

Supporting Services

Corporate Governance	43
Business Strategy and Legal	
IP and Project Management	44
Information Technology	
Quality Management	

Supporting Services



Corporate Governance

Internal Audit Department

An internal audit team reporting to the Audit Committee has been set up to assist the Board by providing it with information and assurance on internal management controls and observations on major control inadequacies.

As required by ASTRI's Corporate Governance Manual, the Internal Audit Department, during the year, carried out annual audits to meet coverage requirements specified by the Board in accordance with the determined priorities.

The Corporate Governance Manual also required the Department to review the internal control system and report the efficiency and effectiveness of such system to the Board via the Audit Committee. With respect to this requirement, a semi-annual internal audit progress report was presented to the Audit Committee.

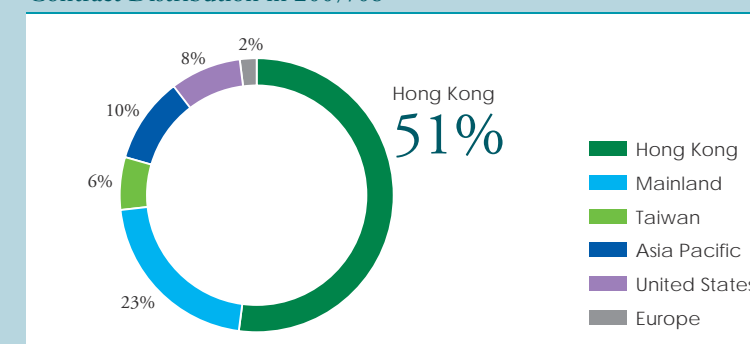
Compliance Officer

The Board of Directors also appointed the Head of Internal Audit as the Compliance Officer in April last year to assist its governance function by providing timely information to the Audit Committee on the compliance status of ASTRI regarding policy and procedures of project management, finance, human resources, and administrative management. To ensure continuous compliance with the Guide to ITSP (Information and Technology Support Programme), ASTRI's corporate governance policy, ISO procedures and other relevant guidelines, the Compliance Officer is required to submit quarterly reports to the Audit Committee.

Business Strategy and Legal

The Business Strategy and Legal Departments assist R&D teams in industrial collaboration and technology commercialization by preparing licensing arrangements and contract drafting. During the year, they actively participated in contract negotiations with licensees; provided commercial and legal advice to R&D teams and supported them in meeting ASTRI's annual technology transfer targets. In 2007/08, ASTRI achieved over 50 per cent increase in business deals compared with the previous year. While licensees are predominantly from Hong Kong and the Mainland, some are from Asia Pacific, the United States and Europe.

Contract Distribution in 2007/08



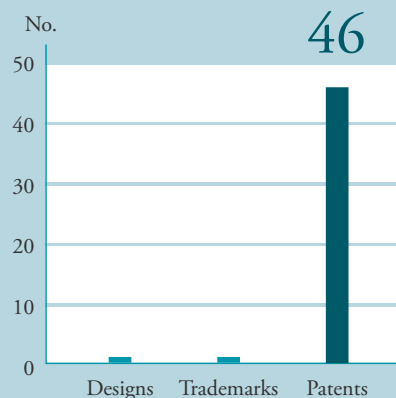
Supporting Services



IP and Project Management

Over the years, ASTRI has placed considerable efforts in protecting its research output in the form of intellectual property. Typically, intellectual property is protected by patents, trademarks and copyright of reference designs, in addition to regular engineering design documentation.

During the past year, ASTRI has filed in the United States and the Mainland patent registrations for 46 of its inventions. It also registered one trademark in Hong Kong, and one design on the Mainland and Hong Kong. On the whole, ASTRI's research output compared very favourably with other R&D research institutes in the region.



Information Technology

The Information Technology Department is in charge of the network infrastructure, system administration, IT security protection, office automation, solution development, technical support and services to the whole company, coordination and consultation to R&D domains on IT needs.

To cope with increasing demands for Internet access, growing complexity of development and application systems, the major IT activity in 2007-08 was upgrading Internet connection and Security Gateway.

In July 2007, a new product, Network Box, was deployed as the security gateway of Internet connection. This new product includes hardware protection set-up and providing round-the-clock monitoring services. The new solution has halved ASTRI's operating costs while maintaining the same level of human resources.

Quality Management

ASTRI's Headquarters was accredited the ISO9001:2000 in April 2006 under the scope "Provision of internal supporting services to research and development activities and governing bodies". So far, ASTRI has conformed to all audit requirements over the years.