

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15  
23 October 2014

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Industry Innovation Network

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2014, page 81)

**QUESTION No.:** SI-40

**Senator KIM CARR:** So what do they do for their money under the new government? We know what they did under the old government; they worked on those innovation precincts. The government froze those programs when it came to office and it established, as we have seen, these growth centres. We have the same contractor being used. Is that the case?

**Mr Murfett:** The contract with Collabforge ceased on 30 June 2014 and the process from there was that we hosted the platform with providers from within the department.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So you have taken over the platform?

**Mr Murfett:** We have a panel arrangement for providers that can provide the department with services and we are using one of those panel providers to host that network in the interim. I would have to take the further details on notice on who that provider would be.

**Senator KIM CARR:** Yes. I would like to know the ins and outs of who it is, what they are doing and what the value for money is for the \$1.6 million. Was that a limited tender because it was already in place?

**Mr Murfett:** That was an extension.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So, you took it as an extension. What was the value of the extension?

**Mr Murfett:** The figure that I have here is that it was \$10,909 excluding GST. Just to confirm, we will take those other questions on notice.

**ANSWER**

The Industry Innovation Network (the Network), was one element of the Industry Innovation Precincts Programme (the Programme).

Collabforge was contracted from 18 June 2013 to 31 March 2014 for \$1.5 million (GST excl.) to develop phase one of the Network. Collabforge delivered an internet-accessible 'digital hub' which provided an integrated range of essential tools necessary for online collaboration such as private and public conversations tools, groups, knowledge management, and other information sharing infrastructure. Collabforge also delivered public websites and secure workspaces for the two existing precincts (Meta Limited and Food Innovation Australia Limited).

Collabforge's contract was extended from 1 April 2014 until 30 June 2014 to continue to host and maintain the Network at a cost of \$10,909 (GST excl.).

Following the announcement of the closure of the Programme by 31 December 2014 in the 2014-15 Budget, on 1 July 2014 the platform was transferred to Sliced Tech through an existing contractual arrangement with the department. Sliced Tech will provide hosting and server maintenance services to enable Meta Limited and Food Innovation Australia Limited to use the platform to deliver activities until 31 December 2014. Sliced Tech is contracted by the department through the Comcare Disaster Recovery Solution Standing Offer (SON1983902) to provide website hosting.