



Silex to appear at uranium inquiry hearing

Canberra public hearing, 9 February 2006

Representatives of Silex Systems Limited will attend this Thursday's public hearing for a parliamentary inquiry investigating the strategic importance of Australia's uranium resources.

The House of Representatives Industry and Resources Committee will receive evidence from Silex, a publicly listed research and development company that has facilities at the Lucas Heights Science and Technology Centre in Sydney. Silex is pioneering the development and commercialisation of a laser-based enrichment technology called SILEX, which stands for Separation of Isotopes by Laser Excitation.

Enrichment is a key stage in the nuclear fuel cycle and is necessary for the conversion of uranium into fuel for nuclear electricity generation. The two uranium enrichment processes that are in large scale commercial use at present are gaseous diffusion and gas centrifuge. SILEX technology is being explored as a possible third commercial enrichment process.

The Committee is conducting hearings to gather evidence for its inquiry into the development of the non-fossil fuel energy industry in Australia. The Committee has commenced its inquiry with a case study examining Australia's uranium industry.

The inquiry is examining the global demand for Australia's uranium resources, the strategic importance of these resources and the potential implications for global greenhouse gas emission reductions from the further development and export of Australia's uranium resources.

Submissions to the inquiry are available on the Committee's web site:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/isr/uranium/subs.htm>

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: Committee Room 1R2, Parliament House, Canberra

11.40 am **Silex Systems Limited**
12.30 pm *Close of public hearing*

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chairman, the Hon Geoff Prosser MP, on: (02) 6277 2055 (Parliament House) or (08) 9791 1146 (Electorate Office in Bunbury, WA)

For further information, please contact the Inquiry Secretary on: (02) 6277 4609 or via email at ir.reps@aph.gov.au