

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Terminal Radio Inc.****Project Title:**

Terminal Radio Inc. - Communication Equipment Repair and Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$ 43,000**House District: 12 - F**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

Maintenance and improvement of area-wide broadcasting equipment, including inspections and engineering reviews. Enhancements will improve reliability of communications of community bulletins, weather reports, and emergency response.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$43,000**Funding Secured*Amount FY*Other Pending Requests*Amount FY*Anticipated Future Need*Amount FY*

There is no other funding needed

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Terminal Radio Inc. is based in Valdez and operates KCHU, KXKM, and KXGA radio stations that broadcast throughout Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin. In order to provide more reliable service to a larger broadcasting area, equipment needs to be maintained, upgraded, and/or replaced.

An engineering report would be made of all current sites, including general maintenance. Six current sites are need of some repair, and due to remoteness they haven't recieved maintenance for years. Funding will allow an engineer to visit each site and make basic repairs and provide an engineering report. The report allows for finding efficient ways to improve the broadcasting signal with new technology that must face harsh environmental conditions.

The radio antenna for KXGA will be inspected, and a report will be generated. This site has not been inspected in over 14 years, and there are some signs the antenna is not functioning properly. A report will help determine and plan maintenance and repairs to the structure.

Six audio processors will be purchased to improve signal quality. Whatever improvements are suggested in the engineering report, all translators and repeaters should have an audio processor to produce a more reliable and higher quality signal.

Project Timeline:

2008 - 2009

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Terminal Radio Inc.

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Daniel Sparrell
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Valdez, AK 99686
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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No



Terminal Radio, Inc.

Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin

KCHU KXKM KXGA

PO Box 467 Valdez, Alaska 99686 ph:907-835-4665 fax:907-835-2847

February 18, 2008

Representative John Harris
State Capitol, Room 208
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Speaker Harris,

Thank you for considering our Capital Request. KCHU, Terminal Radio, Inc. is working on improving our ability to serve the Copper River Basin, and Prince William Sound with educational, informational, safety, and entertaining programming. It has been many years since some of the equipment has been inspected and much of it is outdated and nearing the end of its useful life. Much of the funding requests are for basic infrastructure improvements, some of which should already be in place. Considering the large area we serve, and the role in public safety KCHU would play in the event of a major disaster we want to make sure that our equipment is as solid as possible serving as many people as possible. This Capital Request will make us more stable and will lay the groundwork for further improvements.

KCHU, Terminal Radio, Inc. receives nearly 20% of our budget from local donations, membership, and business support. We also can claim a loyal following with residents who are willing to haul fuel to isolated transmitters, store gear in their homes, and work with us diligently to increase the coverage area. It is these isolated listeners we hope to be able to better reach.

Safety is also a major concern. Much of the area we serve has already seen major disasters, and is working on preventing others. KCHU, Terminal Radio, Inc. was critical in disseminating information during the Exxon Valdez oil spill, and certainly would have been a benefit during the Good Friday Earthquake. We have undertaken projects to enhance our ability to operate in the event of a major catastrophe including back-up generators and antennas. This project would continue that preparedness along much of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and Prince William Sound.

On behalf of Terminal Radio, Inc. (KCHU, KXKM, KXGA), I am requesting a Capital Equipment, Engineering, and Logistics Grant of \$43,000 as listed below. This Grant Request is listed in priority order. Funding for any or all listed projects would be greatly appreciated.

\$15,000

Engineering Report and general maintenance on all current sites. The six current sites are in need of some repair, and because of the remoteness (some instances extreme remoteness) they haven't had the maintenance needed for many years. This funding would allow an engineer to visit each site and make basic repairs and create an Engineering Report. This report will allow Terminal Radio, Inc. to plan the best way to improve the signal to these communities using the latest technology. We will be looking at energy efficiency to help with sustainability, as well as tested equipment that will handle the harsh conditions the environment subjects the gear too.

\$3,000

Contour Map of Copper River Basin and inspection of the radio antenna broadcasting the KXGA signal to the Glennallen, Copper Center area. This site has not been inspected in over 14 years, well past its 10 year maintenance cycle. There are some signs this antenna is not working properly and needs to be replaced. But we won't know for sure until this study is done.

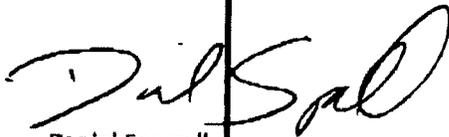
\$18,000

Audio Processors critical to a quality signal. Whatever improvements may or may not be determined by the Engineering Report, all translators and repeaters should have an Audio Processor to produce a high quality, reliable signal. This piece of the basic infrastructure is missing and will be a noticeable improvement. Each piece is about \$3,000 and will work with current delivery technology and will be even more viable with new technology from local communication businesses.

\$7,000

Storage Cabinets to free valuable studio space. Terminal Radio, Inc. has received over 30% of the funding needed for this project from United Way of Valdez that will allow a current storage room to become a multi-use facility. This room will allow for better local use of the KCHU facilities. It will allow local non-profits better access to produce Public Service Announcements, students to learn production and recording skills, and the give the theater community (including the world renowned Last Frontier Theater Conference) another venue for statewide distribution.

Thank you for your consideration for any or all of this funding that will help Community Radio in Prince William Sound and the Copper River Basin remain a strong link in public safety, education, and entertainment. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding this proposal.



Daniel Sparrell
General Manager
Terminal Radio, Inc.