

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Cybernose Project

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: BI-75

- 1) How much has CSIRO's 'Cybernose' project cost the taxpayer to date?
- 2) How much has been contributed financially to the 'Cybernose' project by the wine and grape industry, and when?
- 3) Did the CSIRO have any involvement with the CRC on Plant Biosecurity's project on Tribolium detection in stored grain?
- 4) If so, what was the nature of that involvement; how was the project developed; and by whom?
- 5) When did the project commence and, if CSIRO has been involved, has there been a change of project manager at any time, and when and why did this occur?

ANSWER

- 1) CSIRO is currently involved in commercial negotiations for the possible commercialization of the Cybernose technology. In that context, the provision of information regarding the development costs of the technology could potentially prejudice CSIRO's negotiating position.
- 2) The wine and grape industry has not made a financial contribution to the 'Cybernose'® project.
- 3) CSIRO has a co-funded project with the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity on grain pest detection entitled "Biosensor-Based Detection of Grain Pests - - CRC 20081". Information about this project is publicly available at <http://www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au/program/diagnostics/project/crc20081-biosensor-based-detection-grain-pests>.
- 4) The project is co-funded by the CRC, South Australian Research and Development Institute (SARDI) and CSIRO. SARDI and CSIRO perform the research. The project was developed through consultation between the CRC for National Plant Biosecurity, CSIRO and SARDI. For CSIRO, the main negotiators were Dr Sylwester Chyb, Mr David Adams and Dr Stephen Trowell. For the CRC, the lead negotiator was Dr David Eagling.

- 5) The project commenced in May 2009 and Dr Chyb was the project leader (further detail of the project can be found at <http://www.crcplantbiosecurity.com.au/program/diagnostics/project/crc20081-biosensor-based-detection-grain-pests>). In April 2010, CSIRO notified the CRC to direct all correspondence regarding the project to Dr Alisha Anderson whilst Dr Chyb was on leave. Following Dr Chyb's cessation of employment from the organisation on 4 January 2011, the role of project leader was permanently allocated to Dr Anderson.