

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 58

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (AMSA) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

**Topic:** National Plan Review Costings

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 69 (22/02/11)

**Senator Joyce asked:**

**Senator JOYCE**—And do you, Mr Peachey, have a weekly briefing as to where they are or a monthly briefing as to where they are? What is your engagement with them?

**Mr Peachey**—It is routine within the organisation. Our executive team meets each week and if things come up that relate to the national plan review they are raised at that time. I report to our board periodically on these things, as you would expect.

**Senator JOYCE**—How much is it costing?

**Mr Peachey**—Senator, I do not have the figures here, but providing there are no commercial-in-confidence issues, I am more than happy to give you the details.

**Answer:**

The review of Australia's National Plan to Combat Pollution of the Sea by Oil and Other Hazardous and Noxious Substances (the National Plan) and the National Maritime Emergency Response Arrangements (NMEMA) is comprised of two projects:

- an Assessment of Risk of Marine Oil Spills in Australian Ports and Waters at a contracted cost of \$211,549; and
- a review of the National Plan and NMEMA at a contracted cost of \$514,583.

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Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 59

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (AMSA) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

**Topic: Question Regarding Request for Tender 11AMSA007 – Part 1**

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 69 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—I understand you are currently calling to tenders to upgrade and install the Oracle Solaris, I think it is, tender operating system?

**Mr Kinley**—We may have to hand over to Mr John Young here.

**Mr Young**—I am aware that AMSA has tendered for upgrades to Oracle and Solaris. As I understand it, they are predominantly hardware upgrades because our equipment is reaching end of life, but that whole issue is actually managed by AMSA's IT section, and I think you have exhausted my knowledge of the subject.

**Senator NASH**—That is a bit tricky. I understand that it is obviously not your area. What do I do, Mr Secretary?

**Mr Mrdak**—We will take it on notice and get you some details.

**Answer:**

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is currently evaluating responses to a Request for Tender (tender no. 11AMSA007) in which it seeks to engage either single or multiple suppliers of Oracle Sun Microsystems hardware, software, maintenance and other Oracle Sun peripheral equipment to support AMSA's critical operational systems.

**Rural Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee**

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Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 60

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (AMSA) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

**Topic:** Question Regarding Request for Tender 11AMSA007 – Part 2

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 69-70 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—So it is a mix of both. Then perhaps, Mr Mrdak, you might want to take this on notice for me. I have got a few questions, which I would have preferred to have dealt with today, on what the system actually does. I understand from reading that it is a rescue system. Obviously it has two components from the point of view of AMSA: the hardware itself and then the software that obviously runs it. I read a report that said the tender calls for a company to be based in the ACT, which seemed a little unusual. So I was interested to know why there was a specific requirement for the company to be from the ACT. Obviously it is going to be a company with particular expertise, and from my research that I have done there only seemed to be one in the ACT, and that was Oracle. So, putting those two things together—and I may be completely wrong, but not being able to get the answers, I am just going to have to do this all on the run for you—if Oracle is the only company that can provide you with this in the ACT, and yet you have required specifically from ACT in the tender, that would seem unusual, to say the least. What would be the point of doing a tender if there is only one company that can do it? If that is the case, why go through the tender process and why is there a requirement for a company based in the ACT?

**Mr Peachey**—Senator, we would be happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Oracle Sun Microsystems infrastructure houses systems critical to AMSA's core service delivery in areas of emergency response to maritime incidents such as pollution response and search and rescue including the 24/7 Rescue Coordination Centre.

While the Request for Tender does not require the successful company to necessarily be based in Canberra, it does however require a company or group of companies that are authorised Oracle Sun Microsystems resellers and maintenance support providers to have operations in the ACT capable of offering 24/7 support.

AMSA's requirement for the service provider/s to have a presence in the ACT is based upon AMSA's hardware infrastructure being located in the ACT and the need to provide 24/7 support of this mission critical infrastructure.

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**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Additional Estimates February 2011

**Infrastructure and Transport**

**Question no.:** 61

**Program:** n/a

**Division/Agency:** (AMSA) Australian Maritime Safety Authority

**Topic:** Question Regarding Request for Tender 11AMSA007 – Part 3

**Proof Hansard Page/s:** 70 (22/02/11)

**Senator Nash asked:**

**Senator NASH**—Can I just flag that it is a little unfortunate that we have not got anybody here who can be of assistance. The whole point of Senate estimates is actually to ask questions, preferably with an answer on the day. I understand there is no-one here, but—

**Mr Weng Ho**—The requirement that you mentioned is normally put in as one of the service requirements as people are able to turn up and address those issues as and when they arise. Normally what we have in the tender document is that we require the sort of service required. It was implied that it would be good to ACT presence but not necessary. If a company can come back with a response and say, ‘We can facilitate that but by another means,’ we will consider those.

**Senator NASH**—So why ACT in the first place? Why request it jurisdiction-specific?

**Mr Weng Ho**—I think the proximity of service is required because it is, as you say, emergency equipment and, at distance, if a company has not got the service capability within the ACT and it is about the emergency equipment, we have the potential where we might have down time.

**Senator NASH**—Is it correct that there is only the one company in the ACT that can provide this service for you?

**Mr Weng Ho**—I am not sure. I have to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

AMSA’s requirement for the service provider/s to have a presence in the ACT is based upon AMSA’s hardware infrastructure being located in the ACT and the need to provide 24/7 support of this mission critical infrastructure. This requires the ability to attend AMSA’s ACT sites within strict timeframes to ensure timely resolution of any service failures.

AMSA identified a number of independently owned Oracle Sun Microsystems resellers and support service providers which are capable of providing the hardware, software and services AMSA requires in the ACT. AMSA is currently evaluating three responses to its request for tender.