



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

Issues relating to the range and accessibility of government innovation support programs will be among the topics raised at a public hearing in Canberra on **Monday 28 November**.

The public hearing is the ninth for the current inquiry by the **House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation** into pathways for technological innovation to commercialisation.

Appearing before the Committee are the Australian Government **Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources** (DITR) and **IP Australia**. Both are part of the Industry, Tourism and Resources portfolio.

DITR's submission for this inquiry provides information on its innovation support programs, including the R&D Tax Concessions and the Industry Action Agendas. It also addresses a selection of issues faced by specific industry sectors and an overview of the Australian IP system, including major changes that have been introduced to the system to align it more closely with the systems of international trading partners.

IP Australia is the federal government agency for granting rights in patents, trade marks and designs, and also contributes to the development of Australian and international IP systems.

Discussions with IP Australia are expected to address issues regarding the cost and length of time associated with the patent application process and maintenance and enforcement for those seeking to protect IP through the formal registration process.

These discussions will help the Committee identify the factors that are critical to commercialisation success and the effectiveness of many government support initiatives such as the R&D Tax Concessions. It will also identify some of the challenges encountered by businesses and research organisations in accessing Government support programs.

Committee Chair, Petro Georgiou, said: "Australia's ability to compete successfully in ever more sophisticated global markets is dependent on our capacity to develop and harness the opportunities arising from technological innovation."

Venue: Monday 28 November 2005
Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra
4:30 pm Public hearing:
Australian Government Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
IP Australia
6:00 pm Hearings close

The public hearing will be broadcast internally (audio only) on HMS radio frequency 98.7.

Further details, including the terms of reference, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/scin/pathways/> or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4150 or emailing scin.reps@aph.gov.au

For further information: Contact the Committee Secretariat on (02) 6277 4150