

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Climate Change, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
3 and 4 June 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, CLIMATE CHANGE, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: List of grant beneficiaries

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 3 June 2013, Pages 101 and 102)

QUESTION No.: BI-31

Senator COLBECK: How much has been spent in total on the project, both post and pre the bid, by the CSIRO? Do you know?

Ms Kelly: Are you asking for the funding that has been spent on ASKAP, the SKA precursor instrument?

Senator COLBECK: I am asking how much has been spent in total on the project by the CSIRO, both pre and post the bid.

Ms Kelly: The design and construction of the SKA pathfinder has involved expenditure of \$122.6 million by the CSIRO.

Senator COLBECK: That is it?

Ms Kelly: That would be the major part of it, but there may be some other smaller items that we would have to check with the CSIRO. There was also an additional \$1 million spent on the purchase of the Boolardy pastoral lease by the CSIRO.

Senator COLBECK: Can you tell us what that \$24½ million over the next few years will be spent on?

Mr Luchetti: That is predominantly on Australia's participation in the preconstruction phase, and that is related to work packages associated with the project. As the project has moved into the preconstruction phase the SKA office has released tenders for a range of activities associated with preparing the project to get it construction-ready. That has been around low frequency aperture arrays, the dish's infrastructure, signal data processing, central signal processing and a range of other things. We are supporting Australian companies to actually participate in those work packages.

Dr Boyle: We have just recently run a grants process in the department to provide \$18.8 million for Australian institutes and industries to support their competitiveness in this preconstruction phase. Typical beneficiaries are people like the Curtin University of Technology at \$4 million and Aurecon Australia Pty Ltd at \$3.5 million. The CSIRO have a work package in building the antennas and receivers at \$6.2 million. RPC Technologies, a manufacturing company specialising in composite dishes, have been awarded \$400,000 and Swinburne University has been awarded \$638,000. I have a full list here, Senator, that I would be happy to provide you with.

Senator COLBECK: If you could table that, it would be really handy.

ANSWER

CSIRO has advised that its total expenditure on SKA related purposes has been \$158.383 million to date.

The spending comprises \$148.748 million on the Australian SKA Pathfinder (ASKAP) telescope (as at May 2013¹) and \$9.635 million on non-ASKAP SKA project activities (such as the SKA site bid and contributions to SKA science and technical development).

Taking "pre and post bid" to mean prior to and post the date the site decision was announced (25 May 2012) and assuming for simplicity that this is close enough to 30 June 2012, CSIRO advises that \$6.570 million of the non-ASKAP expenditure was pre the bid and \$3.065 million post the bid.

A full list of grantees of the Australian SKA Pre-construction Grants Program can be found at <http://www.ska.gov.au/industry/Pages/Recipientsandworkpackages.aspx>. The list provides details of the grantee organisations, the SKA pre-construction work-package they are involved in, the grant amount and a description of the activities to be undertaken by the grantee.

¹ The overall budget for ASKAP Phase 1 is \$164.3 million.