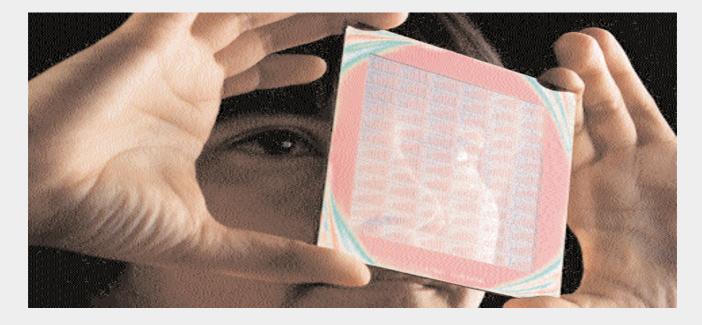# Science and Technology Steering Committee



*The AFP has always recognised the importance of using current and emerging technology in the fight against crime. In response to the increasingly complex criminal and technological environment the Science and Technology Steering Committee (STSC) was established.*

The STSC oversees and advises the National Management Team (NMT) on the coordination, planning and development of the AFP's science and technology capabilities. The STSC met for the first time on September 12, 2000 and has met five times since that date. The STSC comprises senior AFP officers with the Chief Operating Officer as Chair.

The Terms of the Reference of the STSC are advising the NMT on:

- the strategic direction for the development, maintenance and use of the AFP's science and technology capability, including in relation to e-crime issues;
- the planning and coordination of science and technology programs within the AFP;
- proposals for, and the implementation of, major science and technology projects, and the AFP's capital acquisition program;
- the policy, program and legal and regulatory framework necessary to support the opti-

mum use of science and technology by the AFP; and

- programs directed to ensuring that the AFP has the necessary skills to meet the requirements of e-crime and other technology-related investigations.

The STSC is supported by two advisory groups the Science and Technology Advisory Group (STAG) and Information Technology Advisory Group (ITAG). The AGs are comprised of representatives from across the various business segments of the organisation.

Terms of Reference of the ITAG are:

- provide direction and guidance on strategic IT needs to ensure that the AFP's IT corporate goals are met;
- review IT Strategic Plan and annual Operational Plans;
- coordinate Business Cases for projects and refer them to the STSC. After considering the merits of the project the STSC will refer appropriate projects to the NMT for final approval. Once referred the progress of the projects will be monitored by the ITAG;
- encourage business ownership of IT issues;
- Advise on improvements to the AFP IT capability to support AFP functions;
- monitor IT development that may have implications for the AFP;
- promote enhanced coordination of AFP IT capabilities; and
- promote external relationships relating to IT capabilities.

The Terms of Reference of the STAG are:

- advise on the improvement of the AFP's technical and scientific capability to support the performance of AFP functions and address changes in the AFP's operating environment;
- promote enhanced coordination between the elements of the AFP's technical and scientific capability;
- advise on the AFP's relationships with Commonwealth, State and Territory agencies, overseas agencies, international organisations, the education sector and the private sector on law enforcement science and technology issues; and
- identify potential technological and scientific developments, which will have implications for the AFP.

**Secretariat**

The Policy Group provides secretariat support to the STSC and its advisory groups.

**Projects undertaken**

The STSC through its AGs has undertaken the following projects:

- A survey of Science and Technology needs was conducted to identify appropriate capabilities that would form the basis of a Science and Technology Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan has now been finalised and may be viewed at (http://act1.na.afp.gov.au/npolicy/policy-group/s&tstratplan.shtm).
- The coordination of PROMIS (the AFP's management information system) has been reviewed resulting in the STSC taking ownership of PROMIS issues. Additionally, the PROMIS Development Group and the PROMIS Advisory Group were established. Together these groups assess and prioritise requests for PROMIS enhancements.
- The 'S&T Environment Scan 2001-2004' has been finalised and will be available through the Science and Technology Website in the near future.
- The STSC has approved Business Cases for SAP and GEMS.
- A Business Case Template for the assessment of Science and Technology funding bids in excess of $100,000 has been completed. The template will be available through 'AFPForms' in the near future. A full description of the Business Case process may be found in the December edition of AFP News.
- A survey of Digital cameras was undertaken to identify the variety of camera types being purchased throughout the AFP. The resulting information was used to establish the first Science and Technology Technical Standard, which identifies the appropriate digital cameras to be purchased by AFP business segments. The technical standard may be viewed at (http://act1.na.afp.gov.au/npolicy/policy-group/equipstandard.shtm).
- The STSC has established a Crimtrac Advisory Group to monitor the AFP's relationship with CrimTrac.
- The STSC has conducted a survey of AFP intellectual property the results of which will be fed into the Commercial Governance Committee process.

Projects currently being undertaken include:

- Work has commenced on an Information Strategic Plan.
- A Science and Technology website will come online in the near future. This site will contain relevant documents such as the Science and Technology Strategic Plan as well as discussion forum and suggestion box functions.
- The STSC is reviewing a proposal to allow a limited number of Australian Customs Service (ACS) personnel access to PROMIS at Melbourne Airport as part of a joint AFP/ACS project.
- The STSC is currently in the process of identifying appropriate technical standards and handling practices for digital images. This project should be finished in December.
- The STSC is monitoring a review of the AFP's video conferencing facilities.

The STSC also monitors various Science and Technology issues that affect the AFP, including:

- The upgrade of the AFP Corporate Web design;
- The pilot project involving on-board computing facilities for ACT and regional offices;
- Our telecommunications interception strategy through TIES stage 1 and 2;
- Mobile telephone number portability;
- The Federal Government's requirement for agencies to be able to conduct on line transactions; and
- The various e-crime fora.

The STSC is always interested in hearing from employees regarding potential advances in Science and Technology or innovative ways of using existing technology. Anyone with questions or suggestions can contact the STSC Secretariat on 02 6275 7494. Alternately, the S&T website could be used to post suggestions when it comes on line.