



Minnesota (MN)

PSIC Federal Award: \$14,262,071

(Awarded September 30, 2007)

Summary

PSIC Investment Justification	Federal Funds
Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)—State Component	\$468,200
Strategic Technology Reserve—Local Component	\$636,377
Radio Control Stations—ARMER System to Provide Cross-Spectrum Interoperability	\$1,400,000
Local/County/Regional Comprehensive Public Safety Communication Assessment	\$1,200,000
Very High Frequency (VHF)/Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Interoperability—ARMER Backbone	\$3,300,000
Planning and Training for Equipment and Communications Interoperability—State	\$530,000
Training for Equipment and Communications Interoperability—Local	\$600,000
Subscriber Equipment: Statewide Shared Infrastructure—Local	\$4,500,000
Subscriber Equipment: Statewide Shared Infrastructure—State	\$1,050,000
Management and Administration (M&A)	\$427,494
Statewide Planning	\$150,000
Total PSIC Award	\$14,262,071

Pass Through: The State of Minnesota fulfilled the PSIC Grant Program’s requirement by using a combination of Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) and passing through of funds. The State met the requirement by passing through a minimum of 80 percent of the total award amount to the Regional Radio Boards. Additionally, the State entered into MOUs with the Regional Radio Boards/Regional Advisory Councils.

Strategic Technology Reserve (STR): Minnesota allocated \$1,104,577 to its STR Investment.

Investments

Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)—State Component



Federal Amount:	\$ 468,200
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 79,550
Total Project Cost:	\$ 547,750

73%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	27% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will provide funding for developing regional deployable communications capabilities using mobile VHF repeaters, towers, generators, and a radio cache. It will also expand the capability of an existing mobile, statewide, independent 700/800 MHz trunked communications system, using an intelli-repeater. The intelli-repeater has the capacity to perform trunking functions without the need of a site controller and provides redundant functions in the event of equipment failure. The State will also develop standard operating procedures (SOP) and agreements for the activation and deployment of these resources. This project builds upon existing deployable interoperability capabilities and provides additional resources for use during catastrophic communications failures.

Strategic Technology Reserve—Local Component



Federal Amount:	\$ 636,377
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 159,094
Total Project Cost:	\$ 795,471

100%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will build upon existing deployable interoperability capabilities and provides additional resources directed toward catastrophic communications failures. Combined with the State-level STR Investment, this project will provide funding for developing regional deployable communications capabilities using mobile VHF repeaters, towers, generators, and an appropriate radio cache. Additionally, it will expand the capability of an existing mobile, statewide, independent 700/800 MHz trunked communications system, using an intelli-repeater. With the two STR Investments, the State satisfies the PSIC Program requirement to develop and implement an STR that is pre-positioned, deployable, and able to re-establish communications when critical communications equipment is damaged or destroyed.

Radio Control Stations—ARMER System to Provide Cross-Spectrum Interoperability



Federal Amount:	\$ 1,400,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 350,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,750,000

100%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

The State's Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) is standards-based shared infrastructure operating in the 700/800 MHz spectrum. The majority of local communication systems operate in the conventional VHF band and do not have access to the statewide system. This Investment will place radio control stations in Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP) and Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) throughout the State to provide the ability of local governments and public safety agencies to access the statewide system, and enable interoperability between all entities operating on ARMER, regardless of frequency.

Local/County/Regional Comprehensive Public Safety Communication Assessment



Federal Amount:	\$ 1,200,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 0
Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,200,000

0%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	100% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Many areas of the State have not completed an assessment of the voice and data infrastructure for public safety communications nor have they developed any long-term interoperable communications plans. This Investment will provide an assessment of communications infrastructure in each county and municipality in Minnesota, including nongovernmental and tribal public safety agencies. The assessment will include an evaluation of potential solutions to enhance interoperability and replace equipment that is obsolete. All local stakeholders will be included in the broad discussion of public safety communications, regional communications planning, and developing best approaches to maximize public safety interoperability. This assessment will be provided to the Statewide Radio Board to guide future communications decisions and Investments.

**VHF/ UHF
Interoperability—ARMER Backbone**



Federal Amount:	\$ 3,300,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 750,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 4,050,000

93%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	7% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

Minnesota’s current statewide communications system (ARMER) does not have VHF or UHF capability built into the platform. The Investment’s primary objective is to ensure that both legacy and newer standards-based system users operating in the VHF or UHF spectrum are able to communicate via ARMER. The backbone of ARMER will be used to coordinate VHF and UHF interoperability among all public safety entities in the State. Users will be linked into a talk group and will be able to maintain cross-spectrum interoperability. This Investment will also fund planning and coordination efforts at the State and regional levels to determine what VHF and UHF resources are needed to achieve the highest level of interoperability.

**Planning and Training for Equipment and Communications
Interoperability—State**



Federal Amount:	\$ 530,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 0
Total Project Cost:	\$ 530,000

0%* Acquisition & Deployment	38% Training & Exercise	62% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will address the need to provide communications training for State-level public safety personnel and elected officials on a broad range of equipment. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will develop a core group of instructional courses that will address this need. Equipment and procedural resources, such as radio caches, shared channel use, gateways, and the ARMER backbone will be incorporated into the training. The State will also provide Communications Unit Leader (COML) training to public safety personnel throughout the State. This Investment corresponds with the next Investment “Training for Equipment and Communications Interoperability – Local” to provides additional resources to local and regional public safety personnel to pay for the cost of training.

Training for Equipment and Communications Interoperability—Local



Federal Amount:	\$ 600,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 0
Total Project Cost:	\$ 600,000

0%* Acquisition & Deployment	100% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will address the needs of local agencies to pay the costs of attending communications training for personnel and elected officials on a broad range of equipment. The Department of Public Safety (DPS) will develop a core group of instructional courses that address this need. Additionally, equipment and procedural resources, such as radio caches, shared channel use, gateways, and the ARMER backbone would be incorporated into training. The Investment will also provide Communications Unit Leader (COML) training to local public safety personnel.

Subscriber Equipment: Statewide Shared Infrastructure—Local



Federal Amount:	\$ 4,500,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 1,125,000
Total Project Cost:	\$ 5,625,000

100%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will provide approximately 2,500 subscriber units (e.g., portable and mobile radios, radio control stations) to local public safety personnel to ensure access to the statewide shared infrastructure (ARMER). This Investment will allow local public safety officials to gain access to the statewide ARMER backbone and will provide interoperability at the State and local levels. Public safety agencies across the State will benefit from this Investment, including the Twin Cities UASI.

Subscriber Equipment: Statewide Shared Infrastructure—State



Federal Amount:	\$ 1,050,000
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 262,500
Total Project Cost:	\$ 1,312,500

100%* Acquisition & Deployment	0% Training & Exercise	0% Planning & Coordination
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**Percentages include both Federal and non-Federal Match funds.*

This Investment will provide approximately 500 subscriber units (e.g., portable and mobile radios and radio control stations) to State agency public safety personnel and radio control stations for the ten State-operated PSAPs and EOCs that will enable access to the statewide shared infrastructure (ARMER). This Investment will allow State-level public safety officials to gain access to the statewide ARMER backbone. This Investment supports the goal to provide State public safety agencies access to the statewide system and improve interoperability between State and local response agencies.

PSIC Administration and Statewide Planning Costs

Management and Administration (M&A)

Federal Amount:	\$ 427,494
Non-Federal Match Amount:	\$ 106,874
Total Project Cost:	\$ 534,368

The State was allowed to retain up to three percent of the total PSIC award for costs associated with the administration of the State's PSIC Investments. The M&A costs could include hiring full-time or part-time staff or contractors for grant management services related to reporting, monitoring and audit compliance, and associated travel and meeting expenses.

Statewide Planning

Federal Amount	\$150,000
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The State was allowed to retain up to five percent of the total PSIC award for Statewide Planning costs associated with the incorporation of the PSIC criteria into the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP). The Statewide Planning period of performance was April 1, 2007–December 3, 2007, with the submission of the SCIP.