

Nomination for 2001 Recognition Awards

For Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Information Technology

Nomination Format :

Nomination Form

Executive Summary

Description of Project, incl. length of time in operation

Significance to the improvement of the operation of government

Benefits realized by service recipients, taxpayers, agency or State

Return on investment, short-term payback or other measurable operational benefit, Including summary calculations.

Nomination Form:

Title of Nomination: **SilverNet Microwave Project Phase I**

Project/System Manager: **Richard Brooks, Ken Adams, and James D. Walker**

Job Title: **Coordinator of Communications, Network Engineering Manager, and Communications Deputy Chief**

Agency: **State of Nevada**

Department: **Department of Information Technology**

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Category for judging (please list only one): Communication Infrastructure

Person Nominating (if different than above): **Pamela V. Sutton**

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Executive summary:

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) Mobil and Microwave Group has successfully installed a digital microwave transmission system between Carson City and Reno and between Carson City and Las Vegas. Implementation of this system involved the construction of several new sites as well as the upgrade of existing sites currently housing the aging and obsolete analog communications system. As completed, the digital system supplies the state of the art transport capabilities for state agencies, public safety and emergency entities as well as local government agencies and the university system.

Project description and purpose:

The State of Nevada's Microwave Communication's System spans the state with the mission of providing public safety and critical governmental communication services.

The Digital Microwave Upgrade rebuilds and upgrades the aging, 30-year-old system which was in operation. The Digital Upgrade provides needed digital communication capability, which the old analog microwave system could not provide. With the use of the newer digital technology, support can be assured for many years, replacing analog equipment that is no longer supported and very difficult to maintain.

The project is operational from Reno to Carson City, as well as from Carson City to Las Vegas.

The Reno to Carson City phase carries SilverNet production traffic, dedicated public safety circuits and other applications. SilverNet, the State's Wide Area Network, provides a consolidated *enterprise communications infrastructure* supporting the executive, legislative and judicial branches of state government. It links offices throughout the state, including 28 locations within the fiber optic Capitol complex, providing substantial bandwidth to support web-enabled intranet applications including data, video and voice.

Significance to government operations:

As completed the digital system supplies state of the art transport capabilities for state agencies, public safety and emergency entities as well as local government agencies and the university system.

The State need for wideband digital communication service is well documented through several major studies. However, the ability to obtain such service from common carriers was not forthcoming. Attempts to obtain common carrier DS-3/45 MB service between Carson City and Las Vegas have occurred since July

1997. This digital microwave upgrade project completed that need for DS-3/45 MB service between Reno, Carson City and Las Vegas.

Benefits to businesses:

The installation of this system was accomplished in parallel with ongoing maintenance duties, no small task considering the aging analog system maintenance requirements to support users throughout the state.

Measurable operational benefit:

The benefits of the project included:

- Improved public safety communications
- Reduction of maintenance problems and issues
- Increased capacity to meet needs of Nevada department of Transportation, and Department of Motor Vehicles and Public Safety mobile communication system expansions
- Service delivery improvements

Related links to the project are <http://silvernet.intranet.state.nv.us/>.