

HIB Number: 000867
Date/Time Transmitted: 08/26/2011 02:43 PM
Subject: LIGHT WEIGHT TORPEDO TRANSLATION TENDER
Comment:
Action Area CEO-DMO

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SENSITIVITY: An article in The Age and syndicated media by Dan Oakes [26 August 2011] asserts that Defence is wasting money by paying for the translation of operating instructions for the new MU90 Light Weight Torpedo, currently being introduced into service.

KEY ISSUES:

- **The MU90 Light Weight Torpedo is a complex anti submarine warfare weapon and is a joint French and Italian development.**
- **The data that needs to be translated is not the torpedo operating instructions as asserted in the news article. The data is in fact test and evaluation results from trials conducted by the French and the Italians.**
- **All key project documentation deliverables are being delivered by the contractor in English.**
- **Translation of French and Italian test results is being pursued to reduce the costs and complexity of the Australian MU90 Light Weight test and evaluation program. The technical data from the French and**

Italian testing programs includes the results from the firing of over 200 MU90 torpedoes. The use and analysis of this data reduces the requirement for Australian firings.

- As torpedo trials are very expensive, the examination and use of the results of other countries trials sensibly saves the Australian taxpayer a lot of money.

Contact Officer:	Mark Remmers	W: 61441016	M: [REDACTED]
Authorised by:	Martin Weir	W: 61441012	M: [REDACTED]

Date issued: 26 August 2011

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BACKGROUND:

JP2070 Lightweight Torpedo Replacement Project will replace the ageing and increasingly obsolete Mk46 torpedo as the main surface ship anti-submarine weapon.

Phase 2 of the project was approved in May 2001 and provides for acquisition of an initial outfit of MU90 light weight torpedoes and integration of the torpedo onto maritime (ANZAC and ADELAIDE class frigates) and air platforms (P3C, Seahawk and Sea sprite). Government agreed to the removal of the air platforms from the project scope in February 2009 due to cost and schedule issues.

Phase 3 of the project was approved in November 2003 and provides for the acquisition of a larger quantity of MU90 light weight torpedoes referred to as war stock and the establishment

of an in-country assembly and torpedo maintenance capability at HMAS Stirling in Western Australia.

JP2070 is being managed as a Project of Concern.

Although the project has had some setbacks in the last year, recent test firings have shown good progress in resolving issues previously identified. The most recent bi-monthly ministerial submission (currently with Secretary/CDF for release) reflects that good progress including most importantly the resolution of previously identified ship to torpedo integration issues.

Initial Operational Capability remains on schedule for late 2012 and Final Operational Capability remains on schedule for mid 2013.

Factory acceptance testing of batches of Australian assembled torpedoes delivered under Phase 3 of the project is continuing.

The Australian National Audit Office performance audit report (No.37 2009-10) on JP2070 was tabled in Parliament on 20 May 2010. The report was very critical of Defence's management of the project. The previous Minister for Defence expressed considerable dissatisfaction with the handling of the project and requested a follow up ANAO audit of the project to assess project progress. The Auditor General agreed and this audit commenced on the 23 August 2011 with the report expected to be tabled in Winter 2012.

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TALKING POINTS

- The MU90 Light Weight Torpedo is a complex anti submarine warfare weapon and is a joint French and Italian development.
- To assist in reducing the costs and complexity of the Australian MU90 Light Weight test and evaluation program, Defence is obtaining additional operational and technical data from the French and Italian test programs which includes the firing of over 200 MU90 torpedoes.
- Torpedo trials are very expensive so being able to examine and use the results of other countries trials saves the Australian taxpayer a lot of money.
- It is also important to clarify that the data that needs to be translated is not the torpedo operating instructions as asserted in the news article.
- All key project documentation deliverables are in fact being delivered by the contractor in English.

Contact Officer:	Mark Remmers	W: 61441016	M:	
Authorised by:	Martin Weir	W: 61441012	M:	
PA Clearance by:	Caroline Chalker	W: 61271951	M:	