



ICN Insider

Iowa Communications Network
July/August 2015 Newsletter

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ICN Assists with First Phase of FirstNet Implementation

Iowa is one of the first states in the nation to complete the initial data collection phase for FirstNet. Led by Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System Board (ISICSB), the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) serves as a technical management support partner to ISICSB, by gathering required asset and profile data. ICN collected initial data sets to create a master data set of state and commercial vertical assets, including, but not limited to the telecommunication infrastructure available in Iowa. Also assembled was current mobile devices/usage information for public safety users and coverage profiles for each county. Roxann Ryan, Iowa's Public Safety Commissioner says, "This is going to be the largest public safety initiative in our state's history." She added that the completion of phase one before any other state shows, "Iowa is poised to be the nationwide leader of the FirstNet network."

The need for a dedicated public safety network was evident again following a recent shooting at the Coral Ridge Mall in Coralville, IA. The Joint Emergency Communications Center (JECC) in Johnson County was overwhelmed with calls to 9-1-1. Tom Jones, executive director of the JECC told the Iowa City Press Citizen that, "the cellphone towers of at least two local providers were overloaded from the high volume of calls at the time of the shooting, which might have prevented some from being able to get through to 911!" *[Iowa City Press Citizen, Overflow system used for 911 calls Friday, June 15, 2015 Online Content.]*

While the completion of this first phase is significant, the ICN recognizes there is much work to be done before first responders have access to this vital network. With that in mind, ICN's Executive Director Ric Lumbard introduced a new ethos to staff called "Broadband Strong". Lumbard says, "ICN's Broadband Strong vision will implement strong, flexible, and fast mandates within the agency. Broadband Strong will mean ICN will be a strong broadband carrier, be business flexible, and provide fast processes, systems, and service delivery in a way that brings broadband speed to our customers.

ICN is committed to emphasizing the importance and availability of high speed broadband specifically for public safety use. ICN and ISICSB are encouraged that Iowa has the opportunity to be among the first States with FirstNet capability. Visit www.firstnet.gov for more information.

Iowa FirstNet Public Private Partnership Summit
Thursday, August 13, 2015
Grimes State Office Building • 400 E 14th Street • Conference Room B100
[RSVP](#) by August 6, 2015. Free and open to the public.

 Find us on
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Visit us on the web at www.icn.iowa.gov

ICN Organizational Changes

New Cyber Bureau

The ICN established a Cyber Bureau which became effective April 1. In the State of Iowa and around the world the cybersecurity landscape is rapidly changing shape. The ICN plays a key role as a transport provider in securing the State of Iowa's network cyber ecosystem. In strong collaboration with the State's Chief Information Security Officer, the ICN's Cyber Bureau will actively establish action and strategy to align ourselves with the cybersecurity framework for the State. By maintaining a team of skilled and growing cybersecurity professionals, the ICN will be able to effectively respond to cyber incidents, raise preventive measures, provide technical assistance to our customers, and collaborate with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) to provide a safe cyber landscape for all Iowans.



The ICN plans to provide DDos (Distributed Denial of Service) mitigation to ICN customers. Should Area Education Agencies (AEA) and major school districts come under DDoS attacks, the ICN will provide a strategy to the educational users to mitigate the attacks. In addition, the Cyber Bureau will

include a strategic partnership with Iowa State University by establishing internships for students from their cybersecurity program. These internships will benefit the ICN and the State of Iowa as we develop and maintain a strong cybersecurity workforce for the future.

Helen Troyanovich leads the new Cyber Bureau; she has a long history in the ICN and has served most recently as the manager of the ICN's Engineering Bureau.

New Engineering Bureau Chief

On April 10, 2015, Scott Pappan began managing the ICN Engineering Bureau. Pappan comes to the ICN leadership team having most recently served regional engineering and sales leadership for CenturyLink. Pappan managed Government/Education engineering teams that covered 10 states with responsibilities in creating, pricing, designing, and implementing large-scale telecom solutions.

His professional background is specifically suited for the ICN as he brings significant depth and specialty in carrier grade transport systems, IP design and E911/NG911 architecture. His hardware platform experience includes Ciena and numerous other carrier Wide Area Network (WAN), and Voice/Data platforms.

Back to the Basics: Who provides leased fiber connections

By statute, the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) is required to lease connections to schools, libraries, AEAs, judicial, correctional services connections, and connections to state agencies that are paid with state funding. A connection is the physical connection from the Network to ICN's authorized user location.

The state funded \$35.5 million in installation costs for the connections to school, library, and AEA (Part III) sites as well as paying a monthly lease cost.

When Network construction plans were first implemented to connect K-12 schools, libraries, AEAs and state agencies, the legislature wanted the private telecommunications providers to have an opportunity to serve their local areas.

Companies winning the leasing bids for schools, libraries and AEAs were also provided with funds to construct the required infrastructure.

ICN partners with the following private sector telecommunications companies to provide Part III leased connections. In total there are 330 Part III sites leased in partnership with 42 vendors.

- Windstream
- G4S Technology LLC
- Regulated Companies
- Independent Telecommunications Companies
- Municipal Utilities
- Other



Broadband Matters to Midwest Rural Telemedicine Consortium

One December morning last year at 7:00 AM nurses and physicians gathered to learn about rehabilitation for the pediatric trauma patient. This would be unremarkable except the health care professionals were in 7 locations, some as far as 200 miles from the person presenting the information. The participants could see and hear each other and could ask questions. This type of learning opportunity is available in Iowa hospitals on an ongoing basis.

The Midwest Rural Telemedicine Consortium (MRTC), a service of Mercy Health Network, is a membership organization including 30 hospitals located across Iowa and two (2) hospitals in Nebraska. The Consortium was formed in 1994 and began providing telemedicine services over the Iowa Communications Network (ICN) using two-way interactive video and audio in 1995. In 2007, MHN/MRTC partnered with Iowa Hospital Association and other Iowa hospitals and health care organizations in the Iowa Rural Health Telecommunications Program (IRHTP), which now includes 86 Iowa hospitals and other health care services connected to the ICN with very high speed fiber optic links. IRHTP was supported with funds from a Federal Communications Commission pilot project and the participating hospitals and health care organizations.

MRTC has taken a broad view in defining telemedicine and includes clinical, educational and administrative services. Two-way audio and video communications require high-speed connections for high quality audio and video. Whether you are a nurse learning about the latest in pediatric trauma

care or a physician examining a patient while using an electronic stethoscope the quality and reliability of the connection is important. Add to the requirements for video a hospital's increasing reliance on transferring data for medical and financial reports, Internet access and other medical services such as telepharmacy or teleradiology studies and the demands on communications networks grow rapidly.

Originally MRTC relied on slower telecommunications for video and some teleradiology services. Anytime a new service was added, a new circuit would need to be installed, a process that might involve trenching and construction and require 6 to 8 weeks to complete. With the IRHTP fiber the minimum capacity is 20 times faster than the old circuits. The minimum capacity for an IRHTP circuit is 30 MB with the capacity for a facility to expand to 1 GB. If a facility is using a 30 MB connection, but needs 100 MB, the additional capacity can be added with a phone call. No construction is required.

How does this access to broadband effect health care services? One example: over our original circuits one chest x-ray could take 12 – 24 minutes to send. Using the new fiber circuits a whole study including multiple images can be transmitted in seconds. Many times the radiologists have read and responded to requests within a fifteen minute window. Radiologists in Des Moines are reading medical images for 8 rural facilities and Mercy – Des Moines.

- Submitted by Midwest Rural Telemedicine Consortium:
 Joe LeValley, Senior Vice President
 Fred Eastman, Admin. & Program Director

2015 Legislative Overview

The legislature adjourned on June 5.

House File 655, known as the Connect Every Acre Bill, was signed by Governor Branstad on Monday, June 22. The bill encourages the expansion of high-speed broadband Internet to all corners of the state helping to foster growth for modern agriculture, increase access for rural communities and school districts as well as connecting small business to the global marketplace. More specifically, the bill includes the following:

- Provides for the coordination and facilitation of broadband access in targeted service areas throughout the State.
- Establishes a grant program to award grants to communication service providers that install broadband infrastructure in targeted service areas.
- Creates uniform rules and limitations for wireless communications facilities and infrastructure pertaining

to cell towers.

- Tasks the Office of the Chief Information Officer to lead and coordinate the installation of fiber optic conduit where it doesn't currently exist.

HF 655 also appoints the State of Iowa Chief Information Officer to the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) as an ex-officio, non-voting member.

House File 650 was sent to the Governor on June 15, but has not yet been signed by Governor Branstad.

The bill includes appropriations from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund including:

- Just over \$2.7 million to the Department of Education for Part III lease payments.
- Just over \$2.2 million to the ITTC for equipment replacement, operation and maintenance costs.

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.



Employee Spotlight Dina Huspen

Dina Huspen is a Technical Service Specialist in the Business Services Bureau. She has been with the ICN for 3 years, and was previously an Accounting Technician II. Her current duties include: compiling reports, managing the rate sheet and rate changes, conducting research, and working on other various tasks. She enjoys her coworkers and helping customers. Prior to joining the ICN, she worked at a CPA firm as an Accountant.

Dina received her Bachelor's degree in Accounting and Business Administration in 2008. In 2015, she received her Master of Public Administration Degree (MPA) and Certified Public Manager (CPM) certificate from Drake University.

Dina has lived in Bosnia, Austria, and Germany, and her

favorite destination place is Italy. In her leisure time, Dina enjoys camping, hiking, and fishing. Her family likes to spend time in nature, as well as going to the movies and roller skating. She aspires to raise her two children alongside her husband, to be self-sufficient, high achieving, respectful, caring and sharing citizens.

One of her major memories to date was achieving a four-year college degree. Dina was the first person in her family to earn a college degree. She was chosen to give the commencement speech at the graduation ceremony. She explains, "Being challenged to speak to my peers made me realize how much I have accomplished; and has caused a real go-get-it attitude in me."

If there was one person in history Dina would like to meet it would be Mother Theresa. "She has always been an inspiration to me, only giving from the heart, taking care of those who needed the most. She never looked down on those who worked hard, achieved, or had more than others."

Connect Iowa Released Final Grant Report

In June, Connect Iowa released its Final Grant Report which highlights its mapping, community planning, and research since 2010 as part of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's State Broadband Initiative grant program. A few key points in the report:

- Since October 2010, access in Iowa to broadband service at speeds of at least 50 Mbps download/1.5 Mbps upload has increased 54.08 percentage points.
- Connect Iowa engaged 202 broadband providers in Iowa to collect data semi-annually on broadband access in the state, with 99.5% of all broadband providers in the state participating, to provide over 3.5 million data records.
- In addition, Connect Iowa independently validated the broadband access data for 93.07% of participating providers, and analyzed 7,441 speed tests taken by Iowans since 2010.

Read the executive summary or the entire report at <http://www.connectiowa.org/ia-final-grant-report/>.



Broadband Matters News

[Gov. Branstad signs Connect Every Acre bill into law](#)

Iowa Gov. Terry E. Branstad signed the Connect Every Acre high-speed broadband bill into law. The bill, House File 655, encourages the expansion of high-speed broadband internet to all corners of the state helping to foster growth for modern agriculture, increase access for rural communities and school districts and connecting small business to the global marketplace.

[Iowa Judicial Branch makes progress with the roll out of eFiling per county.](#)

Determine if your county is filing electronically by checking the map below. Green counties are converted fully to eFiling (EDMS). Blue counties are in training for eFiling (EDMS) rollout and the white counties are planned to convert to eFiling (EDMS) later this year.

[Gigabit+ Speeds Fuel the Internet at Iowa Speedway](#)

Building on a recently renewed partnership with Iowa Speedway, Mediacom Communications today announced that its Mediacom Business Division will provide Gigabit+ broadband speeds for nationally televised NASCAR and IndyCar racing events during the June, July and August racing season.

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