

Submission No. 014
(Pawsey Centre)
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9 April 2010

The Committee Secretary
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Works
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Sir,

Comment on The Pawsey High Performance Computing Centre for SKA Science

IBM Australia has been engaged in various SKA related activities in Australia and New Zealand for several years now.

In 2007 IBM became an active member of the Australia Square Kilometre Array Industry Consortium (ASKAIC). In 2007 IBM also awarded a Share University Research Grant (SUR) to Auckland University of Technology (AUT) to research optimizing the analysis of streaming radio astronomy data on IBM cell technology as an application to SKA.

In 2008 IBM representing ASKAIC actively contributed toward the IVEC SKA dot Au report to identify how Western Australia ICT industry can actively participate and benefit from SKA.

In 2009 IBM and CSIRO established an Agreement to Co-Develop a Single Digital Back End (SDB) for ASKAP as a SKA Pathfinder. In 2009 IBM and the International Centre of Radio Astronomy Research (ICRAR) also established a Memorandum of Understanding to Collaborate on SKA Research and Development activities being hosted by ICRAR.

In 2009 the Federal Government Department of Innovation established the Super Science Programs, one of which was the Space and Astronomy Program which included \$80 Million towards the establishment of The Pawsey Centre. The Pawsey Centre was established with the primary role of hosting new high performance computing facilities and expertise to support SKA research and other high-end science. The secondary goal of The Pawsey Centre is to demonstrate Australia's ability to support the ICT needs of the SKA and therefore strengthen Australia's bid to host the SKA in Australia.

The establishment of The Pawsey Centre is seen by IBM as a very strategic opportunity for Australia to significantly boost its E-Research Capability, create the opportunity for Collaboration and Partnership with ICT industry, support the success of the National ASKAP project, support the success of the National ASKAP Single Digital Back End SKA Pathfinder, support the International Murchison Wide Field Array (MWA) Pathfinder located in Western Australia and support ICRAR's SKA Research and Development Activities. The Pawsey Centre successfully delivering the abovementioned capabilities will be seen by the international SKA community as a positive contributor to the success of SKA, and will both further strengthen the case for SKA to get funded and position Australia as SKA ready.

IBM Australia is proud to be engaged in supporting Australia in its various SKA activities as mentioned above and encourages the Public Works Committee to support the expenditure required to enable The Pawsey Centre to successfully deliver the value it was established to deliver.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Bond', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Bond
General Manager, Public Sector,
IBM Australia Limited