

5.8.3 Technology

5.8.3.1 Enhance and Promote the AIRS Interoperable Communications Solution

NECP Alignment:

NECP Objective	NECP Initiative	NECP Milestone
3	3.1	6

Gap Statement: AIRS radio frequencies are designed to be used in the event of a multi-agency operation requiring the use of common state radio channel(s), specifically for the purpose of coordinating activities during identified incidents. Additional AIRS installations and enhancements are required to provide statewide coverage and access to this solution.

Initiative Description: Arizona's short-term strategy includes expansion of AIRS coverage in order to provide a basic level of interoperability through national and state interoperability channels. AIRS supports VHF, UHF, and 800 MHz frequencies used throughout Arizona, with a cross-band repeater configuration that allows communication between bands.

Priority: High

Term/Timeframe: Short-term (2012)

Lead/Owner: PSIC Office/SIEC

Primary Participants:

- Local agencies
- SIEC

Action Plan:

- 1) Coverage
 - a. Identify coverage and/or usage gaps
 - b. Identify additional appropriate locations for AIRS assets (e.g., suite/tower locations, etc.), as needed.
 - c. Configure, test and deploy appropriate AIRS assets
 - d. Ensure deployed assets are operational
- 2) Planning
 - a. Garner SIEC workgroup support
 - b. Develop a draft Next Generation AIRS plan
 - c. Submit to stakeholders for review and input
 - d. Submit to PSCC and SIEC for review and approval
 - e. Deliver final plan to associated stakeholders

Objectives:

- 1) Provide enhanced AIRS coverage in areas requiring additional support
- 2) Develop and implement a Next Generation AIRS plan

Performance Measures:

- 1) Deploy additional AIRS suites as needed to achieve desired coverage, as resources allow
- 2) Document a Next Generation AIRS plan

Critical Success Factors/Risks:

- 1) Availability of resources (e.g., funding, staffing, equipment, etc.)
- 2) Access to suite locations and assets
- 3) Identification of long-term maintenance and sustainability resources
- 4) Cooperation of local agencies and users

Funding:

Potential funding

- Federal
 - SHSGP
- State
 - DPS – While there is no dedicated funding, DPS has assumed responsibility for funding the maintenance and operations of AIRS equipment
- Local – Certain AIRS recipient agencies are responsible for funding the facilities to host AIRS suites

Outreach Plan: See Sections 5.2.2 and 5.8.5.1.