

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications

Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice

Budget Estimates Hearings May 2015

Communications Portfolio

nbn

Question No: 134

Program No. nbn

Hansard Ref: Written, 10/7/2015

Topic: Tata Consultancy Services

Senator Urquhart, Anne asked:

Has NBN Co finalised an agreement with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), or another company in the Tata Group, for the provision of IT services (in addition to the contract for design)? If so:

- a. What is the value of this contract?
- b. What is the term of this contract?
- c. Does NBN Co consider that Australia has sufficient numbers of skilled workers to be employed by Tata?
- d. If no, who is responsible for ensuring a suitably skilled workforce is available in Australia?
- e. If NBN Co, what plan is in place to develop the required skills in the Australian workforce?
- f. If Tata, what contractual obligations are there to develop the required skills in the Australian workforce?

Answer:

Yes.

- a. The total contract value has not been made publicly available as it contains information which could damage the commercial interests of the company, including ongoing contractual negotiations.
- b. Initial term is four years with the option for a 2 x 2 years extension.
- c. The contract is for consideration of two main components: Fibre to the Basement / Node (FTTB/N) Operations and selected supporting IT Services. This is an outcomes based contract which requires TCS deliver the services within service levels and specified timeframes. It therefore doesn't specifically refer to resource numbers or workers.
- d. TCS has been contracted to provide performance outcomes within service levels and is responsible for achieving this with the required workforce locally and offshore.
- e. **nbn** will require a range of skilled workers to successfully manage and partner with TCS to ensure current and future program delivery.
- f. TCS is required to maintain a local workforce, but there are no specific contractual obligations for TCS to develop skills in an Australian workforce.