

**Marine Exchange of Alaska - Alaska Vessel Tracking System Upgrades and Expansion**

**FY2014 Request: \$600,000**  
**Reference No: 48513**

**AP/AL:** Appropriation

**Project Type:** Life / Health / Safety

**Category:** Transportation

**Recipient:** Marine Exchange of Alaska

**Location:** Statewide

**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Impact House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)

**Contact:** Jo Ellen Hanrahan

**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2013 - 06/30/2018

**Contact Phone:** (907)465-2506

**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project will operate, maintain, upgrade and expand the vessel tracking system provided by the non-profit Marine Exchange of Alaska that substantially contributes to safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. The vessel tracking system affects all of Alaska's coastal communities and is a valuable tool for state agencies and the U.S. Coast Guard.

| <b>Funding:</b> | <b>FY2014</b>    | <b>FY2015</b> | <b>FY2016</b> | <b>FY2017</b> | <b>FY2018</b> | <b>FY2019</b> | <b>Total</b>     |
|-----------------|------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------------|
| Gen Fund        | \$600,000        |               |               |               |               |               | \$600,000        |
| <b>Total:</b>   | <b>\$600,000</b> | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$0</b>    | <b>\$600,000</b> |

|   |  |                                       |   |                                   |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new | <input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway  | <input type="checkbox"/> On-Going |
| 0% = Minimum State Match % Required           |  | <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill |                                   |

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

|                      | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Staff</u> |
|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Project Development: | 0             | 0            |
| Ongoing Operating:   | 0             | 0            |
| One-Time Startup:    | 0             |              |
| <b>Totals:</b>       | <b>0</b>      | <b>0</b>     |

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P93 L10 SB 160 \$600,000
- Sec7 Ch5 SLA2011 P142 L22 SB 46 \$600,000
- Sec16 Ch43 SLA2010 P149 L20 SB 230 \$600,000
- Sec13 Ch29 SLA2008 P97 L31 SB 221 \$1,250,000
- Sec1 Ch30 SLA2007 P4 L22 SB 53 \$200,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P18 L20 SB 231 \$200,000
- Sec19 Ch61 SLA2001 P80 L10 SB 29 \$646,000

**Project Description/Justification:**

This project will be used to continue the build out of Alaska's "Maritime Safety Net" system. This will assist to operate, maintain, upgrade, and expand the vessel tracking network. The tracking network aids in the safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations. This Marine Exchange of Alaska (MEA) project is to allow expansion of the vessel tracking system's coverage and capabilities throughout Alaska.

The MEA is currently expanding the capabilities of the vessel tracking sites by adding weather sensors and radios that can receive and pass on digital selective calls from vessels in distress. Incorporating these added sensors will further enhance the safety of mariners operating in Alaska.

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Identification System) receiving sites throughout Alaska and, with the funds, will exceed 100 AIS sites.

In addition to state agencies (Departments of Transportation and Public Facilities, Commerce, Community and Economic Development, Fish and Game, Public Safety and Environmental Conservation), the Coast Guard, coastal communities and mariners are using the system to aid safe, secure, efficient and environmentally sound maritime operations in the Arctic. The system has also been used to monitor Shell's exploration operations and validate compliance with environmental protection measures prescribed in permits. The information provided by the system is also used by the Coast Guard and state to develop risk reduction measures for vessels transiting the Bering Strait and monitor compliance with safety and environmental regulations.

Due to the Alaska's vast coastline, the MEA's work is not done, and 2014 funding of \$600,000 will be needed to continue the progress towards closing gaps in coverage that exist in the Gulf of Alaska, Western Alaska and the Arctic. With overall capital and operating costs of the network approaching \$3 million, a state \$600,000 capital fund grant ensures the expansion of the system with the operating costs funded by the Coast Guard and marine industry making this a successful government/maritime industry partnership.