

## MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

### Defense Innovation Board (DIB) Information Session

Wednesday, 28 February 2024 11:00am-12:00am EDT

#### In Person Session

**External Participants:** Dr. Peter Highnam. Principal Deputy, Critical Technologies, OUSD(R&E).

**DIB Participants:** Charles Phillips

**DIB Staff:** Dr. Marina Theodotou (DFO), Jacob Sharpe, Elliot Silverberg,

**Purpose:** Preparatory session to gather information for DIB report.

#### Session Summary:

During the Defense Innovation Board (DIB) meeting, critical topics were thoroughly discussed with Dr. Highnam. First and foremost, Dr. Highnam underscored the remarkable success of AUKUS Pillar II, achieved at an impressive pace despite the absence of specific funding. This success owes much to the trust established within the alliance. However, the challenge lies in extending this trust to other allies and partners.

The Department of Defense (DoD) exercises caution, avoiding any preemptive actions regarding potential AUKUS expansion. Instead, the focus centers on aligning U.S. and potential partner interests, including cybersecurity controls, economic considerations, and national security priorities. Only after this alignment will exploration of technology interests and comparative advantages occur.

Dr. Highnam also expressed optimism within the State Department regarding the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) provisions. It is anticipated that exceptions will apply to the UK and Australia, including American subsidiary companies within these nations. This strategic move aims to enhance AUKUS technology sharing.

The DIB also delved into key challenges related to internal dynamics and organizational cultures among different partners. Notably, working with India presents vastly different dynamics compared to collaborating with the UK and Australia.

Lastly, Dr. Highnam emphasized the need for continuous reevaluation and improved mapping of capabilities across the 14 critical technology areas. Additionally, proactive technology scanning across key partners is essential for fostering innovation, deterrence, and lethality.

**Prepared By:** Juan Merizalde (DIB Staff)