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**Subject:** Query on KONNECH capabilities

Hi,

I'd like to submit three requests - two are more suggestions - on KONNECH's products being used in Fairfax.

**1)REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON KONNECH USE IN FAIRFAX:** As you perhaps are aware, the KONNECH company's links to China are being raised as a public policy issue, and a large amount of verifiable open source information about the company is being compiled by concerned members of the public.

These concerns about KONNECH's connections to Chinese software engineers and servers were raised previously in Australian local parliaments as a public policy issue, starting in 2018 and again in 2019 and 2020. For example, reportedly in 2020, Australian elections encountered software issues with KONNECH which were not quickly resolved, due to Chinese software workers in Wuhan being under lockdown.

We previously were provided, in response to a FOIA request, the May 2016 contract with KONNECH.

Please provide any additional documents that describe the KONNECH products in use in Fairfax County. For example, we have been told that you use the PollChief Asset Management System as well as the PollChief Election Worker Management system. If you are using other KONNECH products as well, please provide that documentation and any other information that can be shared with the public.

**2) IT ASSESSMENT NEEDED:** We suggest that the issues of KONNECH system security and data protection should be assessed by the Fairfax IT office, as a service to the FCOE. A separate independent risk assessment, conducted as soon as possible, would also be a good practice. As background, Fairfax County signed the KONNECH contract in 2016, two years before the public policy issues of Chinese involvement in KONNECH had become public in Australia. We do not know if Fairfax County or the FCOE were aware of the involvement of Chinese software engineers working on the products in mainland China when Fairfax signed the contract, but the involvement of China-based assets does not appear to have been widely reported in 2016 in the press.

However, both the Fairfax County use of KONNECH, and KONNECH's connections to Chinese resources are being reported and have been documented in the years after Fairfax signed the contract. Therefore, due diligence by Fairfax County is required to assess current and past risks to election security and data security.

**3) ISSUE FOR ELECTORAL BOARD MEETING:** These concerns and any risk assessments could usefully be addressed by the Registrar and the Electoral Board at the next meeting. We understand that both ELECT and VITA have staffing and other issues at the moment, but the issues should also be discussed with their offices if possible.

We recommend as well that the FCOE, Electoral Board and Fairfax IT office request information and policy guidance from the SBE, the EAC, and CISA to determine their assessment of the KONNECH risk profile, and what procedures and policies they recommend.

Thanks!

Regards,

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