

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E198_07

Senator Siewert asked on 31 May 2006, EWRE Hansard page 48.

Question:

Senator Siewert—Let us go from the point when the decision was made to commercialise it. Do you have figures for the amount of what CSIRO invested in that project?

Dr Steele—I can give you an answer which goes the following way: a decision was made to commercialise this project area in approximately September 2003 and a separate project was set up for a period of time for that purpose. I believe that there are very likely project accounts associated with that project. That was a divisional based activity. As part of that commercialisation process going forward, also the corporate business development of commercialisation team became engaged in part, although it was mostly led out of the division. At the corporate level, we have not kept a separate account for this individual project but, if it is helpful, we could do an estimate of what our time involvement would have been by thinking back, so we could end up with some indicative figures.

Senator Siewert—That is for the corporate involvement?

Dr Steele—I am going back to my recollection of March, but I believe there is also fairly likely to be project accounts for a defined project that was effectively around the technology transfer activities that were commencing in about September or October 2003, or something like that.

Senator Siewert — Can you provide that information on the specific project ? If the corporate information is available, I would like that.

Dr Steele — We could do an estimate of that. I will take the transcript of this session as the question on notice.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

G-bIRD

From the 1 January 2001, expenditure by CSIRO in the Division associated with developing and marketing the G-bIRD technology system as a commercial opportunity was separately accounted for and in the period to 31 December 2005, this expenditure was \$899,000. An estimate of the cost of the corporate business development and commercialisation involvement for this transaction is \$75,000. Therefore the total expenditure has been approximately \$974,000, not inclusive of patent costs.