

**Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant  
Results of Project Proposal Solicitation  
October 2007**

The Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant was released on July 18, 2007. This joint Department of Commerce/Department of Homeland Security funding opportunity is designed for states to fund projects which make measurable improvements in interoperability. This grant provides the state of Washington a solid opportunity to improve public safety communications and the ability for emergency responders to talk to each other during crisis situations.

After a five week solicitation on the State Interoperability Executive Committee's (SIEC) Web site, 23 applications were received for the Public Safety Interoperable Communications (PSIC) Grant. Applicants included ten Eastern Washington public safety agencies, eleven Western Washington public safety agencies, and three state agencies. The applications were scored by SIEC members based on a pre-identified point system outlined in the project proposal solicitation.

Of the \$19.1 million available, a minimum of 80 percent of the grant funding must be passed through to local units of government. The federal government also requires \$1.485 million to be used for a Strategic Technology Reserve (STR) unless that capability, or a higher interoperability priority, exists. The SIEC is requesting a waiver from the STR requirement to maximize the monies available for local and state agencies. The SIEC will focus future discussions on STR capabilities, governance issues and sustainability/maintainability of a strategic equipment reserve concept.

Attached is a breakdown of the project proposals which will be included in the federal application. There is no guarantee of funding for projects included in the federal application. Awards are expected in Spring 2008 and all projects must be completed by September 2010. All projects included in the application support increased interoperability infrastructure investments.

<b>PSIC Proposals Approved by SIEC</b>			
<b>Local 80%</b>			<b>\$15,344,278</b>
Clallam County	Homeland Security Regions 1&2 Interoperability	Homeland Security Regions 1&2 will join together with WSP to submit a multi-jurisdictional application including local, state, federal, tribal and non-governmental agencies to complete a digital microwave transport; expand the Integrated Wireless Network Project 25 trunked communication system; upgrade the existing RoIP network and expand to Region 1; close interoperability gaps; create multi-jurisdictional facilities; and increase interoperability coverage by 80%.	\$5,019,500

King County	South Loop Microwave	This project will enhance regional interoperable communications by providing a high capacity backbone transport system serving the Seattle Urban Area radio communication needs and provide the connection and backhaul of federal, state, regional, local, tribal and non-governmental agency signals. This project directly supports the Puget Sound Next Generation Wireless Voice/Data System PSIC application being forwarded by the City of Seattle. The South Loop Microwave project increases capacity to meet immediate county interoperable needs meanwhile will also be a vital component in complementing the next generation equipment being proposed by the City of Seattle.	\$1,935,995
Spokane Police Dept.	Spokane-Kootenai Regional Emergency Communications System	Spokane is the regional public safety hub for several Eastern Washington Counties, North Idaho, a part of Western Montana, Northeast Oregon and even some of South British Columbia. Communications shortcomings include no interoperability between agencies and disciplines, inadequate coverage, antiquated equipment, insufficient spectrum, and lack of long range strategic planning. This grant will fund the initial sites of a 700 MHz P25 digital trunked radio system for the first responders of the region. A master controller already being purchased in an earlier phase will unite systems utilizing different frequency bands and technologies. It will allow user-transparent operation across various bands and systems and be the first stage of a region-wide 700 MHz P25 system.	\$2,313,115
Pierce County	Pierce County Interoperable Multi-jurisdictional, Multi-Discipline Radio Network	This project will help alleviate the identified interoperable communications gaps in Pierce County by establishing a governance charter and connecting critical radio and dispatch networks. It will provide interoperable communications training for over 3400 first responder and dispatch personnel and include an interoperable communications field exercise.	\$2,313,115
Thurston County	Puget Sound Next Generation Voice/Data System	This project offers the Puget Sound region a next generation communications system capable of transporting and switching both voice and data on multiple interoperable channels across disparate radio bands including ITAC, VTAC, LERN, REDNET, OSCCR, Search and Rescue and 700 MHz. The core of the system is a next-generation, Internet Protocol (IP), Project 25-standard switch that provides interconnection via high capacity microwave systems owned and operated by counties from the Canadian border through Thurston County along the I-5 corridor, and may include state agencies/systems including WSP and WSDOT. (Funded at less than application requested due to limited funding available)	\$1,620,253
City of Seattle	Puget Sound Next Generation Voice/Data System	This project provides an advanced technological interoperability solution for the Puget Sound region that, as proposed: provides cost effective and spectrally efficient coverage for the counties surrounding Puget Sound. This proposal will continue to improve interoperable communications in an urban area at high risk for terrorism and natural disasters. The initial operating capability provides emergency response coverage to 64% of the state's population through a core infrastructure consisting of a next generation, standards-based communication system capable of transmitting voice and data on multiple frequencies within the 700 MHz and 800 MHz bands. This proposed system is a locally driven approach open to all stakeholders, local, city, county, tribal, state agency, nongovernmental and governmental willing to share operating responsibility for the system. (Funded at less than application requested due to limited funding available)	\$3,417,274
<b>State 20%</b>			<b>\$3,836,069</b>
Less M&A	To EMD for grant mgmt	3% of overall grant, as authorized by federal grant guidance	\$575,410
Less Pre-planning	For SCIP Workshop/planning	Used to host the Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP) workshop on August 22, 2007.	\$20,000
Washington State Patrol	Homeland Security Regions 1&2 Interoperability	Washington State Patrol is in partnership with Clallam County's project described above "Homeland Security Regions 1 & 2 Interoperability"	\$2,359,000

For more information about the grant, please contact Jennifer Schaal, Emergency Management Division at [j.schaal@emd.wa.gov](mailto:j.schaal@emd.wa.gov) or Arel Solie, Washington State Patrol at [arel.solie@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:arel.solie@wsp.wa.gov).