



Public Hearing in Canberra

Commercialising our innovations – how can we do it better?

The experiences of two businesses in commercialising innovative technology in the natural sciences resource sector and in the defence, security and law enforcement sector will be discussed at a public hearing in Canberra on Monday 20 June 2005.

The public hearing is the fourth for the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Science and Innovation, which is inquiring into pathways for technological innovation to commercialisation.

Appearing before the Committee is Rob Gourlay, managing director of Environmental Research and Information Consortium (ERIC) Pty Ltd based in Braidwood, NSW. ERIC is a knowledge company which has been operating since 1992 and specialises in the application of remotely sensed data for environmental resource management and.

ERIC's submission to the Committee highlights the commercialisation difficulties faced by private companies in the natural resources sector as a result of increasing competition from government agencies with imperatives for cost recovery, and questions the processes established for accessing public funding intended to support commercialisation.

Also appearing is David Gaul, president and executive director of CEA Technologies Pty Ltd. CEA Technologies is a 23 year old private Australian-owned company specialising in innovative radar and communications technology, which has successfully accessed significant domestic and international markets.

CEA Technologies' submission proposes changes to the Australian Government's procurement criteria to better support Australian technological innovation, enhanced linkages and international collaborative programs to open up potential overseas markets, and designated support for Australian innovation in the defence, security and law enforcement sector.

These discussions will help the Committee identify the factors that are critical to commercialisation success, and identify some of the challenges encountered by smaller companies in the private sector attempting to commercialise innovative technologies.

Technological innovation is critical to global competitiveness and for Australia in capturing a share of international markets and increasing national productivity. The OECD has estimated that innovation accounts for 50 per cent of long term economic growth in advanced industrial countries such as Australia.

Committee Chair, Petro Georgiou, said: "The future success of Australia is dependant on our capacity for technological innovation, from developing knowledge, to applying this knowledge commercially."

Venue: Monday 20 June 2005
Committee Room 2R2, Parliament House, Canberra
4:35 pm Environmental Research and Information Consortium Pty Ltd
5:15 pm CEA Technologies Pty Ltd
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 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