



By email

Reference: FOI-2023-106

7 March 2023

Dear [REDACTED],

Your request was received on 7 February 2023 and I am dealing with it under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ('the Act').

You asked:

I would like to make a new FOI request about the University's Centre for Advanced Photonics and Electronics (CAPE). CAPE has a partnership with the 'Beijing Institute of Aerospace Control Devices' (BIACD). I would like to receive the following information that relates to this partnership. Please consult this webpage and its archived versions as a reference - <https://www.cape.eng.cam.ac.uk/cape/partners/biacd>

- Please provide a summary of any/all funding received by the University from CAPE or its parent companies, including CASTC (see below.)*
- Please name the number of BIACD staff currently based at CAPE.*
- Please provide information about BIACD-CAPE projects: what the projects are on (technical area); when they took place; and how many they are. Please provide whichever of this information you can.*
- Please provide any risk assessment conducted with regard to CAPE's partnership with BIACD*
- Please provide any agreement governing the terms of this partnership.*
- Please state whether the University has it on the record that BIACD is part of China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation (CASTC). Please disregard this final bullet point if including it as part of my FOI request makes the request too long.*

You clarified your request on 14 February 2023 as follows:

When I said "Please provide a summary of any/all funding received by the University from CAPE or its parent companies, including CASTC (see below.)"

*I should have said "Please provide a summary of any/all funding received by the University from BIACD or its parent companies, including CASTC (see below.)
I hope this mistake was clear but I thought I should clarify it.*

1. £2,090,000 has been received by the University from BIACD as its commitment to the CAPE Partnership since 2013.
2. There are no BIACD staff based at CAPE.
3. BIACD has sponsored four research projects covering civilian applications of sensors, oscillators and RFID technology:

<p>Smart in-building Wireless system using Flexible digital Transmission technology (SWIFT) 2014-2018 Objective Design of a Digital Distributed Antenna System (DDAS) for in-building wireless distribution system for multiple services, making use of existing infrastructure</p>
<p>Distributed analyser assessment and reinforced FO cable development (DARFOcable) 2014-2015 Objective: Development of reinforced fibre optic cable for use in distributed fibre optic sensing technology based on Brillouin backscattering for structural health monitoring of critical infrastructure</p>
<p>Semiconductor Laser Technology low-noise Opto-electronic oscillatoR (SCULPTOR) 2014-2018 Objective: To develop a prototype of an optimized structure for a low-noise, low-cost and energy efficient opto-electronic oscillator (OEO), based on directly modulated semiconductor DFB lasers</p>
<p>RFID system Optimisation for smart manufacturing using Mobile rEader (ROME) 2018-2023 Objective Develop RFID technologies with the potential to enable an RFID systems with mobile deployment for applications in large area, wide scale smart manufacturing and wellhouse management scenarios</p>

4. Due diligence on BIACD membership, then known as Beijing Aerospace Times Optical-Electronic Co Ltd (ATOE), was performed by the University's then International Strategy Office with assistance from the UKTI representative in Beijing. The information held about this is the attached summary document prepared at the time for the CAPE Steering Committee. Please note that the attached document should not be copied, reproduced or used except in accordance with the law of copyright.
5. There is no standalone agreement between CAPE and BIACD.
6. See the document disclosed in response to Q4: the CAPE Office (and UKTI) have been aware that BIACD is a component of CASTC since the initial interaction in 2013.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint or request an internal review of this decision, you should contact us quoting the reference number above. The University would normally expect to receive your request for an internal review

within 40 working days of the date of this letter and reserves the right not to review a decision where there has been undue delay in raising a complaint. If you are not content with the outcome of your review, you may apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. Generally, the Information Commissioner cannot make a decision unless you have exhausted the complaints procedure provided by the University. The Information Commissioner may be contacted at: The Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF (<https://ico.org.uk/>).

Yours sincerely,

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