

Celebrating a terrific job

GOING GLOBAL
WORDS: LUKE ROYES

THIRTY years ago when Sarina Russo started out in business, she never expected she would one day be meeting with American presidents and presiding over a multi-million dollar international business.

In the midst of global economic turmoil, the Brisbane businesswoman used her 30th anniversary celebrations last week to announce Sarina Russo Job Access was set to enter the United Kingdom employment services market.

Ms Russo has joined forces with one of the world's largest employment services companies, Serco, to assist both jobseekers and employers in the West Midlands.

She said the \$40 million contract was a fabulous opportunity to increase business in the future.

"I've always said the harder you work the luckier you get," she said.

"We'll be able to deliver to the UK 30 years of skill, with our work ethic . . . we always strive for excellence, which has created a brand that represents quality, which is our point of difference."

In a recent Australian contract, Sarina Russo Job Access placed more than 130,000 jobseekers with more than 100,000 employers.

After celebrating the milestone last Wednesday, the Brisbane-based businesswoman jetted off to New York to attend the Clinton Global Initiative with some of the world's biggest names including US President Barack Obama and former president Bill Clinton.

The initiative co-ordinates the work of the private sector, non-governmental organisations and global leaders to effectively confront the world's most pressing problems.

Having successfully changed the lives of "hundreds of thousands" with skills training and employment, Ms Russo said she was still as passionate and

people-driven today as she was the day she started.

"All I remember is I wanted to get results and serve people to achieve," Ms Russo said.

"Strength is shown in driving forward and re-engineering what you do, capitalising on opportunities that present themselves and staying on top.

"Great companies reshape what they do – that's business."



PIECE OF CAKE: Sarina Russo (centre) celebrates 30 years of business success.