

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.1 Research Infrastructure

#### **DEST Question No. E363\_05**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

With which private companies has the Government negotiated contracts or had business dealings whose activities involve use or generation of nuclear materials, including mining, power generation, generation of nuclear isotopes, uranium enrichment and all other related activities during 2004?

#### **Answer:**

*Nuclear matters*

The following response, covering the three research agencies within the Education Science and Training Portfolio, has been prepared on the basis of the interpretation of "nuclear materials" as described in the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA) *Glossary of Terms Used for Regulatory Assessment 2001*.

#### AIMS has provided the following response:

During 2004 the AIMS-JCUT (JCU Technology Pty Ltd) spin-off company Cleveland Biosensors Pty Ltd ("CBPL"), formerly Toxitech Pty Ltd, continued to develop its product portfolio, including through research which made use of isotopes. AIMS holds equity in CBPL as a founding institution. CBPL supports the institute's goal of developing a biosensor based on invertebrate proteins that could enable the diagnostic testing of marine toxins (one of the AIMS goals listed at question E362\_05).

#### ANSTO has provided the following response

Most of the goods and services which ANSTO provides for use in industry, medicine and research, together with significant portions of ANSTO's research and procurement programs, are covered by this question. A substantial deployment of resources would be required to arrive at a comprehensive listing. Such a listing would cover, for example, sales of radioisotopes to around 200 nuclear medicine centres in Australia (which range in size from the major hospitals in each State and Territory to small suburban centres), as well as ANSTO's work with industry (including, for example, work with mining companies on the control and department of radionuclides in their product and waste streams). It is not possible to provide such a list in the time frame available for preparing this response and it is considered that undertaking such a project would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

CSIRO has provided the following response:

During 2004 CSIRO did not negotiate contracts or have business dealings with private companies regarding research about the use or generation of nuclear materials. This excludes the purchase of radiation sources and apparatus as research tools.

Companies with which CSIRO has negotiated contracts or had business dealings may have used nuclear material (particularly radioisotopes) in their business activities, but as CSIRO does not hold this information it is not in a position to respond on such use in answering this question.