



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

The successful commercialisation of hi-tech defence innovation, and ways in which the Government can assist research and development-based organisations to commercialise innovation will be discussed at a public hearing in Canberra next Monday (5 September).

The public hearing is the seventh 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 is Ken Anderson, Deputy Chief Defence Scientist, and Alan Gray, Assistant Secretary from **Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO)**. DSTO is part of the Australian Government Department of Defence and its role is to ensure the expert, impartial and innovative application of science and technology to the defence of Australia and its national interests.

DSTO's submission illustrates, through a series of success stories, the breadth of its industry relationships and the organisation's philosophy of providing intellectual property to industry in order to enhance defence capability, rather than create revenue for the Department.

Also appearing are Rowan Gilmore, Chief Executive Officer, John Kaperleis, Director of Regional Commercialisation, and Alex Blauensteiner, TechFast Manager, from the **Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC)**. The AIC is a national not-for-profit company which provides assistance to industries performing research, development and innovation, through a network of state-based representatives.

The AIC's submission to the Committee highlights barriers to commercialisation and includes a number of recommendations to break down these barriers. The recommendations particularly focus on establishing stronger links between industry, business and research organisations, and ways to narrow the early-stage innovation funding gap for research organisations.

These discussions will help the Committee identify the factors that are critical to commercialisation success, and also identify some of the challenges encountered by research and development organisations attempting to commercialise innovative technologies.

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 5 September 2005
Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra
4:30 pm Australian Institute for Commercialisation
5:15 pm Department of Defence
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