

30th January 2008

Our ref: R00026

Freedom of Information Request - Grants to SPR Ltd

Your request:

The "public interest" relates to potentially inappropriate use of DTI research funds.

In considering any exemption based on commercial interests, please take into account the extent to which the inventor has put details of his invention into the public domain through patents and on his web site ... (which also links to other publications such as Eureka).

The information requested is:

- i) Copies of any briefing notes/e-mails or the like provided by the DTI to Margaret Hodge for the purpose of responding to Alan Duncan's question*
- ii) Details (names, academic qualifications and relevant experience) of the "highly qualified technical experts and academics" referenced in the answer*
- iii) Copies of the material that was assessed by those referenced above*
- iv) Details of the "independent tests and evaluations" carried out in the feasibility study referenced in the answer (e.g. who, how, where), including any relevant reports and details of the independent reviewer(s)*
- v) Copies of the grant applications made by SPR, any assessment reports or written assessments produced or procured by the DTI on the grant applications*
- vi) Any documentation provided by Roger Shawyer which gave reasons why EADS Astrium/Matra Marconi Space did not support his invention or exercise their rights (as his employer) to patent ownership:*

Information Response:

DIUS has responded to you separately regarding question i.

SEEDA has consulted the grant applicant and a public interest test has been conducted to consider what parts of the information can be disclosed taking into account the exemptions considered appropriate, namely:

- section 40 (Personal Data);
- section 41 (Information Provided in Confidence);
- section 43 (Commercial Interests).

The documents attached have been processed to remove information not relevant to the request and information exempt as defined above. Please note that some information may have already been released into the Public Domain by Mr Shawyer, or others, but not all such cases can be confirmed, so SEEDA considers the information is still exempt.

The detailed responses to questions ii. to vi. are given below.

ii. Details of Grant Application Reviewers

In accordance with the FOIA section 40 exemption SEEDA has not provided personal details of the reviewers. The organisations contacted, and the areas of expertise of the reviewers who conducted the assessments, are listed below.

Review bodies and experts:

- Reviewer A - AEA Technology - Advanced Technology
- Reviewer B - British National Space Centre - Space Technology
- Reviewer C - Imperial College - Microwave Technology
- Reviewer D - DERA declined to review the Grant Application saying it did not have the necessary expertise to process the assessment.

It should be noted that none of the reviewers judged themselves competent to assess the theoretical basis for the EM Drive and instead suggested that it should be assessed on a purely experimental basis.

iii. Material Assessed

Redacted copies of the material reviewed are attached.

iv. Details of Independent Tests and Evaluations

SEEDA holds no information regarding independent tests and evaluations of the EM Drive. SEEDA can confirm that it holds reviews commissioned by Mr Shawyer of the technical reports produced by SPR Ltd. These reports are subject to confidentiality agreements and are exempt under section 41 of the FOIA. SPR also considers that they contain commercially valuable proprietary information, which is exempt from disclosure under section 43 of the FOIA.

v. Copies of Grant Applications

Redacted copies of the Grant Applications and the Grant Assessment Reports are included as a separate Annex.

vi. Documentation provided by Roger Shawyer

SEEDA holds no information giving reasons why EADS Astrium/Matra Marconi Space did not support his invention or exercise their rights (as his employer) to patent ownership.

Attachments:

Reference	Description
A	SMART Application Form, received 27/4/2001.
B	Proposal Summary, Feasibility Study of Microwave Thrusters for Satellite Propulsion.
C	Project Appraisal Form, received 14/5/2001 (BNSC).
D	Letter from DERA, received 25/5/2001.
E	Project Appraisal Form, Fax dated 19/6/2001 (AEA Technology).
F	Review, dated 26/6/2001.
G	SMART Project Appraisal, dated 27/6/2001.
H	SMART Application Form, received Feb 2003.
I	Proposal Summary, dated 12/2/2003.
J	Note, dated 24/4/2003.
K	BNSC Review.
L	Momenta Review (AEA Technology).
M	Imperial College Review.
N	Smart R&D Case Minute dated 21/8/2003.