

Media Release 16/00 issued on 11th February 2000

Quoted Mr Mick Roche, Under Secretary Defence Acquisition, as having "advised the six companies that responded to the request for proposal for Project AIR 87, that the proposed changes to the project meant they would be free to submit responses when the request for tender was issued later this year." Mr Roche was also quoted as saying that the project was "under review and that changes to the acquisition specifications resulting from an evaluation of the company proposals (received at the request for proposals stage) had justified re-opening the competition."

The media release also addressed the issue of the Bell Helicopter Textron complaint about being excluded from the shortlist. "The Department's Inspector General had independently reviewed the RFP evaluation and the shortlisting process has been upheld," Mr Roche said. "However, these events have now been overtaken by changes to the acquisition strategy."