

ARCS Video Automation and Control Project

FY2002 Request: \$77,500
Reference No: 33907

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Equipment

Category: General Government

Location: Statewide

Contact: Dan Spencer

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2001 - 06/30/2006

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Funding will be used to purchase a computer based video/audio automation system that will enable ARCS to receive video programs from multiple sources including Federal agencies, State of Alaska agencies, local Alaskan producers, and others, and broadcast the programs over ARCS.

Funding:	<u>FY2002</u>	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$77,500						\$77,500
Total:	\$77,500	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$77,500

<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:	1,000	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	1,000	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This project has received no prior year funding.

Project Description/Justification:

Project Description

Funding will be used to purchase a contemporary, computer based, walk-away video/audio automation system that would allow the ARCS staff to accept video programs from a variety of sources, State Agencies, Federal Agencies, local Alaskan producers and other sources and broadcast them over ARCS to provide needed services and information. ARCS Staff would transfer the video program to a hard disk drive system, program the computer to schedule the programs at a time and on a date convenient for broadcast and manage the system via remote PC.

Items to be purchased and approximate cost:

- 1 ea. Video Decoder with Animation Software, 2 es RS232/422 control ports and GPI/DTMS Input/Outputs. \$18,500
- 1 ea. Half D1 MPEG-2 Decoder (Optibase Videoplex Pro) \$2,350
- 1 ea. MPEG 2 Encoder with MPEG Composer 3.0 Software, Timed Event Encoding and one RS 232/422 Machine Control Port. \$14,050
- 1 ea. Half D1 MPEG-2 Encoder (Optibase Videoplex Pro) \$8,000
- 1 ea. Raid 5+1 (Hot Swap raid-5 w/Parity & Standby Drives) \$5,000
- 1 ea. Redundant Power Supply for RAID Chassis \$ 500
- 20 Hours of Raid 5+1 Storage \$2,500
- 1 ea. Rackmount Power Condition Unit \$ 550
- 1 ea. 19 Inch Rackmount Video Monitor \$1,500
- 2 ea. 9 Inch Source Video Monitors \$1,000
- 1 ea. Audio Monitoring System \$ 625

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1 ea. Rack Mount Audio follow Video Switcher	\$1,500
1 ea. Computer Video Titling System	\$4,000
1 ea. Beta SP Video Recorder/Player	\$8,500
1 ea. SVHS Video Recorder Player	\$2,600
1 ea. Standard 19" equipment rack	\$ 500
2 ea. Pentium Class PC Systems, 1 on site & 1 remote Location	\$4,500
Ground Based Freight	<u>\$1,300</u>

Total Project Cost**\$77,500****Project History/Overview**

The Alaska Rural Communication Services (ARCS) Video Automation project is an extension of the Satellite Interconnection Project (SIP) previously funded beginning in FY96 by the State of Alaska (\$700,000) and the US Department of Commerce (\$1,400,000). That project is currently delivering the following services via state leased satellite transponder space: ARCS, Statewide Public Television, Gavel to Gavel Legislative Coverage and Distance Education from Univ. of AK Statewide. No additional federal funding is available for this project.

Rural Alaskan ARCS viewers are currently only able to receive programming that is broadcast over local Anchorage television stations. TV programs are taken directly off-air by GCI Cable (who are providing the service to the State at no cost) using an automated switching system. Many of the programs that are important to the State's residents are pre-recorded programs that have no other way of reaching them except over ARCS.

The goal of the project is to regain control of the broadcast of Alaska specific programs over the ARCS Network. Previously, broadcast of some programs was accomplished through one of the Alaska Public television stations, primarily KTOO-TV in Juneau. However, not all programs that were of importance to Alaskans were able to be broadcast due to the inability of public television to provide broadcast/satellite uplink services for ARCS. Public television was providing that service at no cost to the State of Alaska. Due to budget constraints those services have been discontinued for FY 2001 and in future years. As of FY 2001, unless a program is broadcast over one of the Anchorage television stations, commercial or public, it cannot be broadcast to Rural Alaska.

Consequences of Not Funding

Many programs and public service announcements will remain unavailable to Rural Alaska.