

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**QUESTION NO (1352)**

**DATE OF PUBLICATION IN INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER 25 MAY 2012  
INTERNAL QUESTION PAPER NO 1352 – 2012**

**“1352 Mr L S Ngonyama (COPE) to ask Minister of Science and Technology:**

**Whether her Department invited the Southern African Development Community’s (SADC) public and private partners to enable the Joule project to remain on track; if not; why not; if so; what are the relevant details?”**

**NW1594E**

**REPLY:**

1. No, the SADC partners were not invited. South Africa is the only auto assembler in the SADC region and the country’s automotive production volume contributes just below 1% of the global production capacity. It should be noted that funding is not the only lever and other important capabilities are yet to be developed in the region.
2. The next stage in the development of the Joule is in the commercialisation space and the appropriate departments and agencies will be part of the process. The Industrial Development Corporation is leading the commercialisation process and has developed criteria for the strategic equity partners. These criteria highlight that an appropriate strategic equity partner in this project should have access to capital, technical strengths, market share and access, strong brand, established distribution networks, etc.