

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**ADDITIONAL BUDGET ESTIMATES 2011-2012**

**Finance and Deregulation Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** ASC Pty Ltd

**Outcome/Program:**

**Topic:** Future Submarines

**Senator:** Johnston

**Question reference number:** F56

**Type of question:** Written

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 30 March 2012

**Number of pages:** 2

**Question:**

- a) What is the A3 Future Submarine Project mentioned in ACS's Financial Report?
- b) What is the break-down of the Deep Blue Tech workforces in terms of executives, managers, engineers, and administrators?
- c) How many of Deep Blue Tech's engineers have been involved in a submarine design program that resulted in a submarine which has been accepted into service in any Navy?

The Coles review stated (at clause 5.13) that Another aspect of the ASC that is recommended to be covered in Phase 2 is the degree to which there may be duplication of skills between the DSTO and the ASC. The Review Team understands need for the Commonwealth to be able to retain the necessary intellectual and manufacturing know how on submarines. What is less clear is what precisely these skills are and whether they are duplicated in other Commonwealth institutions, such as the DSTO. Elimination of unnecessary duplication would minimise overall resource consumption.

- d) Does ASC acknowledge that there is an overlap in function between Deep Blue Tech and DSTO?

Defence released a tender last year for a land based test rig study.

- e) Did Deep Blue Tech bid for this study?
- f) If yes, can you please provide a summary of the Defence debrief regarding Deep Blue Tech's proposal?

**Answer:**

- a) Deep Blue Tech is conducting an internal project to prepare for the SEA1000 Future Submarine programme, developing the capability to design a submarine. A3 is the designation of a concept developed during 2010-2011.

- b) As of 27 February Deep Blue Tech had 35 full time staff, including one executive manager and two other managers. 33 staff members have science or engineering degrees; one is a designer and one is an executive assistant.
- c) 14 have been involved in original submarine design that resulted in an accepted submarine. Another 11 have experience from submarine design changes and upgrades.
- d) No.
- e) Yes.
- f) This question should be directed to Defence.