

# **State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

## **Department of Administration Satellite Infrastructure Component Budget Summary**

## Component: Satellite Infrastructure

### Contact: Stan Herrera, Acting Chief Technology Officer

Tel: (907) 465-2220 Fax: (907) 465-3450 E-mail: Stan\_Herrera@admin.state.ak.us

## Component Mission

To ensure infrastructure for the dissemination of information and program services statewide.

## Component Services Provided

Satellite communication transport provides for the delivery of the following services:

- Alaska One - Statewide public television originating at KUAC Fairbanks, distributed by satellite and broadcast throughout the state, reducing overhead and duplication of effort.
- Alaska Two - Gavel to Gavel coverage of the Legislature and other government activities originating from KTOO Juneau, distributed by satellite, accessible to 80% of Alaskans (no direct state support).
- Alaska Three - Distance education from the University of Alaska and the Distance Delivery Consortium, distributed by satellite and reaching 100 communities and rural campuses (no direct state support).
- The Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS) reaching some 220 communities across Alaska with educational, news and information, and commercial television programming.
- Delivery of the State and Federal Emergency Alert Service, data and transmitter control circuits, and delivery of public radio programming to individual local stations.

The Satellite Interconnection Project (SIP) Technical Monitoring effort, managed by the Alaska Public Broadcasting Joint Venture, provides one-stop service and management for trouble shooting problems at the statewide system and community levels.

## Component Goals and Strategies

ENSURE THAT ALASKANS IN ALL PARTS OF THE STATE ARE BETTER INFORMED IN THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MORE RAPIDLY AND THOROUGHLY INFORMED OF EMERGENCY ALERTS, AND BETTER EDUCATED AT LESS COST TO THEM AND TO THE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS THAT DEVELOP THE COURSEWARE. THIS MEETS THE GOVERNOR'S MANDATE OF INCREASED SERVICE AND MORE EFFICIENT USE OF EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE.

- Aggressively explore public/private partnerships among telecommunications providers, broadcasters, educators and agencies to enhance quality, broaden choice, improve cost-efficiencies and support the continued essential services provided by satellite infrastructure.
- Coordinate the use of the satellite among the integrated users to realize cost efficiencies.
- Foster interagency cooperation among the University of Alaska, K-12, public broadcasting, producers and State agencies in the production and distribution of programming.

## Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

- Through the State's Telecommunications Partnering Plan, the state is hoping to identify alternatives and/or gain cost efficiencies for this component. The contract rate with ACS for these services is \$1,295,396. Changes in service delivery for the programming provided by this component may be necessary during FY2003.
- Under the new tariff, the state will provide over 80 per cent of the funding needed for the lease and operation of the satellite. The balance comes from users, who are developing ways to attract additional users to bring costs down.
- The satellite has played an important role in being the only means by which all of Alaska is connected.

## Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

Alaska Public Radio and Television and Alaska Rural Communications service funded by Federal Corporation for Public Broadcasting funds to better coordinate and form economic partnerships to lower the cost to the state for satellite

services.

The Alaska Public Broadcasting, Inc. (APBI) in its fourth full year of operation has saved the public broadcasting system over \$7.5 million and assisted the grantees in generating an additional \$2.2 million dollars in federal support for public broadcasting, of which over 80% stays within Alaska.

In close cooperation with the Information Technology Group APBI has accepted the responsibility for the management and coordination of the statewide ARCS television program. The APBI also has the responsibility for the Satellite Interconnection Project Management Governance and satellite system technical oversight.

Since APBI accepted the responsibility for the ARCS Technical System in August 2000 we have directly handled 2,644 technical service calls from Rural Alaskan communities. These calls have come from 201 individual communities. As a result of APBI's work 103 individual communities has had their ARCS community television system returned to service.

APBI, working directly with communities has purchased and assisted in the acquisition and installation of 13 new TV transmitters, the repair and installation of 26 TV transmitters, the purchase of 37 new TV integrated digital receiver/decoders, the repair of 43 TV integrated receiver/decoders and the purchase/repair of 9 radio integrated receiver/decoders. Additionally we have installed the spare TV satellite uplink suite and have repaired the failed unit and

On May 1, 2002 when APBI began work under the TPA and the inception of USD for ARCS and SIP issues 228 tickets have been opened. Of those tickets 174 have been resolved and 54 remain open pending resolution. APBI has logged 708 calls/contacts since operating under the TPA in response to the 228 USD tickets to date.

As of November 15, 2002, a total of 10,654 tickets have been opened in the USD system statewide, the 228 ARCS/SIP tickets represent 2% of the system total.

APBI coordinates the activities and efforts of Alaska Public Radio, Public Television, the Satellite Interconnection Project, the Alaska Rural Communications Service (ARCS), and the Alaska Public Broadcasting Commission. During the spring of 2002 the Joint Venture held an on-air fundraiser to support the ARCS service, which raised \$44,000 from viewers around the state. The APBI staff has expanded their Internet web site that provides program schedules, basic troubleshooting tips for communities, and online forms for service requests.

APBI has replaced many of the functions formerly provided by the State, including management assistance, engineering and technical advice, training of local staff and boards, and liaison with numerous governmental entities including the TIC.

APBI conducted a complete system-wide inventory of each public broadcasting licensee in the state which included on-site inspections of 13 stations located throughout rural Alaska. These inspections were conducted by a broadcast engineer and, in many cases, were the first engineering visit stations have had in several years. The results of the inventory project have been entered into an interactive data base and distributed to the system for use. This database will be maintained by APBI. The inventory project was funded with private, non- state funds.

APBI wrote and received a competitive planning grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Public Facilities Program, to design a digital-broadband interconnection system for the State's public broadcasters. The work product from this grant will provide the blueprint for the public broadcasting system to integrate into the State's Telecommunications Partnering Agreement. The ultimate goal is to provide a digital program and information distribution system to every community served by a public broadcasting licensee.

APBI implemented a technical plan it developed in the prior year to reduce the required bandwidth for the satellite delivery of the four television services, thereby reducing costs. This plan saves the state approximately \$750,000 annually. This technical change was implemented at the states three satellite uplink sites in Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks by an outside contractor at no cost to the State of Alaska.

In May of 2002, APBI, working closely with ITG and the State's TPA vendor assumed full responsibility for Bundle 6, Earth Station Maintenance and Repair. This transition was made without any difficulties at all, without interruptions to service, and was on time and on budget.

APBI continued to drive an examination the opportunities for public broadcasters in the Anchorage area to cooperate in a number of basic operational areas. APBI, in cooperation with a consortium of ten remote rural public radio stations, secured funding for consulting services for planning. Funds for these projects were provided by the Corporation for Public

Broadcasting to APBI.

· The digital system continues to carry Alaska One, statewide public television; Alaska Two, Gavel to Gavel coverage of the Legislature; Alaska Three, distance education from the University of Alaska and the Distance Delivery Consortium; the Alaska Rural Communications Service to 248 villages and communities across Alaska; emergency alert capability, and public radio.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 44.21.305-330      Telecommunications

**Satellite Infrastructure**  
**Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0
72000 Travel	0.5	0.0	0.0
73000 Contractual	1,364.3	2,337.1	2,337.1
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	0.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	268.9	268.9	268.9
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>1,633.7</b>	<b>2,606.0</b>	<b>2,606.0</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	1,269.1	1,382.3	1,382.3
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	116.0	100.0	100.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	248.6	1,123.7	1,123.7
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>1,633.7</b>	<b>2,606.0</b>	<b>2,606.0</b>

**Satellite Infrastructure**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004**

The Alaska Satellite Interconnection Project Management Group expects to attract additional users, work diligently to maintain cost effective services for all users in light of proposed increases in common carrier tariffs, and improve the breadth of service offerings from state agencies and educational institutions, including the University of Alaska.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	1,382.3	0.0	1,223.7	2,606.0
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	1,382.3	0.0	1,223.7	2,606.0