

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
10 February 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** SKA Project

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** AI-89

How much involvement does the CSIRO have in the progress of the SKA project?

**ANSWER**

The lead agency for the SKA bid in Australia is the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) is the lead agency for the science underpinning this bid. CSIRO has significant involvement, both nationally and internationally, in the progress of the SKA project and has seconded officers to the Department to support the bid process.

CSIRO is a signatory to the European Union funded Preparatory Studies for the SKA program. CSIRO contributes to several work packages under this program, including SKA system design, site characterisation, governance and procurement.

CSIRO's Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) radio telescope is a pathfinder telescope for the SKA. Design development for ASKAP is of direct relevance to SKA development in all areas from antennas to computing and software design.

CSIRO's work to establish and manage the Murchison Radio-astronomy Observatory is preparing a world-class observatory on what may be the final site for the SKA.

CSIRO participates actively in the Australia and New Zealand SKA Coordination Committee, the inter-governmental coordination group for SKA-related activities, including the Australian/NZ bid to host the telescope. The CSIRO SKA Director, Dr Brian Boyle, Chairs the Australia/New Zealand SKA Coordination Committee (ANZSCC). CSIRO officers Chair the Communications and Stakeholder Management Working Group of the ANZSCC and the Radio Quiet Zone Working Group of the ANZSCC and CSIRO officers participate in all Working Groups.