

# STATE OF ALASKA REQUEST FOR INFORMATION (RFI)



Department of Administration  
Division of Shared Services  
333 Willoughby Avenue, 8th Floor  
PO Box 110210  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0210

## Public Communications Satellite Services

### GENERAL INFORMATION

The State of Alaska is seeking information from companies who offer satellite services for public communications. The state is exploring the possibility of improving and updating the current satellite services agreement.

The purpose of this RFI is to:

1. Identify companies that specialize in satellite public communication services for government entities.
2. Collect information from companies to learn the types of satellite services provided to Alaska.
3. Gain an understanding of the market to determine the best practices, procedures, and standards that are best suited to the state's current public communications structure and current satellite location.

Companies who submit a response to this RFI must include a description of the services offered by your company and how they can help achieve the state's goal of providing access to high-quality, affordable public communication services across Alaska. The response must also include contact information such as: name of the company, point of contact names, physical and mailing addresses, phone and fax numbers, and email address.

### BACKGROUND

The State of Alaska provides public communications to the residents of Alaska via satellite broadcast to 250 fixed earth stations utilizing horizontally polarized C-band spacecraft positioned at 139 degrees west. The stations are distributed among the installed user base as follows:

1. ARCS: 185
2. Public radio stations: 26
3. Public TV stations: 4
4. Public radio translators, Commercial radio and TV (EAS), Cable TV, etc.: 35 (Est)

Two digital carriers are transmitted via C-Band transponders to the specifically configured earth stations. These multi-format audio/video/data streams serve as the primary source of content for the State of Alaska's rural low power television service, known as ARCS. In addition, they provide for the statewide relay network, an emergency communications conduit as defined by the State EAS plan, which is made available to all radio, television and cable operations across Alaska.

The current Vendor provides terrestrial transport of the primary data stream from the Fairbanks demarcation point to their Gateway Earth Station via fiber optic lines. Once the data has arrived at the Gateway Earth Station it is broken out to the State's satellite modulator installed at the vendor's facility. From there it is uplinked to a horizontally polarized, spot beamed transponder on the AMC-8 spacecraft. This service currently utilizes 17.9MHz of bandwidth at 13.2500 Msps. A backup transponder is also located on the same spacecraft at 139 degrees.

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A secondary smaller space segment is provided to an additional carrier, uplinked independently in coordination with Vendor operations. It serves as a secondary path for statewide emergency communications as well as a service for 30 subscriber public broadcaster downlink sites. This carrier occupies 0.700 MHz of bandwidth at 500 Kbps.

Future upgrades to the encoding system will result in opportunities for increased use of available spectrum capacity to serve a more diverse user base. Potential exists for relocation of the encoding suite which would require modification of the terrestrial transport. The same can be said for changing to a different uplink site. However, changes to the orbital position, beam or band would render all sites inoperable in the short term. In that case all sites would require significant investment to restore service, and many of them would be rendered obsolete due to terrain obstructions both manmade and natural.

### RESPONSE INFORMATION

Interested companies must submit a written response by **Friday, May 25, 2018, at 2:00p.m. Alaska Time** directed to the Procurement Officer, Matt Meienberg. Responses may be sent by U.S. mail or E-mail to the address below. Responses must indicate capability and timeframe to provide this service and include a name, contact information, and building location/address.

Department of Administration  
Division of Shared Services  
Attention: Matt Meienberg  
RFI – Public Communications Satellite Services  
P.O. Box 110210  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0210  
Phone: 907-465-5758  
Fax: 907-465-2194  
Email: [matthew.meienberg@alaska.gov](mailto:matthew.meienberg@alaska.gov)

Any questions concerning this request must be directed to the Procurement Officer in writing via email.

Please note the state does not accept responsibility for failed U.S. mail or e-mailed response deliveries. It is the responsibility of the company to follow up with the procurement officer listed above to ensure your response was received prior to the deadline.

This RFI does not obligate the State to issue an RFP, award a contract or pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a response to this RFI. Do not submit price/costs with your response, a Notice of Award for space will not be made as a direct result of this RFI. Contact information will be kept on file for any future related Request for Proposal (RFP) solicitations under AS 36.30, Alaska State Procurement Code.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The state does not intend to award a contract from this RFI, nor will be financially responsible for any costs associated with the preparation of any response for the requested information. This RFI is issued to obtain information related to public communications satellite services as described in this notice. However, the state may use the information obtained from this request to prepare a competitive solicitation in the future.