

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
21 October 2009

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

**TOPIC:** Supercomputers

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 21 October 2009, E12)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-20

**Senator EGGLESTON**—On the same subject of supercomputers, a couple of years ago I was approached by a professor from Curtin University who had been seconded from Edinburgh University about using grid technology based on a supercomputer for communications links to the countries to our north. Has CSIRO had any involvement in the possibility of using Perth as an access point for communications to the East Asian countries based on the use of the supercomputer in Perth?

**Dr Clark**—Our grid computing activities comes under the area of Dr Zelinsky. He can give you an overview of what we currently do in grid computing and also address the issue internationally.

**Dr Zelinsky**—Yes, Senator, we do have some activities in grid science research which is essentially when you network computers together to form a supercomputer or a high-powered computer by multiple computers working together. We do have the technology under development and a lot of that work has been done out of our exploration and mining division in Perth. That is where the group has been centred. They have developed some of those programs as part of the NCRIS programs. However, I am unaware of their role in any provision of computing facilities offshore into the Asia-Pacific area. I would have to take that part of your question on notice.

**ANSWER**

CSIRO has no direct involvement in any plans to use Perth as an access point for communications to the East Asian countries based on the use of the supercomputer in Perth.