

Number, street, town / city Country From year to year (e.g. 2007-2009)

[Redacted area]

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If you are granted citizenship, do you intend to travel outside New Zealand in the next 12 months?

Include trips you have planned, explain why you are going, for example: holiday, work, study, to live.

Yes. Print your travel plans here. →

No → go to 21

On what date are you leaving New Zealand? why are you going?

How long are you going for?



Is English your first language?



Can you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things in English?

Yes →

No → go to 26 and check pg 10 of the guide

You need to prove you can speak English in everyday situations. You should send at least one of the original following documents with your application:

- proof of English study at a New Zealand school, polytechnic or university
- a signed letter from a past or current employer (who has English as a first language)
- an IELTS certificate
- other school reports, exam results, etc

If you can't provide enough proof, you might need to attend an English language interview

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23

Everyone needs to answer all of these questions.



Have you ever been convicted or found guilty of any offence against the law of New Zealand or any other country?

Include convictions even if you have paid the fines or served sentences for them

[Redacted] → go to 24

You do not need to include any information that is covered by the Criminal Records (Clean Slate) Act 2004. See pg 10 of the guide for more information

24

Have you ever committed any offence against the law of New Zealand or any other country for which you have not yet been convicted?

Your letter needs to include the date, place and what happened. Please see pg 11 of the guide for more information about what must be in these letters

[Redacted] → go to 25

25

Have you ever had any infringements / fines in New Zealand or any other country?

Include traffic fines, fishery breaches, immigration infringements, etc even if you have paid the fines. DON'T include parking fines.

[Redacted] → go to 26

26

Have you ever had a non-molestation, protection, police safety, or other domestic violence order issued against you?

[Redacted] → go to 27

27

Tick yes or no for each of the following.

Are you being, or have you been, investigated or reviewed or has any other legal action been taken against you by any of these agencies in New Zealand or any other country?

[Redacted]

- Police
- Customs
- Immigration Services
- NZ Transport Agency
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Passport Issuing Authority
- Work and Income, Ministry of Social Development
- Inland Revenue
- Ministry of Justice
- Other

It is an offence against the Citizenship Act 1977 to give information that is false or misleading. If it is later found that you have provided false or misleading information, you may be denied / lose New Zealand citizenship, or face criminal charges, or both.

→ If you answered yes to any of the above, you need to send us a letter with details of what happened!

28

Have you ever had to return money to Work and Income New Zealand (WINZ)?

[Redacted]

29

Have you paid this money back or do you have a payment plan in place?

[Redacted]

You will need to send us documents showing the details of your payment plan, or a statement from the government department or agency saying you have repaid the debt in full

Amount you have / had to return (\$)	Reason you had to return the money	Year (e.g. 1994)
--------------------------------------	------------------------------------	------------------

30

Everyone needs to answer all of these questions.



Have you ever been involved in any activity that may have contributed to terrorism?

If you do not regard something as an act of terrorism but you know that others might, you should mention it.

[Redacted] go to 31

[Redacted]

31

Have you ever been involved in the making or use of weapons such as biological, chemical, nuclear or radiological weapons?

[Redacted] go to 32

[Redacted]

See pg 12 of the guide for more information

32

Have you ever committed a war crime or a crime against humanity?

[Redacted] go to 33

[Redacted]

33

Is there anything else we should know that might affect your application?



Some examples are:

If you are planning to retire soon to another country, if you wear a head covering for medical or religious reasons, if you have ever used a different date of birth, if you have ever been deported from New Zealand or any other country, if you have an outstanding warrant for your arrest in another country, or anything else we should know

[Redacted] go to 34

[Redacted]



34

The next few questions ask about the citizenship ceremony

To become a citizen you must attend a ceremony. During the ceremony you will read aloud a statement that says you will be loyal to New Zealand

You need to choose which statement you will say



For more information about the ceremonies, see pg 13 of the guide.

35

Are any of your family members also applying for New Zealand citizenship?



36

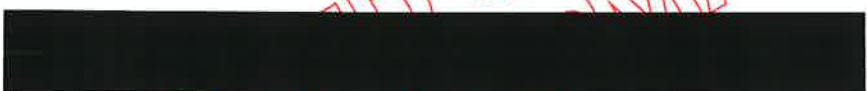
Do you require any special assistance so that you can attend an interview or public ceremony?

This could include needing access for a wheelchair, or help if you are hearing impaired etc.



37

Did someone translate this form for you or help you to interpret this form?



The person who assists you in interpreting / translating the form MUST be over 16 years old and fill in their details below

I \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_

declare that I assisted the applicant to complete this application. I confirm that I truly and faithfully interpreted and translated all applicable questions in the application form, together with the answers given by the applicant and all other things that I have been required to interpret and translate. I also confirm that I explained the Responsibilities and Privileges of New Zealand citizenship and that the applicant has acknowledged an understanding of them.

Signed

on \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

Do you have an authorised person ready to witness your signature on the next page, complete their details and sign the back of your photos?

See pg 14 and 15 of the guide for information about photo standards



CERTIFIED TRUE LIKENESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
FULL NAME OF APPLICANT  
*Smith*  
SIGNATURE OF WITNESS / IDENTIFIER  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

Here is an example of what the authorised person has to do on the back of your photos.

By signing the back of your photos, the authorised person is saying that the photos are of you.

Authorised people include: some members of the Department of Internal Affairs, Justices of the Peace, lawyers, Members of Parliament, New Zealand representatives overseas

Yes go to

No wait, you need an authorised person



**Solemn Declaration - Everyone must read and sign this section**

**Warning:** It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly give false information or conceal any facts for the purpose of gaining New Zealand citizenship for oneself or on behalf of someone. If you do so, you may be denied / lose New Zealand citizenship, or face criminal charges, or both

- I understand this application and warning
- The documents provided for this application are genuine and unaltered
- I understand that becoming a New Zealand citizen may affect my present citizenship
- I confirm that I understand the responsibilities and privileges of New Zealand citizenship.

**Responsibilities:** things that I must do

1. Obey and promote the laws of New Zealand
2. Not to act in a way that is against the interests of New Zealand
3. Register to vote
4. Pay tax
5. Behave as a responsible New Zealander

**Privileges:** things that citizenship lets me do

1. Have the right to live in New Zealand indefinitely
2. Travel overseas and return to New Zealand on a New Zealand passport
3. Stand for Parliament or local government
4. Have full access to education
5. Have full access to economic rights
6. Represent New Zealand in many international sports

• I confirm that I have read and understood the Application Guide for adults and children, including the section relating to the Privacy Statement.

• Unless I have stated otherwise in this application I intend, if granted New Zealand citizenship, to continue to reside in New Zealand.

• If there is any change in my circumstances which affects the answers I have given in this application, I will send written advice to the Department of Internal Affairs up until the point I have received my citizenship certificate.

• I understand that if I do not provide sufficient information to enable a claim to New Zealand citizenship, my application may be declined.

• I authorise the release by any Government agency of personal information which may assist the Minister of Internal Affairs to decide whether I qualify for the grant of citizenship. I recognise that this information may be provided by agencies including, but not limited to: New Zealand Police, New Zealand Customs Service, Immigration New Zealand, Ministry of Social Development, Passport Office, Births, Deaths and Marriages Registry, Ministry of Justice.

• I authorise the Department of Internal Affairs to release my name and address to my local Member of Parliament and local councillors in order that they can formally welcome me to New Zealand following my grant of citizenship.

I PETER ANDREAS THIE  
INVESTOR

of

[Redacted] solemnly and sincerely declare that I believe the facts in this application are correct and I make this solemn declaration conscientiously, believing the same to be true and by virtue of the Oaths and Declarations Act 1957

**Stop** Do you have an authorised person to witness your signature?

Declared at

SAN FRANCISCO

Signed

[Signature]

This application must be received by the Department of Internal Affairs within three months of being witnessed.

On 03/12/2010

**Stop** This part is for the authorised person

Before me

Signed

[Signature]

The authorised person must sign this form and complete the photo information on the same day

## Checklist

before you send us your application, please make sure you have everything you need.











If you don't provide all the original documents that you need to, your application will be delayed.  
All original documents will be returned to you.  
DON'T send photocopies.

Everyone needs to send these with their application:

- full birth certificate, or equivalent
- current passport(s), travel documents or equivalent (or most recent if it has expired)
- two passport photos (less than six months old), signed by an authorised person
- the application fee (\$465.00 per adult); please see the back page of this form.

Check your answers to these questions; you might also need to send these documents:

- all your marriage / civil union / divorce / name change documents  and 
- if English is not your first language, proof of your ability to speak English 
- offences, infringements / fines, legal action, a letter of explanation for each  to 
- any of these questions, a letter of explanation for each  to 
- anything else we should know that might affect your application 

You might also need to send:

- authorised translations, if your documents are not in English
- a translation fee if you wish the Department of Internal Affairs to translate your documents

See  
pg 17 of the guide  
for more information  
about authorised  
translations.

If you are unable to give us these documents, you will need to explain why in the space below.  
Or you could send us a letter with your application



If you want someone else to talk to us on your behalf, you will need to send us a signed letter that provides the following information:

1. The person's name or company name
2. Their postal address
3. Their contact phone number, email address and fax number or cell phone number (if they have any of these)



#### How to contact us



New Zealand: Freephone 0800 22 51 51  
or (+64 4) 474 8123



Department of Internal Affairs  
PO Box 10680  
Wellington, 6143



email: [citizenship@dia.govt.nz](mailto:citizenship@dia.govt.nz)



fax: (+64 4) 382 3406



website: [www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz)



#### Posting us your application and documents

If you want to post us your application, we advise you to use a 'track and trace' courier bag from New Zealand Post (within New Zealand) or registered mail (from overseas) to keep track of your original documents. We will return your documents to you by courier.

Post your application and documents to:  
Department of Internal Affairs  
PO Box 10680  
Wellington, 6143

Or you can give us your application in person at one of our offices.

See pg 18 of the guide for more information or go online to [www.citizenship.govt.nz](http://www.citizenship.govt.nz) for more information.

Now please turn to the back page to fill out your payment details.

18 Where do you live?

Print the full address in the spaces below.

Street number [redacted]  
 Street name [redacted]  
 Suburb [redacted]  
 Town / city [redacted]  
 Postal address (if any) [redacted]  
 Home phone [redacted]  
 Work / cell phone (if any) [redacted]

19 What is your postal address?

This is where we will send your documents, papers and letters.

Same as above, where I live → go to 19

I want my documents sent to this address.

Name [redacted]  
 Street number [redacted]  
 Street name [redacted]  
 Suburb [redacted]  
 Postcode [redacted]  
 Country [redacted]  
 From year to year (e.g. 2007-2009) [redacted]

and overseas. Piece of paper and attach it to your application.

20 If you are granted citizenship, do you intend to travel outside New Zealand in the next 12 months?

Include trips you have planned, explain why you are going, for example: holiday, work, study, to live.

Yes. Print your travel plans here. → No → go to 21

On what date are you leaving why are you going? How long are you staying for? New Zealand?

21 Is English your first language?

[redacted]

22 Can you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things in English?

Yes No → go to 23 and check pg 10 of the guide.

You need to prove you can speak English in everyday situations. You should send at least one of the original following documents with your application.

- proof of English study at a New Zealand school, polytechnic or university
- assigned letter from a past or current employer (who has English as a first language)
- IELTS certificate
- other school reports, exam results, etc



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[Redacted]

From:  
Sent:  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject:

[Redacted]  
Tuesday, 10 May 2011 4:13 p.m.  
[Redacted]  
Mr Thiel

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

RELEASED  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION

[Redacted]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 17 May 2011 4:37 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

Categories: To be done

[REDACTED] I refer to our recent telephone conversation.

As advised [REDACTED] is presently overseas and he has asked me to assist him with Peter Thiel's citizenship application.

There are two minor matters in the draft report you have forwarded to us which should perhaps be corrected.

The Pacific Fibre invested was [REDACTED]  
The ICEHOUSE conference Peter is speaking at is on July 8 (not June)

It may also be relevant to note that Peter has made a third investment in New Zealand - Auckland based Book Track Limited. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in the company alongside [REDACTED]. The investment amount is small because the company is still in very early days and if all goes according to plan a much larger investment will be made next year. (2)

It may also be worth while noting that Peter has had representatives meet with among others, officials from the Ministry of Science and Innovation [REDACTED]. Peter has offered to assist with the establishment of an Auckland based technology company incubator as well as setting up a "landing pad" in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand technology companies to the US. This is also a matter that the writer has discussed with the Minister of Science and Innovation and I understand is currently being progressed by the ministry. } add

I trust this information is of assistance.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require anything further.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**BELL GULLY**

DDI [REDACTED]  
171 Featherston Street, Wellington, New Zealand

---

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[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 1 June 2011 6:32 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw: Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

[REDACTED] this info will be so rare for the application but may be worth mentioning in any material or cover letter that accompanies the application to the minister.  
Many thanks,  
[REDACTED]

This email is sent subject to Bell Gully's standard disclaimer.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 06:27 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

[REDACTED] will let the DIA know about this although it will probably be late to mention in the application; they could refer to it in any material that accompanies the application.  
[REDACTED]

This email is sent subject to Bell Gully's standard disclaimer.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 04:50 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Fw: Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

Though I should make you aware of this request from NZTE.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, May 31, 2011 09:49 AM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

Hi [REDACTED]

It looks like he won't have much time at all back in the SF office before he goes to NZ in July. He's happy to do it this week of July 8, does that work for you?

Best,  
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, May 30, 2011 01:46 PM  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Re: Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise



Hi [redacted]

Thanks very much for getting back to me so promptly - it's fantastic that it sounds like Peter's happy to do this for us. Early July could work, but if we could catch him before the end of June it would be better. Is he around either the week beginning June 13th or June 20th (in San Francisco or New York)?

Best,

[redacted]

On 27/05/2011, at 4:34 PM, [redacted] wrote:

[redacted]

It looks like Peter is in Europe when you are in San Francisco. He will be in NZ in early July and could do it then.

Would that work?

Best,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 24, 2011 2:11 PM  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Peter Thiel - request for video interview from New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

Dear [redacted]

[redacted] kindly passed along your details, suggesting that you would be the best person to speak to about a project that I am working on for New Zealand Trade & Enterprise

We are currently rolling out a new website, which is designed for an offshore audience (specifically North American), to inform them about New Zealand trade, business and investment opportunities. As part of this, we are including short video interviews with a variety of people who have experience in doing business with and investing in New Zealand. Each edited clip is 3-4 minutes long.

We would love to include Peter Thiel as part of this, based on his experience in investing in New Zealand companies. The questions/discussion topics (which will be sent out in advance) will be around his experience investing in New Zealand, and why he believes it's a great way to go. Once the clip is edited, he will of course get to see it before it is uploaded.

Would you be interested in taking part? If so, could you please give an idea of availability. We would love to do it on June 8 or 9, with the 8th being the best date, but if this doesn't work for Peter we can certainly discuss other dates. We will come to San Francisco, and can do the filming wherever suits you best - either in a studio, or on location at his offices, in a conference room for example. If filming at the office, we will need about 45 minutes to set up, but the time commitment we will need from Peter will only be 15 minutes.

I look forward to hearing back from you at your earliest convenience. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Kind regards,



Kind regards,



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[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 31 May 2011 9:48 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] I had a sudden thought last night that I may have overlooked mentioning Peter Thiel's \$1m donation to the Christchurch Earthquake appeal.

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 19 May 2011 8:30  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email outlining two minor matters in Mr Thiel's draft report and for giving me additional information. I have corrected the information in the report and have added the additional information that you have provided about the investment in Book Tracking Limited and Peter's representatives meeting with the Ministry of Innovation.

If there is anything further that I can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me or email me.

Have a lovely day

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship Paraunga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Inland Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 13 May 2011 4:37 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] refer to our recent telephone conversation.

As advised [REDACTED] is presently overseas and he has asked me to assist him with Peter Thiel's citizenship application.

There are two minor matters in the draft report you have forwarded to us which should perhaps be corrected

The Pacific Fibre invested was finalised [REDACTED]  
The ICEHOUSE conference Peter is speaking at is on July 8 (not June)

It may also be relevant to note that Peter has made a third investment in New Zealand – Auckland based Book Track Limited. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in the company alongside [REDACTED]. The investment amount is small because the company is still in very early days and if all goes according to plan a much larger investment will be made next year.

It may also be worth while noting that Peter has had representatives meet with among others, officials from the Ministry of Science and Innovation [REDACTED]. Peter has offered to assist with the establishment of an Auckland based technology company incubator as well as setting up a "landing pad" in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand technology companies to the US. This is also a matter that the writer has discussed with the Minister of Science and Innovation and I understand is currently being progressed by the ministry.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require anything further.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

**BELL GULLY**

DDI [REDACTED]  
171 Featherston Street, Wellington, New Zealand

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---

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 30 May 2011 5:08 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] thank you for your time this afternoon and I understand you have been very busy moving offices. As I mentioned it may be useful to add the following to the application after mention is made of the home in [REDACTED]. " Furthermore at the time of lodging the application Peter Thiel has made an offer for the purchase of a holiday home at [REDACTED]. If any addition was to in any way delay the application then please proceed without such an addition. Many thanks,  
With kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 19 May 2011 8:30  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email outlining two minor matters in Mr Thiel's draft report and for giving me additional information. I have corrected the information in the report and have added the additional information that you have provided about the investment in Book Tracking Limited and Peter's representatives meeting with the Ministry of Innovation.

If there is anything further that I can do for you please do not hesitate to contact me or email me.

Have a lovely day

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship, Raraunga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Mail [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 17 May 2011 4:37 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] I refer to our recent telephone conversation.

As advised [REDACTED] is presently overseas and he has asked me to assist him with Peter Thiel's citizenship application.

There are two minor matters in the draft report you have forwarded to us which should perhaps be corrected.

The Pacific Fibre invested was finalised [REDACTED]  
The ICEHOUSE conference Peter is speaking at is on July 8 (not June)

It may also be relevant to note that Peter has made a third investment in New Zealand - Auckland based Book Track Limited. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in the company alongside [REDACTED]. The investment amount is small because the company is still in very early days and if all goes according to plan a much larger investment will be made next year.

It may be worth while noting that Peter has had representatives meet with among others, officials from the Ministry of Science and Innovation [redacted] Peter has offered to assist with the establishment of an Auckland based technology company incubator as well as setting up a "landing pad" in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand technology companies to the US. This is also a matter that the writer has discussed with the Minister of Science and Innovation and I understand is currently being progressed by the ministry.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require anything further.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

[redacted]  
**BELL GULLY**

ODI [redacted]  
171 Featherston Street, Wellington, New Zealand

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=====  
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=====

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Subject: FW: Mr Peter Thiel - draft application for NZ citizenship

DocumentONEGUID: f07066a3-d4a1-4d95-a1fc-f10ff19777ef

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 17 December 2010 4:55 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel - draft application for NZ citizenship

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for sending through the draft letter

I think the letter and attachments provide detail to the Minister. In addition, the Citizenship Office will reference the information you have provided.

A couple of comments: When I read the letter I did wonder whether there should be something added that explains to the Minister why Mr Thiel wants New Zealand citizenship - especially as it appears from the information provided that he will continue living in the US, and has NZ permanent residence so is able to freely enter and depart this country. Mr Thiel makes a strong argument that his circumstances are exceptional and that may mean it would be in the public interest for him to be granted citizenship but there needs to be additional balance. I also note that the scan of attachment 2 shows [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] recorded twice.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Group Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Freephone 0800 22 51 31  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 15 December 2010 3:45 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed a rough draft of the letter and application form for Mr Peter Thiel. As discussed with you, Mr Thiel is seeking the Minister's discretion for the grant of citizenship in special cases.

While I appreciate that this is still incomplete and I have not been able to check the attachments (which are presently being forwarded by courier from the US), I would appreciate any comments you have in relation to the material provided.

Handwritten note on a grey background: My email to Bell Bulby [REDACTED] he forwarded the initial draft application to [REDACTED]

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Subject: FW: Mr Peter Thiel - draft application for NZ citizenship

DocumentONEGUID: fc7066a8-d4e1-4d96-a1fc-f10ff19777ef

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Friday, 17 December 2010 4:55 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel - draft application for NZ citizenship

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for sending through the draft letter and application form for Mr Thiel.

I think the letter and attachments provide detailed information which will assist the Minister. In addition, the Citizenship Office will provide a submission and will reference the information you have provided.

A couple of comments: when I read the letter I did wonder whether there should be something added that explains to the Minister why Mr Thiel wants New Zealand citizenship - especially as it appears from the information provided that he will continue living in the US, and has NZ permanent residence so is able to freely enter and depart this country. Mr Thiel makes a strong argument that his circumstances are exceptional and that may mean it would be in the public interest for him to be granted citizenship but there needs to be additional balance. I also note that the scan of attachment 2 shows [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] recorded twice.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Group Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Freephone 0800 22 51 51  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 16 December 2010 3:45 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel

Dear [REDACTED]

Please find enclosed a rough draft of the letter and application form for Mr Peter Thiel. As discussed with you, Mr Thiel is seeking the Minister's discretion for the grant of citizenship in special cases.

While I appreciate that this is still incomplete and I have not been able to check the attachments (which are presently being forwarded by courier from the US), I would appreciate any comments you have in relation to the material provided.



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Wednesday, 30 March 2011 10:28 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Mr Peter Thiel  
Attachments: Questions 23,24,25 (Character new form).doc

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Thank you very much for the telephone message and the package containing relevant documents for Mr Thiel's citizenship application.

I have had time this morning to read and look over the documents that were sent. I apologise that this was not initially picked up yesterday when I spoke to your lovely Legal Assistant [REDACTED]

The completed form sent to me yesterday via email about [REDACTED]. If Mr Thiel could either add this information onto the previous form or recomplete the attached form again or send me an email giving me the information. Any option that is easier for Mr Thiel is acceptable.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I do apologise once again for overlooking this part. I reassure you that the information about [REDACTED] is purely for the completion of the application form.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Case Officer Citizenship Rangauna  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua Direct Dial: [REDACTED] [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 1:51 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel

Dear [REDACTED] please find attached the form completed by Mr Peter Thiel. The original is being couriered to us, and once we receive, will send to you immediately.

Regards  
[REDACTED]

BELL GULLY

DDI [REDACTED] VOB [REDACTED]  
Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland, New Zealand

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[REDACTED]

BELL GULLY

DDI [REDACTED] MGB [REDACTED]  
Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland, New Zealand

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[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Thursday, 24 March 2011 3:19 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter Thiel  
Attachments: Questions 23,24,25 (Character new form).doc

Good Afternoon [REDACTED]

It was lovely to meet with you last month. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to come and visit us.

Firstly, I noticed that Mr Thiel was granted permanent residence under the Investor Category. Are you able to advise me whether there were any conditions for Mr Thiel under this application type.

[REDACTED]

Mr Thiel will need to complete, sign and date the attached form answering questions 23-25. I do accept a scanned copy of the completed form to my email address.

Lastly, if you have any further questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship Raranga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Karu Ta whenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

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Please return to [redacted] Citizenship Officer: WGN1

CIT: 2011000002

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

**WARNING**

It is an offence to make a statement which is false in any particular, for the purpose of gaining citizenship. If citizenship is obtained by fraud, false representation, or the concealment of any material fact, the person concerned may be deprived of such citizenship.

Full Name	I, Peter Andreas Thiel
Address	of, [redacted]
Contact Phone	[redacted]

23. Have you ever been convicted or found guilty of any offences against the law of New Zealand or any overseas country?  
[redacted]

24. Have you ever committed any offences (for which you have not yet been convicted) against the law of New Zealand or any overseas country?  
[redacted]

25. Have you ever have had any infringement/fines in New Zealand or overseas (e.g. traffic fines, fisheries breaches, customs, immigration infringements, etc. Do not include parking fines)?  
[redacted]

Signed: [Signature]

Date: March 24, 2011

[REDACTED]

**From :** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2011 9:42 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter THIEL  
**Attachments:** Translation Refund for Mr Thiel.doc

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Before we can continue processing Mr Thiel's application there are two issues that I would like to bring to your attention.

Firstly, applicants who have spent a significant period of time outside New Zealand prior to the Minister of Internal Affairs considering granting citizenship may be required to provide police clearances from the relevant overseas authorities. If Mr Thiel has been residing in one particular place outside of New Zealand for four months or more since obtaining permanent residence through Immigration New Zealand, we require that he provides a current police clearance from that place. If the only country that he has been in for four months or more is the United States of America then below are details of how and where to obtain a police clearance from.

**For applicants residing in the United States of America**

Applicants must go to their local police station to complete an Applicant Card and have their fingerprints taken. Applicant Cards may be obtained through State Police or Federal Bureau of Investigation or by phoning (304) 625 5590 and selecting Option #3. Once their fingerprints have been taken applicants then send this card to the FBI and request a copy of their record listing together with the following:

- a written request stating that they are applying for citizenship in New Zealand
- their full name
- date and place of birth
- Fee US\$18 (must be a certified cheque or money order payable to the US Treasury).

The address is:

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
C.I.I.S. Division  
Attn: Sov. Mod. D2  
1000 Custer Hollow Rd.  
Clarksburg, WV 26306  
USA

Secondly, in order to present Mr Thiel's application to the Minister to consider, I would like to provide Mr Thiel further opportunity to provide information or documentation to support his case.

I have read through Mr Thiel's letter to the Minister and the Department feels that it may be to his advantage to provide original documents supporting the statements in his letter. The kind of evidence he may wish to provide includes the following:

1. Documents proving the establishment of Valar Ventures LP in New Zealand proving [REDACTED]
2. A signed letter from Rod Drury, CEO of Xero, confirming his appreciation in Valar Ventures LP investing a [REDACTED] with Xero. (this letter will prove the investment into Xero)
3. Any documents proving the investment in Pacific Fibre Limited.
4. Attachment 2 of the letter lists people whom were consulted in the context of appreciating the New Zealand business environment with emphasis upon business innovation and the structure of venture capital provider Mr Thiel may wish to provide reference letters signed by some of those people supporting Mr Thiel's application for New Zealand citizenship.

Please note that [REDACTED] has been mentioned in the letter as being on the board of Pacific Fibre but has not been listed in Attachment 2

Mr Thiel may also wish to provide further information about his personal situation in order to satisfy the Minister that he should be granted citizenship. In addition to the information he has provided about his investment in New Zealand the kind of information Mr Thiel may wish to provide could include

1. Any information about having a base in New Zealand. The letter mentions that he owns a house in New Zealand. Mr Thiel may wish to provide evidence of the ownership of that property, and information about what arrangements are in place for the maintenance of the property (e.g. who currently resides in the property or whether he plans to stay at the property when in New Zealand). He may also like to make a statement regarding how often he intends to visit New Zealand and how long he expects to be in New Zealand during these trips.
2. Mr Thiel may wish to provide further statement regarding why he wishes to be granted New Zealand citizenship. He has advised that he believes the wide global network that he has cultivated would be of great value to New Zealand and it would give him great pride to let it be known that he is a New Zealand citizen, however he may wish to elaborate on whether he requires citizenship in order to continue with his investment in New Zealand.

Lastly, the translation for Mr Thiel's birth certificate is completed. I have attached a letter explaining the refund of \$50.00. Today I will organise for Mr Thiel's documents to be sent to you (x1 birth certificate, x1 baptism certificate, x4 extra photos and x1 receipt). For your information the courier track and trace number is SA 491 669 694 NZ.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Case Officer  
Identity Services  
For Secretary for Internal Affairs  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

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all enquiries please quote  
LIC 2011000002

06 January 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
[REDACTED]

21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

**NEW ZEALAND CITIZENSHIP**

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the case officer responsible for the processing of your application.

Your two birth certificates have been forwarded to the Translation Service for an official translation and will be returned to you shortly.

If you change your address or have any questions about your application, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Case Officer  
Department of Internal Affairs

Direct Line: [REDACTED]

Email Address: [REDACTED]

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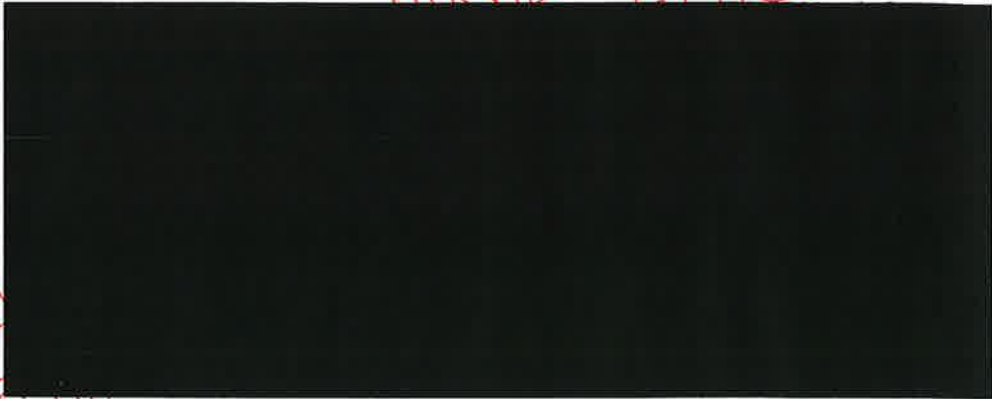
# CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

## File Note

Application Number:	2011000002		
Applicant's Name:	Mr Peter Andreas Thiel		
Date:	13 April 2011	Author	[REDACTED]
Subject:			

A meeting was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 with [REDACTED] and Mr Peter Thiel's lawyer [REDACTED] from Bell Gully at 8.30 in [REDACTED] Office.

1.



2. [REDACTED] has provided information of the Icehouse conference where Mr Thiel will be a guest speaker.
3. [REDACTED] has mentioned in the meeting that Mr Thiel has been approached on behalf of the Prime Minister to play a role in the offshore initiatives in relation to the Christchurch Earthquake Fund.
4. As per conversation with [REDACTED] about the supporting reference letter from Rob Drury that it is acceptable to proceed with this letter.
5. In order to present the Minister with Mr Thiel's case I have asked that we have original documentation regarding
  - Ownership and property papers of his home in Parnell
  - his investments in New Zealand Xero and Pacific Fibre
  - Mr Thiel's Permanent Residence and whether this was subject to conditions. [REDACTED] has stated that it was subject to Mandatory investment period which was fulfilled by the issuing of the returning residents visa.
  - [REDACTED] will provide the appropriate documentation to me above
6. [REDACTED] has requested a copy of the submission to be sent to him. I have explained the time frame on writing this submission will be from the time that all information has been received 15 working days. Altogether 40

working days. He would like the submission to be sent to him before the 6<sup>th</sup> of May as he is on holiday.

7. [REDACTED] has explained that once the submission has been written to give them to the subcheckers for checking. Once [REDACTED] has read this then we will send out the submission then even if we leave the Departments Recommendation of the submission.
8. [REDACTED] is happy to look over the submission once I have written this.

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[REDACTED]

14-4-2011

[REDACTED]

Citizenship

[REDACTED]

13 APR 2011

[REDACTED]

# CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

## File Note

Application Number:	2011000002		
Applicant's Name:	Mr Peter Andreas Thiel		
Date:	07 January 2011	Author	[REDACTED]
Subject:			

As per conversation with [REDACTED] we do not require the withdraw and reapply form for this application due to the fact that we can establish this from the letter enclosed and also [REDACTED] of Bell Gully travelled down from Auckland especially to submit this application to [REDACTED]. This indicates that the applicant wants to proceed to the Minister for a decision.

The applicant's current passport has not been certified correctly by the NZ consulate in America-his name is [REDACTED]. The only page that has been certified is the front of the passport-the whole passport needs to be certified. As per conversation with [REDACTED] it is acceptable for us to continue with the application instead of asking for this to be redone again if [REDACTED] can confirm that he did indeed sign the original document than that is fine.

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7 JAN 2011

# CITIZENSHIP APPLICATION

## File Note

Application Number:	2011000002		
Applicant's Name:	Mr Peter Andreas Thiel		
Date:	14 January 2011	Author	[REDACTED]
Subject:			

As per discussion with [REDACTED] in regards to question 29: If you are granted citizenship, do you intend to travel outside New Zealand in the next 12 months and the statutory declaration, [REDACTED] has said that its okay to accept.

### Intention

The applicant has not answered the question because he is not actually in New Zealand at the moment, so he left this question blank and has stated in the attached letter that due to his duties in managing his California based companies Clarium and Founders Fund (which he has stated in the letter that he would need to remain a resident of USA to fulfill his duties in managing his companies), also due to his public speaking, governance commitments and attendance at conferences and events which require extensive travel globally.

### Statutory Declaration

As per the statutory declaration which was signed in the United States. Mr Thiel has put the correct date of 3 December 2010 but on the back of the photo the witness has put the date in the American Style which is the month, date, year-so the date reads in New Zealand form as 12 March 2010. But as per conversation with [REDACTED] about this we will accept this.

14 JAN 2011

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 29 March 2011 1:51 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Mr Peter Thiel  
Attachments: img-3291344-0001.pdf

Dear [REDACTED] please find attached the form completed by Mr Peter Thiel. The original is being couriered to us, and once we receive, will send to you immediately.  
Regards  
Denise

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

BELL GULLY

DDI [REDACTED] MOB [REDACTED]  
Vero Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland, New Zealand

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CIT: 2011000002

Please return to [redacted] Citizenship Officer: WGN1

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

Te Tari Taiwhenua

**WARNING**

It is an offence to make a statement which is false in any particular, for the purpose of gaining citizenship. If citizenship is obtained by fraud, false representation, or the concealment of any material fact, the person concerned may be deprived of such citizenship.

Full Name	I, Peter Andreas Thiel
Address	of [redacted]
Contact Phone	[redacted]

23. Have you ever been convicted or found guilty of any offences against the law of New Zealand or any overseas country?

[redacted]

24. Have you ever committed any offences (for which you have not yet been convicted) against the law of New Zealand or any overseas country?

[redacted]

25. Have you ever have had any infringement fines in New Zealand or overseas (e.g. traffic fines, fisheries breaches, customs, immigration infringements, etc. Do not include parking fines)?

[redacted]

[redacted]

Signed: Peter Thiel

Date: March 24, 2011

CITIZENSHIP  
Rāraunga  
Identity Services Group  
Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Boulcott House  
47 Boulcott St., PO Box 10680  
Wellington 6143, New Zealand  
Freephone 0800 22 51 51  
Facsimile +64 4 382 3406  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

Your ref: 02-347-7665  
Our ref: 201100002

5 January 2011



Bell Gully  
PO Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear 

**Application for Citizenship – Mr Peter Thiel**

We acknowledge your letter of 21 December 2010 and advise Mr Thiel's citizenship application has been allocated to a case officer today and processing is underway.

Yours sincerely



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By courier

[Redacted]

Department of Internal Affairs  
120 Victoria Street  
Wellington

FROM [Redacted]  
C/O [Redacted]  
MOBILE [Redacted]  
EMAIL [Redacted]  
MATTER NO. 02-347-7665  
DATE 21 December 2010

Dear [Redacted]

**Application for citizenship - Peter Thiel**

Enclosed is an application form, together with our cheque for \$100.00 (being translation fee for two documents) in respect of this application. Accompanying the application is a copy of a letter to the Minister setting out the circumstances why the applicant requests the exercise of Ministerial discretion in relation to accepting the application within the prescribed five year period and in respect of residence in New Zealand.

With regard to the this latter matter, it is proposed that supplementary information as to the applicant's international commitments in the last year and those projected for the next year are submitted. The basis for seeking exercise of this discretion in the context of citizenship rather than permanent residency is that the application is premised on the fact that Mr Thiel is in effect as a citizenship and ambassador at large.

The writer would be happy to discuss any aspect of this application.

Kind regards and Merry Christmas

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

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**Peter Thiel. Support for citizenship application.**

I am writing in support of Peter Thiel's application for New Zealand citizenship.

Peter is well known in the international technology industry for his numerous achievements. This includes being a co-founder and CEO of PayPal and first outside investor in Facebook.

We have gotten to know Peter and his team over the past year. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in Xero and [REDACTED] into the early stage Pacific Fibre project to connect Australia and New Zealand to the USA.

Peter and his team have been proactive in connecting Xero and Pacific Fibre into their networks in the USA demonstrating how they add value to New Zealand businesses. They have been active supporters and attendees of several industry events including the recent Angel Investor conference in Nelson.

Peter is a leading global player and we believe his connections will generate immeasurable opportunities for New Zealand.

Yours sincerely

Rod Drury  
[REDACTED]

**About Rod**

Rod Drury is CEO and founder of NZX-listed Xero an online accounting solution for small businesses.

One of New Zealand's leading technology entrepreneurs, Rod is a member of the New Zealand Hi-Tech Hall of Fame, NZ Hi-Tech Entrepreneur of the Year in 2006 and 2007, World Class New Zealander for ICT in 2008 and an Honorary Fellow of the NZ Computer Society.

Rod is a Director of the New Zealand Stock Exchange, was a Director of TradeMe when it was sold to Fairfax Media and is a member of Victoria University of Wellington Faculty of Commerce Advisory Board.

Rod is a founder and Director of Pacific Fibre, a new international fibre cable project connecting Australia and NZ to the USA.

30 January 2011

**Peter Thiel - Support for application for New Zealand Citizenship**

I am writing to support Peter Thiel's application for New Zealand Citizenship.

New Zealand must connect to the world if our technology companies are to reach their potential. San Francisco and Silicon Valley are the epicentre of innovation and wealth creation in technology ventures and are the best place for New Zealand technology ventures to start when expanding into the lucrative U.S. market.

Peter is a wealthy and well-connected technology entrepreneur and investor, based in San Francisco. Peter is actively investing in New Zealand companies (most recently Xero and Pacific Fibre) and is generously opening his networks to help our companies find the talent and capital they need to reach their potential.

I believe Peter is committed to New Zealand and that he can make a tremendous contribution to the technology industry and to New Zealand's success.

Sincerely,

Sam Morgan

Founder, Trade Me

Co-Founder & Chairman, Pacific Fibre

Director, Fairfax Media

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By courier

[Redacted]  
Department of Internal Affairs  
Boulcott House  
47 Boulcott Street  
Wellington

FROM [Redacted]  
DOI [Redacted]  
MOBILE [Redacted]  
EMAIL [Redacted]  
MATTER NO. 02-347-7665  
DATE 21 April 2011

Dear [Redacted]

**Peter Thiel**

Further to our recent meeting, we **enclose** herein are:

1. A copy of the Title to [Redacted] Parnell. You will note that the Title refers to [Redacted] That was the former name of the Street [Redacted]
2. A diagram illustrating the connection between Peter and the registered proprietorship [Redacted]
3. Details relating to investments by Valar Venture's in Pacific Fibre Limited and in Xero
4. Correspondence that forms the basis of confirmation from the New Zealand Immigration Service that Peter's permanent residency was no longer constrained by Section 18(a) conditions.

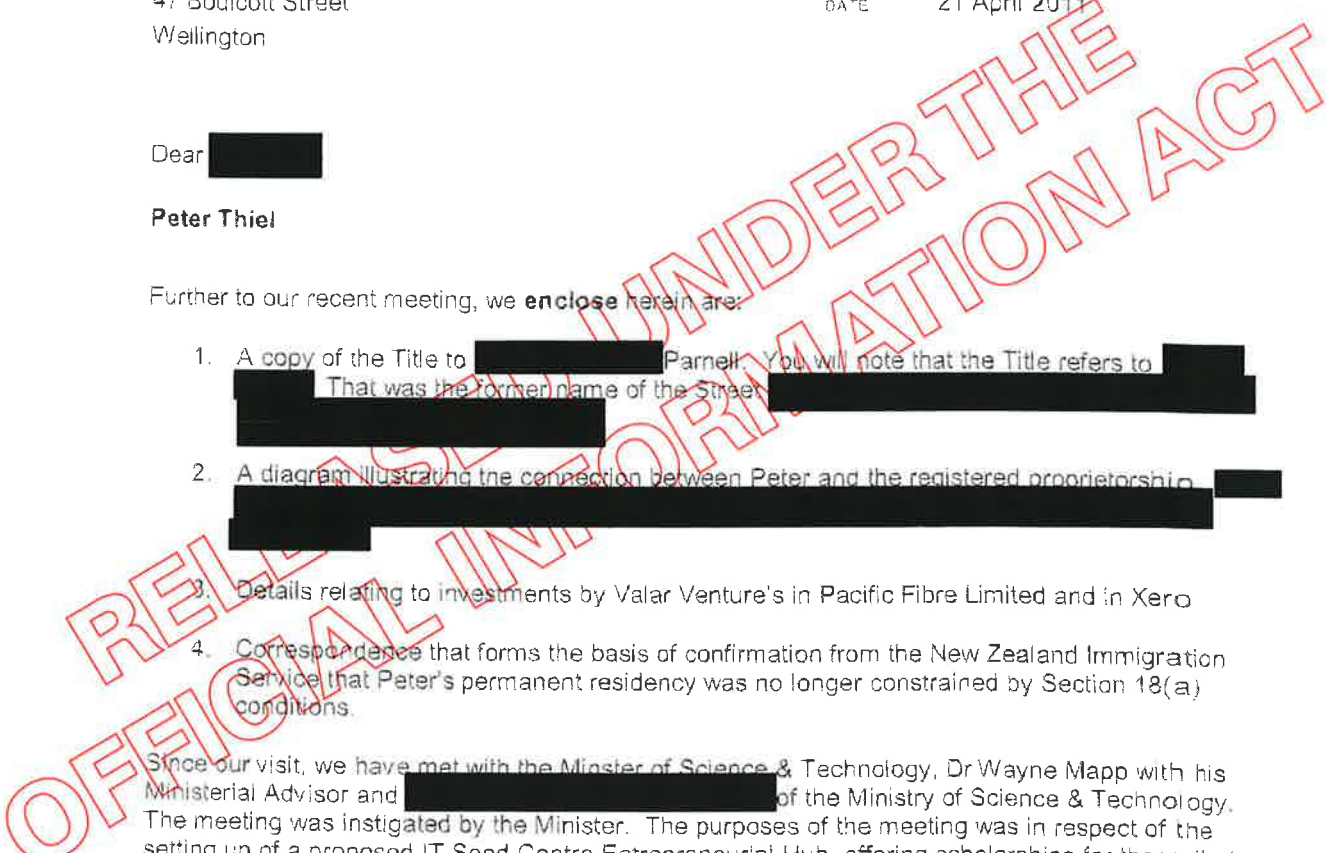
Since our visit, we have met with the Minister of Science & Technology, Dr Wayne Mapp with his Ministerial Advisor and [Redacted] of the Ministry of Science & Technology. The meeting was instigated by the Minister. The purposes of the meeting was in respect of the setting up of a proposed IT Seed Centre Entrepreneurial Hub, offering scholarships for those that have a Science IT Entrepreneurial potential needing exposure which links back to Peter's American and Silicone Valley networks.

We shall keep you informed in relation to progress in respect of this matter.

We confirm also my comments to you that Peter had made a contribution of \$NZ1 million to the Christchurch Earthquake Fund, such funds having been facilitated by Mark Weldon, Chief Executive of NZX on behalf of the Prime Minister (copy press cutting).

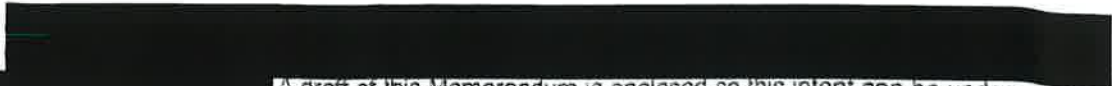
**Book Track Private Fund Agreement**

Since we last met, Valar Ventures (Peter's investment vehicle in New Zealand has just entered into a shareholders Agreement with Book Track Holdings Limited [Redacted] This company ([Redacted] are well known in the E economy field) are developing a movie style sound track system for E-books.





BELL GULLY



A draft of this Memorandum is enclosed so this intent can be understood.  
Could this and the subscription agreement with Pacific Fibre be treated as confidential.

If there is any further information you require please contact the writer.

Yours faithfully



Enc.

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

By courier

[REDACTED]  
Department of Internal Affairs  
Boulcott House  
47 Boulcott Street  
Wellington

FROM [REDACTED]  
DDI [REDACTED]  
MOBILE [REDACTED]  
EMAIL [REDACTED]  
MATTER NO. 02-347-7665  
DATE 25 March 2011

Dear [REDACTED]

Further to your correspondence, in which you have advised that we may wish to provide further information about Mr Thiel's personal situation in order to satisfy the Minister that he should be granted citizenship and our recent meeting with regard to [REDACTED] we would comment as follows:

## 1. Mr Thiel's base in New Zealand

Mr Thiel purchased a property at [REDACTED] Parnell in January this year. This property is occupied more or less on a permanent basis by Mr Thiel's staff who are here regularly in the context of managing Mr Thiel's New Zealand business interests.

If granted citizenship Mr Thiel anticipates that he will still spend a considerable amount of time in the United States and other parts of the world to effectively manage his other enterprises. Nonetheless, he regularly promotes the people and enterprise of New Zealand, at the many international forums that he attends, in the context of his wider range of interests and commitments, and through his investments.

We **enclose** details of his business trips in 2009 and 2010, together with details of the numerous events he attended (either as an attendee, speaker, host or panellist).

He is scheduled to speak with the Prime Minister at the Ice house Auckland University in June.

## 2. Why should Mr Thiel be granted New Zealand citizenship

We have **attached** a letter from Mr Thiel outlining why he wishes to be granted New Zealand citizenship from both a personal and professional perspective. As you will see in the letter Mr Thiel has great optimism for New Zealand's future. He hopes to be able to help grow the country into a hub of technological progress, with world class companies that find success both at home and abroad. To be able to say he is a Kiwi will let him feel greater ease and confidence mobilising New Zealand's talented entrepreneurs. It will allow him to represent them and their companies on the international stage not only as an investor, but also as a fellow countryman. It will highlight the fact that his belief in New Zealand is so strong that he has made the commitment to take up residency and citizenship and it will give him the personal assurance necessary to draw other investors to New Zealand from Silicon Valley in California and from elsewhere around the world.

Mr Thiel has launched Valar Ventures, his New Zealand-based venture capital firm. He will be looking to fund innovative Kiwi companies that will take the risks necessary to transform the smallest start-ups into industry giants.

Investments to date include a [REDACTED] investment in Pacific Fibre Limited and a [REDACTED] investment in Xero Limited (a NZSX listed entity). These investments were made through a limited partnership, Valar Ventures LP. Mr Thiel is the limited partner of Valar Ventures LP and he also controls the general partner of Valar Ventures LP.

Mr Thiel has advised that "citizenship is irrevocable. It is the public recognition of a hallowed bond. For that reason and others, he is prepared to make this solemn allegiance, and to thereby embrace and contribute to the life, history and culture of New Zealand".

We enclose letters from both Sam Morgan and Rod Drury who support Mr Thiel's application and have provided excerpts below as to the benefits Mr Thiel could provide to New Zealand if granted citizenship.

"New Zealand must connect to the world if our technology companies are to reach their potential. San Francisco and Silicon Valley are the epicentre of innovation and wealth creation in technology ventures and are the best place for New Zealand technology ventures to start when expanding into the lucrative US market. Peter is a wealthy and well connected technology entrepreneur and investor. Peter is actively investing in New Zealand companies (most recently Xero and Pacific Fibre) and is generously opening his networks to help our companies find the talent and capital they need to reach their potential."

**Sam Morgan, Founder TradeMe, Co-Founder and Chairman, Pacific Fibre,  
Director, Fairfax Media**

Peter is well known in the international technology industry for his numerous achievements. This includes being a co-founder and CEO of PayPal and first outside investor in Facebook. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in Xero and [REDACTED] into the early stage Pacific Fibre project to connect Australia and New Zealand to the USA. Peter is a leading global player and we believe his connections will generate immeasurable opportunities for New Zealand."

**Rod Drury, CEO, Xero**

3.



#### 4. Conclusion

Our client has been approached on behalf of the Prime Minister to play a role in the offshore initiatives in relation to the Christchurch Earthquake Fund. It is anticipated there will be publicity about this. This has arisen subsequent to the original application, such that its context is unique to the circumstances. Our client was anxious to avoid it being considered in any manner relative to the merits of this application.

**Enclosed** is a clippings file in relation to our client's onshore investments.

You have asked whether our client's Permanent Residency was subject to any conditions. It was subject to the [REDACTED] and confirmed by the issue of a multiple re-entry visa/permit.

Please do not hesitate to contact the writer if you require any further information or clarification on the above.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

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DIA Citizenship

NZ Presence Summary

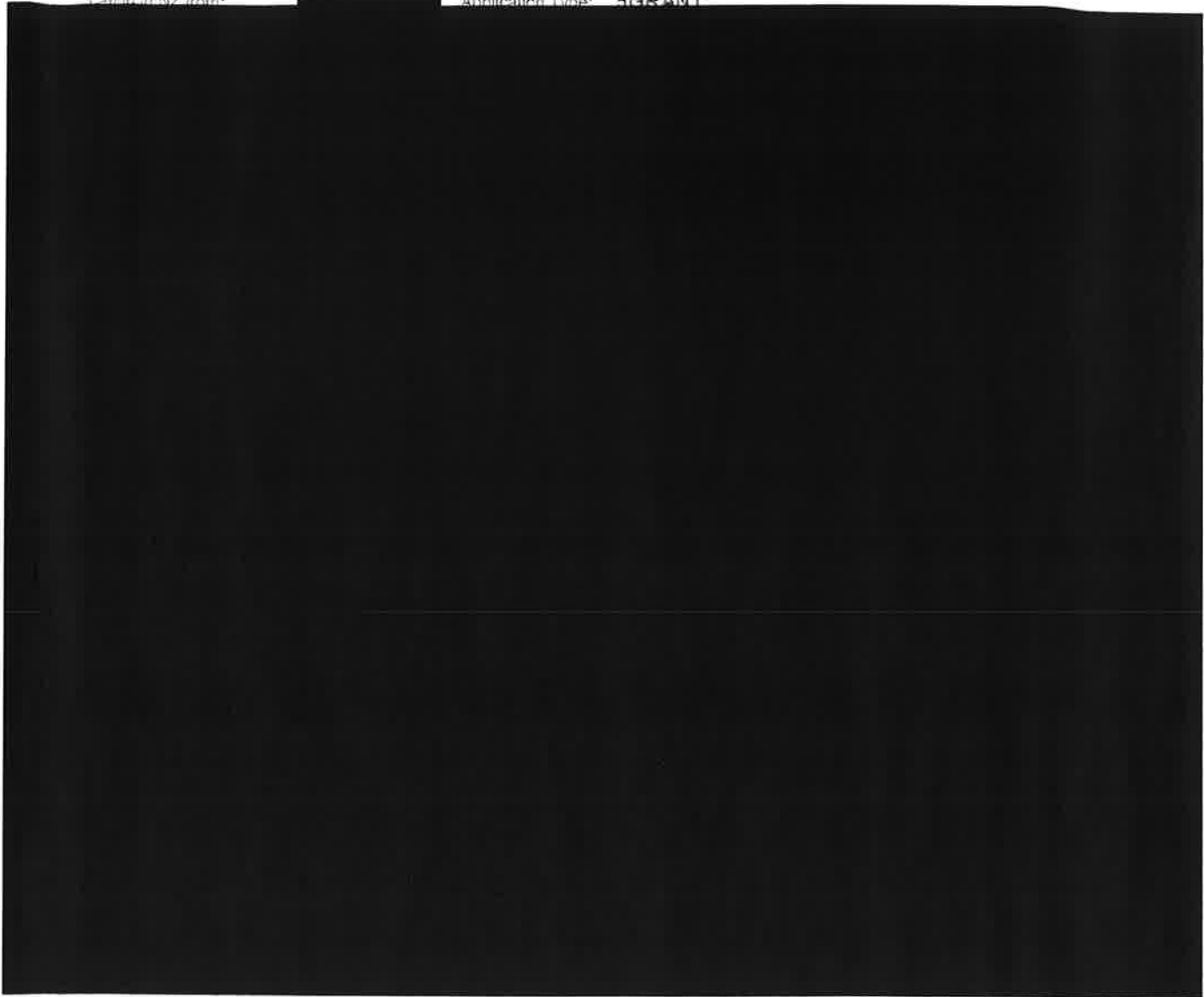
Current Given Names: Peter Andreas  
Current Family Name: Thiel  
COB: Germany

Person No.: 885558  
Gender: M  
DOB: 11-Oct-1967

Date of Full Payment: 05-Jan-2011  
Living in NZ from:

Application No.: 2011000002  
Application Type: SGRANT

Application Status: PROCES







Dear Minister,

I wish to apply for New Zealand citizenship in accordance with section 9(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act of 1977, which deals with the grant of citizenship in special cases. As I am unable to fulfil the normal residency requirements, I am requesting your approval of my application.

Section 9(1)(c) refers to the grant of citizenship if

*the Minister is satisfied that granting a certificate of New Zealand citizenship to the applicant would be in the public interest because of exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian or other nature relating to the applicant.*

I am aware that the Minister may have regard to relevant matters in section 8(2), and this letter expands on those matters – in particular, my character; my knowledge of the responsibilities and privileges attaching to New Zealand citizenship; and my intentions with regard to residency and employment.

I own my own home in New Zealand and am proud to have gained permanent residency and to hold a Returning Resident's Visa. I would very much like to increase my commitment to New Zealand.

#### Introduction

My own background, qualifications, experience, and current employment is set out in more detail below, but in summary, I attended Stanford University in Palo Alto, California and hold degrees in philosophy and law.

In the course of my business travels, including to New Zealand, and in the context of my personal philosophies and philanthropy, I have long admired the people, culture, business environment and government of New Zealand, as well as the encouragement which is given to investment, business and trade in New Zealand.

I have consistently found New Zealanders to be open and friendly, with a 'no nonsense' way of getting the job done. The country is beautiful, and has a strong environmental ethic. The government is committed to business.

Since acquiring permanent residency, I have studied extensively New Zealand's entrepreneurial environment, the current venture capital market and the prerequisites for, and economic advantages of, developing successful technology companies in a New Zealand context (see **Attachment 1**). I have concluded that the New Zealand government supports capital expansion, scientific research and international investment. All these traits make New Zealand a great place to start a business. It is a stable country with one of the highest ratings in the world for honesty and a non-corrupt culture, and it offers long term entrepreneurial opportunities in technology development.

However, a thriving technology industry needs deep pools of capital for start-up companies as well as networks of experienced investors. Despite promising developments, it is these resources which are still dramatically under-developed in New Zealand. Just as venture capital investing was beginning to gain traction in New Zealand, the global financial crisis has led investors to reduce their risk exposure. I believe this is precisely the time resources



should be directed towards creating innovative companies that drive real expansion of the economy

I am currently based in San Francisco, which sits at the top of Silicon Valley and the center of the technology world. Many of the best aspects of New Zealand and Silicon Valley are the same: both are pro-innovation, pro-business and pro-technology. It would make sense to increase the ties between these two parts of the world. Both would benefit through joint business ventures and technology investing. There is a lot that Silicon Valley can offer New Zealand, both in terms of precedent and example and in terms of current partnerships.

As part of my study into how I could contribute to the existing entrepreneurial environment and further development of the venture capital market in New Zealand, I have consulted with a variety of New Zealand political leaders, including meeting Prime Minister John Key, Deputy Prime Minister Bill English and Minister of Economic Development Gerry Brownlee.

I've also met with some of New Zealand's outstanding business personalities, including Sam Morgan, [REDACTED], Rod Drury and [REDACTED] among others.

These meetings, conducted by either myself or staff or both, were extremely valuable, not only in getting to know a range of achievers in quite distinct business arenas, but also because I was able to gain a deeper understanding of the business environment in New Zealand. My staff and I have also developed an active dialogue with many of the firms, government entities and associations involved in venture capital in New Zealand such as: Movac, Pioneer Capital, No 8 Ventures, The ICEHOUSE, the New Zealand Venture Capital Association, the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund and the Angel Association of New Zealand. (I have included more detail of those with whom I, or my staff, had contact (see Attachment 2).

As a consequence of these visits, introductions and meetings, I resolved to set up my own venture capital fund, Valar Ventures LP, in New Zealand. My intention is:

- To become an active player in New Zealand's venture capital industry, and
- To help New Zealand startups become globally successful businesses that stay in New Zealand.

I have established Valar Ventures LP with an initial investment of [REDACTED] with the intention of future expansion. Valar Ventures is dedicated exclusively to funding and aiding New Zealand technology companies. Its strategy is to invest significant capital in New Zealand technology companies that are in the start-up or early expansion stage, providing much needed funding for the development of technology and expansion into overseas markets. In addition to monetary investment, our networks in Silicon Valley and globally will provide invaluable connections for our portfolio companies.

I have personally founded and grown companies and know first-hand what challenges and opportunities face them in their early days. Valar can act in an advisory role in ways that many traditional venture firms cannot, because I have lived through and solved many of the problems that will confront entrepreneurs as they build their companies.



In October this year, Valar announced its first investment: a [REDACTED] private placement with Xero, the online accounting technology company based in Wellington. Xero was founded by Rod Drury and is currently used by many thousands of New Zealand enterprises as their accounting platform. I am taking a position on Xero's US Advisory Board and I believe that my capital and experience will help Xero accelerate their expansion into the United States market.

The United States has over 25 million small and medium sized enterprises (SME), many of which have never used accounting software. Due to recent legislation, there is a wave of impending regulatory and tax changes that will affect every level of business in the US and many of these SMEs will need to convert from spreadsheets and shoeboxes to a modern accounting software package. With the right strategy, Xero is well placed to take advantage of this regulatory environment and to expand rapidly to become a global business with its headquarters in Wellington.

Rod Drury recently stated that Xero is

*"delighted to welcome Peter and his team at Valar Ventures as strategic investors in Xero. Access to their extensive networks will provide a major boost as we take on Quickbooks in the vast US small business market. We have taken a measured approach to our US market entry so far. With the support of Peter and his team, we believe we are now strongly positioned to enter the US and capitalise on the opportunity that this market represents."*

Valar is also in the process of completing an investment in Pacific Fibre Limited, a company which is proposing to lay a submarine fibre optic cable between New Zealand, Australia and the United States. In laying the new fibre optic cable, Pacific Fibre intends to facilitate the offer of fast, inexpensive, unlimited broadband to New Zealanders and Australians at all times of the day, removing a key bottleneck in internet capacity, especially at peak times, and allowing uninhibited access to exciting new and existing services. Rod Drury, Sir Stephen Tindall, Sam Morgan and David Kirk are all on the board of Pacific Fibre and I intend to work with them to assist Pacific Fibre with their aim to provide inexpensive, unlimited, ultra-fast broadband for New Zealanders.

Because of my investment and venture capital businesses in the States, should I be granted citizenship, I would need to remain a resident of the United States in order to fulfill my duties in managing my California-based companies: Clarium and Founders Fund.

In addition, I have many public speaking and governance commitments which require extensive travel globally. I appreciate that I would not ordinarily qualify for a grant of citizenship under such circumstances, but believe I am an exception in that my business, travel and range of interests is international and in that regard, I believe that I am in a similar category to other New Zealanders – Douglas Myers, Graeme Hart, Chris Liddell, are names that come to mind. Nevertheless, I intend to devote a significant amount of my time and resources to the people and businesses of New Zealand.

More particularly, a good amount of my time is taken up appearing at international conferences and events. In this regard, I believe the wide global network I have cultivated would be of great value to New Zealand and it would give me great pride to let it be known

1 California Drive  
Building 9, Suite 407  
San Francisco, CA 94111

www.valarventures.com



that I am a New Zealand citizen and an enthusiastic supporter of the country and its emerging high tech industry

In the course of pursuing my international business opportunities, my travel, personal philosophical commitments and benefaction, I am happy to say categorically that I have found no other country that aligns more with my view of the future than New Zealand.

### My background

As I have indicated I attended **Stanford University** in Palo Alto, California from 1985 to 1992 and hold degrees in philosophy and law. I still occasionally give lectures and seminars in law and sovereignty at Stanford. I serve on the board of overseers of the **Hoover Institution**, an organisation affiliated with Stanford dedicated to dynamically pointing the road to peace and personal freedom and described as follows on its website:

*"The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University, is a public policy research center devoted to advanced study of politics, economics, and political economy—both domestic and foreign—as well as international affairs. With its world-renowned group of scholars and ongoing programs of policy-oriented research, the Hoover Institution puts its accumulated knowledge to work as a prominent contributor to the world marketplace of ideas defining a free society."*

In 1998, I helped make e-commerce easier, faster, and more secure by co-founding and leading **PayPal**, an e-commerce business allowing payments and money transfers to be made through the Internet. Online money transfers serve as electronic alternatives to traditional methods such as cheques and money orders. PayPal now has over 225 million financial accounts, has processed over \$140 billion dollars and is the world's third largest payment processor after Visa and MasterCard. In 2002, eBay acquired PayPal for US\$1.5 billion.

Following the sale of PayPal, I founded **Clarium**, an investment management firm pursuing a global macro strategy. In 2005, Clarium was honoured as the global macro fund of the year by both MarHedge and Absolute Return, two prominent industry publications. Clarium is based in San Francisco and I am its current President.

I am also an active investor in technology start-ups. I have personally invested in dozens of start-ups, including making the first outside investment in **Facebook** during the summer of 2004. Facebook is now ubiquitous as the leading website facilitating the spread of information through social networks, with over 500 million people in 180 countries as members. Over 70% of those users come from outside of the United States and more than 50% use Facebook on any given day. I have been a member of Facebook's Board of Directors since my original investment in 2004 and have greatly enjoyed helping guide the company on its path to becoming one of the world's largest technology companies. Today, Facebook has over 1,700 employees.

In order to capitalise on the many investment opportunities in technology start-ups that were presented to me after the success of PayPal, I co-founded a venture capital firm, **Founders Fund**, in 2005 to assist in building companies from the ground up. The partners are all entrepreneurs who have founded, operated and up-scaled companies. Through Founders Fund, we lend experience to the next generation by providing capital, experience and commitment.

1 Letterman Drive  
Building 7, Floor 400  
San Francisco, CA 94129

www.valarventures.com



Through my personal activities and Founders Fund I have helped launch many companies with groundbreaking ideas and a mission to change the world. A few examples are:

- **LinkedIn**, the network for professionals. This website enables people to be informed about their contacts and industry; it finds people and knowledge relevant to their work and to control their professional identity online. LinkedIn has over 85 million members in over 200 countries. A new member joins LinkedIn approximately every second, and about half of its members are outside the United States, including many Kiwis. Notably, executives from all Fortune 500 companies are LinkedIn members.
- **Yammer** is a different sort of social network. It revolutionises internal corporate communications by bringing together all of a company's employees inside a private and secure enterprise social network. Although Yammer is as easy to use as its better known counterparts, like Facebook or Twitter, its enterprise-grade software is built from the ground up to drive business objectives. It enables users to communicate, collaborate and share information and ideas, reducing the need for face-to-face meetings and connecting workers from all parts of an enterprise. Yammer is used by over 30,000 companies and organizations, including over 80% of the Fortune 500.
- **Space Explorations Technology Corp (SpaceX)** SpaceX develops rockets and spacecraft for missions to Earth orbit and beyond. SpaceX aims to change the current limitations on the capability/reliability paradigm, and to demonstrate a commitment to becoming the world's premiere space services company by substantially improving both the reliability and cost efficiency of space transportation; ultimately by a factor of ten. SpaceX was founded with the long-term goal of enabling humanity to become a space-faring civilization. The company recently achieved an important milestone when it launched its Falcon 9 rocket and Dragon space capsule into orbit; becoming the first private company that has launched and re-entered a spacecraft from orbit. Previously, only national governments had achieved this feat.

In addition to my love for building and aiding companies, I also believe in giving back to my community. My philanthropic activity is directed through the **Thiel Foundation** which I established and fund. The Thiel Foundation supports a number of organisations which are dedicated to supporting the cause of freedom in all its guises; personal, political and economic; addressing anti-violence models and heroes; and the promotion of healthier and longer lives through science and technology. Through the Thiel Foundation, I am a primary supporter of the **Committee to Protect Journalists**, an independent, non-profit group that promotes press freedom worldwide by defending the rights of journalists to report news without fear of reprisals, the **Singularity Institute for Artificial Intelligence**, which seeks to foster the responsible development of advanced computing technologies, and the **Methuselah Foundation**, a medical charity dedicated to extending healthy human lifespans.

The Foundation's most recent initiative has been to award 20 grants to individuals or small teams of young entrepreneurs of \$US100,000 each to further their innovative scientific and technical ideas.

Clayton M. Kopp  
Burlingame, CA June 2009  
10477106-400-24-20102

SPWABDZKRNHUES 20102



Conclusion

In a September 2009 evaluation report of the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund Limited the Ministry of Economic Development stated:

*"The rationale for government involvement in the New Zealand venture capital market is that venture capitalists are an important source of capital and management know-how for a particular group of firms. These firms include innovative firms, firms with high-growth potential, and firms that are technology intensive. By accelerating the development of the venture capital market the government is seeking to increase the potential rate that innovations get commercialised. The government is also seeking to stimulate the emergence of businesses based on technology and high-value added products and services."*

Minister, I agree wholeheartedly with this assessment and believe that I can make a positive contribution to the future of the venture capital and technology industries in New Zealand. I would be proud to participate in the development of these critical industries as a New Zealand citizen.

Sincerely,

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## Attachment 1

### New Zealand entrepreneur environment

The World Bank rates New Zealand first in the world for protecting investors and second for ease of doing business. The Fraser Institute rates New Zealand as third in the world for economic freedom. Transparency International ranks New Zealand as the least corrupt nation in the world. We believe New Zealand is one of the best places in the world for establishing businesses. For example, the government's support of the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund shows a clear commitment to promoting innovation in New Zealand. With the right support, there are many reasons why New Zealand can achieve a place at the top of the world's list of best countries for entrepreneurs.

New Zealand's relative youth as a country, geographical isolation, and small markets have driven the country's entrepreneurs to look beyond its shores at global markets and to seek capital from overseas investors. This entrepreneurial drive is reflected in the country's thriving entrepreneurial sector. This growth is fostered by programs like the University of Auckland Business School's SPARK programme, a competition for budding entrepreneurs to present their ideas to experts. The development of a vibrant venture capital market, however, is what is needed to enable these aspiring entrepreneurs to transfer innovative ideas into thriving companies.

Businessmen like Sir Stephen Tindall, Rod Drury and Sam Morgan are reinvesting capital gained from successfully building and selling world class companies. Their funds and expertise have fostered a new generation of companies such as Xero, Pacific Fibre, LanzaTech and many others now poised to take on international markets. Once there is a critical mass of successful and experienced entrepreneurs in New Zealand who commit to helping the next generation of founders, the ecosystem of venture investing becomes self-sustaining.

#### *The current venture capital market*

A recent report prepared by international consultancy firm LEOG for the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund evaluated venture capital and its development in New Zealand. It showed that New Zealand's total annual venture capital investment was 0.04% of GDP, or \$54 million, and that its standing against international benchmarks had improved, with encouraging, albeit, modest growth. The report also states that with Crown investments of NZ\$70 million and private investments of NZ\$360 million, the companies in which the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund invests have generated NZ\$670 million in combined total revenues.

These figures indicate that the New Zealand government's involvement in the venture capital market has had a catalyzing effect on private sector investments. However, the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund believes that the development of a self-sustaining venture capital market in New Zealand will take another 20 years. New Zealand's economy would benefit if it was developed more quickly.

The LEOG report also showed that the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund invests 64% of its total portfolio into software, biotechnology, and telecommunications companies - and saw the largest annual returns in these areas as well. New Zealand venture capital firms such as ICEHOUSE, Pioneer Capital Partners and Movac have invested substantial amounts of their portfolios in technology companies, creating large numbers of jobs.



### *The prerequisites*

As I've seen in my years of experience in the US venture capital markets, a thriving technology industry needs a deep pool of capital for start-ups as well as a network of experienced investors. These areas are underdeveloped in New Zealand, despite the establishment of the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund, the existence of other venture capital funds like Pioneer Capital and Movac, and the development of angel investor groups such as the IOE Angels. The recent global financial crisis has slowed development, as investors have sought to reduce their risk exposure.

In particular, the LEOG report observed that:

- The absence of a track record for venture capital in New Zealand was a key impediment.
- New Zealand's capital markets were too small for many overseas investors.
- Venture capital's relatively high risk profile meant that investors generally favoured private equity.
- A lack of experience in the New Zealand venture capital market inhibited its growth.
- Access to international networks of investors was a challenge for New Zealand companies.

In my time in New Zealand, I've seen how similar many of the best aspects of New Zealand and Silicon Valley in California are and I feel that both countries would greatly benefit from more frequently exercising these shared worldviews through joint business ventures.

Through my global networks and connections, I would promote the country, New Zealand entrepreneurs and their products on the world stage and I would be proud to do so.

### **The economic benefits of venture capital**

In a recent speech to the Private Capital Markets Forum, the Minister of Economic Development called attention to the need for deep and sophisticated early-stage capital markets. He spoke of the success of the New Zealand Venture Investment Fund and reaffirmed the government's commitment to New Zealand's venture capital markets.

A mature venture capital market creates wealth and spurs economic growth and I hope to help New Zealand experience the benefits of venture capital similar to those experienced by the United States since its venture capital industry emerged in the 1960s.

The more venture capital-backed companies grow, the more they improve the economy by investing in other sectors of the economy and by creating high-salary and skilled jobs. In fact, according to the LEOG report, venture-backed firms in the United States employed 6.1% of the workforce of all publicly listed companies. Such companies would also be likely to export their products, just as many successful New Zealand companies have done in the past.

In addition, many of the companies I hope to invest in may become publicly listed through initial public offerings in New Zealand. This process would allow me and other investors to realize our investments and to invest in new companies, along with helping the entrepreneurs





access the capital needed to grow their businesses. The LECG report observed that in the United States, venture-backed firms accounted for 8.4% of the total market value of publicly listed firms. On this measure, New Zealand still has great potential to expand its equity markets and, as the recent Capital Market Development Taskforce report noted, deeper equity markets incentivize private savings and stimulate economic growth.

My hope is that New Zealand can experience similar benefits.

*How these economic benefits will stay in New Zealand*

A self-sustaining New Zealand venture capital market may result in the domestic economic benefits such as those I have outlined above. Right now, many New Zealand businesses are either bought by foreign investors or move offshore because the domestic demand for capital exceeds supply. In this paradigm, overseas economies gain the benefit of some of New Zealand's best companies. I believe this can be changed by helping expand the domestic venture capital market, allowing companies to continue their development from New Zealand

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11, Greenway Drive  
4th Floor, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94129

[www.valarventures.co.nz](http://www.valarventures.co.nz)



Attachment 2

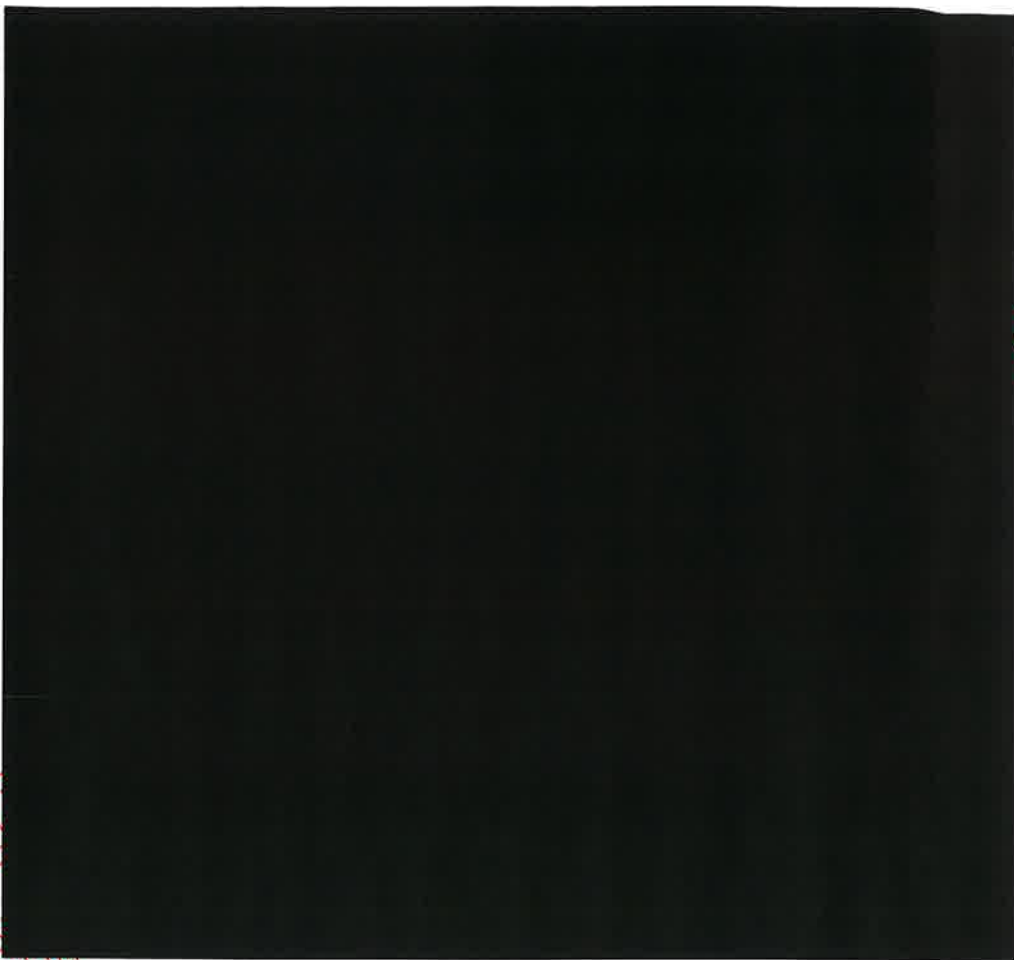
These persons consulted in the context of appreciating the New Zealand business environment with emphasis upon business innovation and the structure of venture capital providers:



RELI  
OFFIC

1 Corporation Drive  
Building C Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94129

www.valarpartners.com



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11 California Drive  
Building C, Suite 400  
San Francisco, CA 94129

[www.valarventures.com](http://www.valarventures.com)

RECEIVED  
24 DEC 2010

By courier

Hon Nathan Guy  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

FROM [REDACTED]  
DOI [REDACTED]  
MOBILE [REDACTED]  
EMAIL [REDACTED]  
MATTER NO 02-338-5188  
DATE 21 December 2010

Dear Minister

**Application for citizenship – Peter Thiel**

Enclosed is a letter from our client Peter Thiel to yourself requesting your consideration to exercising discretion in relation to Mr Thiel's application for citizenship. The discretion sought is two fold. Firstly, in respect of conferring citizenship within the prescribed five year period and secondly, for it to be on the basis that Mr Thiel's principal place of residence cannot be described in the context of the ordinary rules.

With regard to this latter point, further information as to Mr Thiel's "internationalism" in respect of his business travels and philanthropy is to be filed, together with a schedule for what is proposed in 2011.

The original application for citizenship and a copy of Mr Thiel's letter to you has been lodged with the [REDACTED] Citizenship [REDACTED] Department of Internal Affairs in Wellington.

If there is any further information that you wish in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the writer.

Thank you and Merry Christmas

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

TO: MINISTER OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS

ORIGINAL SUBMITTED FOR YOUR SIGNATURE

[Redacted]

I&G Team

23 JAN 2011

Date: 20 January 2011  
Ministerial Number: 11/1 R&C201100012  
Peer Reviewer: [Redacted]  
DMS File number: 663234DB  
Copy For: Department File  
Chief Executive  
Minister of Internal Affairs

[Redacted]

Bell Gully  
PO Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your letter dated 21 December 2010 about Mr Peter Thiel's application for the grant of New Zealand citizenship.

I cannot make a decision about whether I would exercise my discretion to grant citizenship to Mr Thiel without the advice of my officials before me. This is because I need to consider all the relevant information when making my decision in these cases. Officials from the Citizenship Office of the Department of Internal Affairs are currently finalising a submission outlining Mr Thiel's circumstances, for my consideration. A copy of your letter will also be attached to the submission.

I can assure you that I will take Mr Thiel's personal circumstances, including the information in your letter, into account when making my decision. If there is any further information you or Mr Thiel would like me to consider when making my decision, you should contact Mr Thiel's case officer directly.

Thank you for writing to me

Yours sincerely

Signed by Hon Nathan Guy

Hon Nathan Guy  
Minister of Internal Affairs

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[REDACTED]  
From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2011 10:27 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Cit - Thiel

Hello [REDACTED]

I am happy to let the agent know that he has been approved. I will do that right now.  
Thank you both for all your patience and hard work also.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship Raraunga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2011 8:51 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Cit - Thiel

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for all your hard work on this application. You will see the Minister has signed it off as an approve.  
Perhaps you can let the agent know that the application has been successful - may be liaise with [REDACTED] about doing so.

Regards [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Citizenship Raraunga  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Freephone 0800 22 51 51  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Monday, 4 July 2011 7:52 a.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: FW: Cit - Thiel

Want me to contact? Hasn't the agent already been in contact with someone here and would it be better for that person to call them?

[REDACTED]  
Business Support Officer  
Citizenship  
Service Delivery and Operations Branch  
The Department of Internal Affairs: Te Tari Taiwhenua  
120 Victoria Street  
PO Box 10680  
Wellington 6143

Direct 0 [REDACTED]  
Freephone (in New Zealand only): 0800 22 51 51  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 June 2011 5:06 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Cit - Thiel

Hi [REDACTED]

Attached is the Minister's approval for this appln.

Can u advise the applicant's agent asap - before next wed pse.

[REDACTED] Private Secretary | Hon Nathan Guy | Minister of Internal Affairs  
[REDACTED] Mobile: [REDACTED] Fax: (04) 817 6521 | Parliament Buildings | Wellington

**From:** level6right\_copier@parliament.govt.nz [mailto:level6right\_copier@parliament.govt.nz]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 June 2011 4:49 pm  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** level6right\_copier

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 January 2017 6:48 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Will send each link separately

Can you please print off to put on file  
Thanks

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 January 2017 4:51 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Will send each link separately

Created	Title	Version	Author	State	ID	Type
>	1000 Policy Development					
>	1090 Identity					
>	1130 Citizenship					
>	1133 General					
>	POL-1133-5 Ministerials 2011					
20/01/2011 4:10:33 p.m.	FW: New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter THIEL	1	[REDACTED]	Received	251349xDA	E-Mail

[REDACTED] - this link was an email which I have pasted below.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** [REDACTED]  
**Date/time Received:** 20/01/2011 4:10:32 p.m.  
**Subject:** FW: New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter THIEL

Hi [REDACTED] - an update from Mr Thiel's case officer for your information.

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Raraunga  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED] Fax: +64 4 3823 561  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2011 3:16 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter THIEL

Hello [REDACTED]



FY! this is the email that I sent to the [REDACTED] at Bell Gully about Mr Peter Thiel's New Zealand citizenship. I understand that there is a ministerial in process.

I thought you might like to know.

If not all good

Thank you

[REDACTED]  
**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 20 January 2011 9:42 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** New Zealand Citizenship for Mr Peter THIEL

Good Morning [REDACTED]

Before we can continue processing Mr Thiel's application there are two issues that I would like to bring to your attention.

**Firstly**, applicants who have spent a significant period of time outside New Zealand prior to the Minister of Internal Affairs considering granting citizenship may be required to provide police clearances from the relevant overseas authorities. If Mr Thiel has been residing in one particular place outside of New Zealand for four months or more since obtaining permanent residence through Immigration New Zealand, we require that he provides a current police clearance from that place. If the only country that he has been in for four months or more is the United States of America then below are details of how and where to obtain a police clearance from.

**For applicants residing in the United States of America**

Applicants must go to their local police station to complete an Applicant Card and have their fingerprints taken. Applicant Cards may be obtained through State Police or Federal Bureau of Investigation or by phoning (304) 625 5590 and selecting Option #3. Once their fingerprints have been taken applicants then send this card to the FBI and request a copy of their record listing together with the following:

- a written request stating that they are applying for citizenship in New Zealand
- their full name
- date and place of birth
- Fee US\$18 (must be a certified cheque or money order payable to the US Treasury).

The address is:  
Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)  
C.J.I.S. Division  
Attn. Scu, Mod. D2  
1000 Custer Hollow Road  
Clarksburg WV 26306  
USA

**Secondly**, in order to present Mr Thiel's application to the Minister to consider, I would like to provide Mr Thiel further opportunity to provide information or documentation to support his case.

I have read through Mr Thiel's letter to the Minister and the Department feels that it may be to his advantage to provide original documents supporting the statements in his letter. The kind of evidence he may wish to provide includes the following.

1. Documents proving the establishment of Valar Ventures LP in New Zealand proving the initial investment of [REDACTED]
2. A signed letter from Rod Drury, CEO of Xero, confirming his appreciation in Valar Ventures LP investing a [REDACTED] private placement with Xero. (this letter will prove the investment into Xero)
3. Any documents proving the investment in Pacific Fibre Limited.
4. Attachment 2 of the letter lists people who were consulted in the context of appreciating the New Zealand business environment with emphasis upon business innovation and the structure of venture capital provider. Mr Thiel may wish to provide reference letters signed by some of those people supporting Mr Thiel's application for New Zealand citizenship.

Please note that [REDACTED] has been mentioned in the letter as being on the board of Pacific Fibre but has not been listed in Attachment 2.

Mr Thiel may also wish to provide further information about his personal situation in order to satisfy the Minister that he should be granted citizenship, in addition to the information he has provided about his investment in New Zealand. The kind of information Mr Thiel may wish to provide could include

1. Any information about having a base in New Zealand. The letter mentions that he owns a house in New Zealand. Mr Thiel may wish to provide evidence of the ownership of that property, and information about what arrangements are in place for the maintenance of the property (e.g. who currently resides in the property or whether he plans to stay at the property when in New Zealand). He may also like to make a statement regarding how often he intends to visit New Zealand and how long he expects to be in New Zealand during these trips.

2. Mr Thiel may wish to provide further statement regarding why he wishes to be granted New Zealand citizenship. He has advised that he believes the wide global network that he has cultivated would be of great value to New Zealand and it would give him great pride to let it be known that he is a New Zealand citizen, however he may wish to elaborate on whether he requires citizenship in order to continue with his investment in New Zealand.

**Lastly**, the translation for Mr Thiel's birth certificate is completed. I have attached a letter explaining the refund of \$50.00. Today I will organise for Mr Thiel's documents to be sent to you ( x1 birth certificate, x1 baptism certificate, x4 extra photos and x1 receipt). For your information the courier track and trace number is SA 491 669 694 NZ.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Case Officer  
Identity Services  
For Secretary for Internal Affairs  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

RELEASED UNDER THE  
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 26 January 2017 4:56 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Email 2 Thiel

Again this contains emails only (as below).

Created	Title	Version	Author	State	ID	Type
> 1000	Policy Development					
> 1090	Identity					
> 1130	Citizenship					
> 1133	General					
	> POL-1133-5 Ministerials 2011					
17/01/2011 11:15:15 a.m.	FW: THIEL FW: Ministerial 11/1		[REDACTED]	Received	2493256DA	E-Mail

Hi [REDACTED]  
please see the latest two emails below - if you need anything more from us just let me know.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Citizenship Raraunga  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Te Ratonga Puakiri  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED] Fax: +64 4 3823 561  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 January 2011 11:08 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: THIEL FW: Ministerial 11/1 [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]  
nothing more to add except that we are not sure what our recommendation will be at this point.  
I will be sending an email to [REDACTED] at Bell Gully today (which [REDACTED] will check before I send) who  
is acting on Mr Thiel's behalf about supplying further documentation in support of his letter and application to the  
Minister.

That is all.

So sorry for the late response

Kind regards

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 17 January 2011 10:31 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: THIEL FW: Ministerial 11/1 [REDACTED]

Hiya - following your meeting with [REDACTED] is there anything else to add? Or have you already updated Policy  
(if that was necessary)?

Thanks  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Raraunga  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED] Fax: +64 4 3823 561  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 January 2011 11:36 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: THIEL FW: Ministerial 11/1 [REDACTED]

Hello [REDACTED]

To meet the 'presence in New Zealand' requirement, Mr Thiel must have been in New Zealand as a permanent resident for at least 1,350 days in the five years preceding this application. Mr Thiel does not meet this requirement because he was in New Zealand as a permanent resident for a total of [REDACTED] days in those five years.

He does not meet intention to reside indefinitely in New Zealand because he does not live in New Zealand and I am unsure when he will meet the intentions requirement due to his duties in managing his California based companies Clarium and Founders Fund (which he has stated in the letter that he would need to remain a resident of USA to fulfill his duties in managing his companies), also due to his public speaking, governance commitments and attendance at conferences and events which require extensive travel globally.

He has asked for the Minister to grant him citizenship under section 9(1)(c), which is Minister is satisfied that a granting of New Zealand citizenship to the applicant would be in the public interest because of exceptional circumstances of a humanitarian or other nature relating to the applicant.

I need to talk to [REDACTED] and possibly to [REDACTED] about whether this will be a decline or approve submission to the Minister, the parts in bold is what will be in the submission but I am not sure about the section 9(1)(c), I need more clarification before I can continue. At the moment just awaiting the birth certificate to be translated before I can continue and I am presuming I need more documentation to support the statements in the letter.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Case Officer  
Identity Services  
For Secretary for Internal Affairs  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 January 2011 10:21 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** THIEL FW: Ministerial 11/1 [REDACTED]

Hiya [REDACTED] - this is for the file.

Do you have any comments which might help Policy draft their reply for the Minister (for his response to the lawyers)?  
Cheers

[REDACTED]  
Citizenship Raraunga

Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Identity Services Te Ratonga Tuakiri  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED] Fax: +64 4 3823 561  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 14 January 2011 10:08 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Ministerial 11/1 [REDACTED]

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached a Ministerial for your comments to assist us with our draft response, details are as follows,

Ministerial: 11/1 [REDACTED]  
Author: [REDACTED]  
Reply Due: 25 Jan 2011

Thanks and any problems please let me know  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Regulatory Policy  
The Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: +64 4 495 9318  
Fax: +64 4 494 0567  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

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Confirmation of Attendance Form  
CIT: 2011000002

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

██████████  
Ceremonies Team  
Citizenship  
Identity Services  
PO Box 10680  
Wellington 6143

Dear ██████████

I confirm that:

Name: **Peter Andreas Thiel**  
Certificate Date: **20 July 2011**  
Certificate Number: ██████████

attended before me and took the of Allegiance on:

Date of Taking: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(The same date as shown on the certificate)*

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation:

Who  
Designation  
Where

**PLEASE FAX THIS FORM IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CEREMONY TO:  
Fax: + 64 4 382 3406  
CEREMONIES TEAM, WELLINGTON**

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For all enquiries please quote  
CIT: 2011000002

15 July 2011

[REDACTED]  
NZ Consulate General  
2425 Olympic Blvd Ste 600E  
Santa Monica Ca 90404

Dear [REDACTED]

**New Zealand Citizenship – Peter Andreas Thiel**

Thank you for confirming the arrangement of a New Zealand citizenship ceremony on **20 July 2011**.

Please find enclosed a citizenship certificate [REDACTED] for presentation to **Peter Andreas Thiel** who has indicated that **he** wishes to take the Oath of Allegiance on the Bible or other Holy Book (copy enclosed).

This certificate contains many security features to prevent counterfeiting. These have led to the Department adopting the policy of no longer requiring the signatures of any authorised person who issues certificates. A valid certificate will have a seal in the bottom left-hand corner.

**For the certificate to be valid the Oath of Allegiance must be administered and the certificate presented on 20 July 2011.**

At the conclusion of the ceremony, please fax the Confirmation of Attendance Form back to the Department to update **Peter Andreas Thiel's** citizenship record.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
Ceremonies Officer  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs  
DDI: [REDACTED]  
Fax: [REDACTED]

**For all enquiries please quote  
CIT: 2011000002**

15 July 2011

Mr P A Thiel  
Peter Thiel  
[REDACTED] Bell Gully  
L 21, 48 Shortland Street, Verco Centre  
P O Box 4199  
AUCKLAND 1140

Dear Mr Thiel

**New Zealand Citizenship: Peter Andreas Thiel**

Congratulations on becoming a New Zealand Citizen.

Your citizenship certificate is an important document. We suggest that you store it carefully in a safe place along with your other legal documents.

The certificate should not be altered or amended in any way or it will become invalid. If any of the details on the certificate are wrong, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Ceremonies Officer  
for Secretary for Internal Affairs

DDI: [REDACTED]

Fax: [REDACTED]

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



[REDACTED]

**From:**

**Sent:**

[REDACTED]  
Thursday, 20 January 2011 2:43 p.m.

**To:**

**Subject:**

[REDACTED]  
Mr Peter Thiel

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your earlier email and email this morning raising the two issues you wish to bring to our attention. Firstly, we had identified to our client the requirement for police clearances, and in particular, the one from the FBI. We understand that our client has initiated this process and we are enquiring today when the report is expected. Secondly, with regard to the further opportunity to provide information, we lodged on the basis that this would be provided. We discussed with our client yesterday the further information he has provided. We will now attend to ensuring that the detail set out in your email is also provided.

The supplementary material we are obtaining from our client addresses specifically why he wishes to be granted New Zealand citizenship.

We acted for our client in the acquisition of property in Parnell. It is maintained and used by the staff of Valar Ventures LP when here in New Zealand conducting the business of that firm.

We will obtain detail from our client in regards to how often he intends to visit New Zealand and how long he expects to be in New Zealand in conjunction with these trips.

Thank you for your advice in relation to the translation of documents submitted thus far.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
**BELL GULLY**

DDI [REDACTED] MOB [REDACTED]

Ver0 Centre, 48 Shortland Street, Auckland, New Zealand

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]

**Sent:**

Tuesday, 17 May 2011 4:37 p.m.

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:**

Citizenship Application - Peter Thiel

[REDACTED] I refer to our recent telephone conversation.

As advised [REDACTED] is presently overseas and he has asked me to assist him with Peter Thiel's citizenship application.

There are two minor matters in the draft report you have forwarded to us which should perhaps be corrected.

The Pacific Fibre invested was finalised [REDACTED]

The ICEHOUSE conference Peter is speaking at is on July 8 (not June)

It may also be relevant to note that Peter has made a third investment in New Zealand - Auckland based Book Track Limited. Peter has invested [REDACTED] in the company alongside [REDACTED]. The investment amount is small because the company is still in very early days and if all goes according to plan a much larger investment will be made next year.

It may also be worth while noting that Peter has had representatives meet with among others, officials from the Ministry of Science and Innovation [REDACTED]. Peter has offered to assist with the establishment of an Auckland based technology company incubator as well as setting up a "landing pad" in San Francisco to help introduce New Zealand technology companies to the US. This is also a matter that the writer has discussed with the Minister of Science and Innovation and I understand is currently being progressed by the ministry.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you require anything further.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

**BELL GULLY**

DDP [REDACTED]

171 Featherston Street, Wellington, New Zealand

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[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 18 May 2011 9:40 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Peter Thiel - citizenship  
**Attachments:** Thiel draft submission 6 May 2011.doc

Here you go! Might be good idea for you to put in Y drive so ya know where it is - sorry - I'd probably put it in the wrong place :o)

Cheers

[REDACTED]  
Business Support Officer  
Citizenship Office  
Department of Internal Affairs *Te Tari Taiwhenua*  
PO Box 10 680  
Wellington 6143  
0800 22 51 51



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 6 May 2011 3:56 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Peter Thiel - citizenship

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing on behalf of [REDACTED] who you have been liaising with regarding Peter Thiel's citizenship application. [REDACTED] is unexpectedly out of the office today and I understand she was going to send you a draft version of the Department's submission to the Minister today.

Please see attached the draft submission. Please note that the tagged attachments referred to in the document are not correct or complete at this stage. All of the information and documents you have provided will be presented to the Minister with the submission, however have not been finally sorted yet.

I hope that by reviewing this document you can advise whether you believe the Department has fully understood Mr Thiel's situation and his argument for being granted citizenship. Please feel free to contact me and/or [REDACTED] if you would like to provide further information or clarification.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Business Support Officer  
Citizenship Office  
Department of Internal Affairs *Te Tari Taiwhenua*  
PO Box 10 680  
Wellington 6143  
0800 22 51 51



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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2011 5:22 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: quick heads up

Hi [REDACTED]  
I think this could go straight to [REDACTED] to save time

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2011 3:46 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: quick heads up

Hello [REDACTED]

Thank you for contacting [REDACTED] about this. I have attached the finished submission. Did you want [REDACTED] to look at this before passing onto [REDACTED] or can we forward this to [REDACTED] straight away?

I have left a note that [REDACTED] has put on the submission about taking out the recommendation part when we send this to the lawyer.

Kind regards  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2011 3:36 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: quick heads up

fyi

[REDACTED] Citizenship Raraunga  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Freephone 0800 22 51 51  
Website [www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2011 1:51 p.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: quick heads up

Hi [REDACTED]

I will look at it asap. Say hi to Mum for me!

Cheers  
[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 4 May 2011 12:43 p.m.

To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: quick heads up

Hiya [REDACTED]

Just a quick email to let you know we will be sending a draft sub to you probably late today or tomorrow. Can you have a look at it as we want to get it to the applicant's lawyer by Friday for their input. It is interesting - the applicant wants to make an 'exceptional circumstances/ public interest' case. I think the Minister may go for it.

Name: Peter Thiel and the sub is from [REDACTED]

Regards, [REDACTED]

PS I am off on Friday and Monday - visiting my mum!!!!

=====  
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[Redacted]

**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 5 May 2011 4:01 p.m.  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** [Redacted]  
**Subject:** Thiel submission  
**Attachments:** [Redacted] Mr Thiel Sub.doc; Submission for Mr Peter Thiel.doc  
**Importance:** High

Hi [Redacted]

[Large redacted block]

[Redacted line]

Cheers!

[Redacted signature]

Business Support Officer  
Citizenship Office  
Department of Internal Affairs *Te Tari Taiwhenua*  
PO Box 10 580  
Wellington 6143  
0800 22 51 51



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[REDACTED]

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 June 2011 11:54 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Submission for Mr Peter THIEL

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Cheers

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, 2 June 2011 8:24 a.m.  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Submission for Mr Peter THIEL

Hello [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship Raraunga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 June 2011 11:42 a.m.



To: [REDACTED]  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: RE: Submission for Mr Peter THIEL

Hi [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

---

From: [REDACTED]  
Sent: Tuesday, 31 May 2011 12:47 p.m.  
To: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Submission for Mr Peter THIEL

Hello [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]  
Case Officer Citizenship Raraunga  
Service Delivery and Operations  
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Direct Dial: [REDACTED]  
[www.dia.govt.nz](http://www.dia.govt.nz)

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