

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**AGENCY:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation

**DEST Question No. E381\_04**

Senator Carr asked on 6 November 2003:

**Question:**

ANSTO's 1999-2000 Annual Report stated:

*“Significant progress was made in developing business opportunities for ANSTO’s synroc technology. A subsidiary company, ANSTO Inc, was formed in the United States to develop strategic alliances with major engineering and technology organisations involved in radioactive waste management projects.”*

What alliances were struck with major engineering and technology companies?

Which were approached unsuccessfully?

**Answer:**

ANSTO has provided the following response:

In 2000, ANSTO Inc and COGEMA Inc formed a limited liability corporation, COGEMA-ANSTO, LLC so that they could participate with US-based engineering companies bidding for construction of the plutonium immobilisation plant. Subsequently, an alliance was formed with Burns and Roe and Batelle Memorial Institute. This alliance was a strong contender for the project before its postponement and eventual cancellation.

Other companies wishing to partner with us for this particular project approached ANSTO. Notable amongst these was BNFL Inc, with whom we continue to consult about possible future bids for other radioactive waste clean-up projects in the US. Prior to the incorporation of ANSTO Inc., discussions took place with some other U.S. companies – including Fluor Daniel and Raytheon - regarding possible cooperation, but no appropriate projects for joint bids were identified.