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## ARTN Deployment: Digital Radiography Rollout

By Randall Burns, ASHNHA

Good news at year's end! The majority of the digital radiological equipment purchased by the ASHNHA Program Services Company on behalf of ARTN members has been delivered to all seven (7) of the sites involved in the first phase of the purchasing. Cross Road and Seward are already up and running.

Other good news: Cordova Community Medical Center will soon be ordering its equipment, as well. That will bring us to eight sites up and equipped, with the other three sites (Unalaska, Soldotna, and Homer already telerad capable with digital equipment) and Talkeetna still an unknown with respect to its membership in the ARTN (but also already digitally capable).

Cross Road's installation may be instructive or representative of some of the issues that all other ARTN install sites will encounter. Specifically, **Mitch Cox** has noted that they did not anticipate how much heat their new equipment would generate. He commented that while Cross Road "operations and maintenance staff have an interim cooling solution in place, the community health center will need to develop a permanent solution."



Fuji computed radiography equipment goes into Cross Road Medical Center in Glenallen, November, 2007.

Despite this unanticipated need for additional cooling, the Glennallen-based Cross Road personnel are delighted with the new equipment, and are looking forward to the new opportunities for patient care that this equipment affords them.

When you consider all that has been occurring on this project and others, as well, entering 2008 with the majority of the ARTN first phase complete is actually very good news and cause for reflection on what can be achieved when people and organizations of good heart and intent come together to make something happen. Our next steps are to make sure that your communities are able to take time to celebrate or at least acknowledge your achievement and the new capabilities of your hospitals and clinics for local residents, so that we have each of your communities' full support as we move forward towards our vision!

A complete breakdown of ARTN install progress to date can be found on the back page of this newsletter.

Happy New Year to everyone! Welcome to 2008!



## **Cordova Community Medical Center Commits to ARTN Membership, Connectivity**

ARTN management team members presented information to the Health Services Board of the Cordova Community Medical Center (CCMC) in Cordova in mid-November, 2007. By late November CCMC CEO David Bryant had contacted the ARTN management team with the news that his board had approved CCMC's adoption of the ARTN equipment offerings and that CCMC would become the newest subscriber to the ARTN managed service WAN infrastructure.

"We believe that the ARTN represents the best way forward for CCMC when it comes to the adoption of telehealth technologies," Bryant said. "With our move to the ARTN we will completely overhaul our radiology department's capacity for digital reading services, and we'll have better options available to us in terms of reading service providers."

The ARTN management team expects to be ready to deploy ARTN WAN interfacing, VoIP and video teleconferencing systems to CCMC in early February and it is likely that digital radiography equipment will be ready for shipment to CCMC shortly thereafter, in early March.

## **FCC Announces \$10.5 Million in Rural Health Funding for Alaska**

The FCC announced in November that it was approving \$10.5 million in FY 2008/2009/2010 USAC funding for rural health broadband systems development in Alaska. The award would be spread over the three year period. The award announcement prompted the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) to organize a preliminary informational meeting which was held on December 19 on the campus of the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC.) As the lead organizing agency on the application to the FCC for the funds this past spring and summer, ANTHC is in the position of coordinating the funds' distribution, with all activity being governed by a board carrying broad representation from the Alaska health care market – public sector and private.

Initial details made clear in the December 19<sup>th</sup> meeting included:

- The effort will spend \$500K on network design
- They expect to kick the network design effort off in early 2008
- Those interested in participating in the RFP development process for the network design should contact Rebecca Madison
- those interested in sitting on an evaluative committee for the RFP that gets released should contact Rebecca Madison
- those interested in participating in an assessment of current network capabilities in Alaska should contact Rebecca Madison
- those interested in network design planning should contact Rebecca Madison
- those interested in becoming a partner in the new e-Health network should contact Rebecca Madison

ANTHC generally sought contact information and levels of participatory interest from attendees, stating that she believed there would be no significant work undertaken on any initiative related to the funding until at least February of 2008. Rebecca Madison is the lead organizer for ANTHC and may be reached at [rebeccam@akrivertracks.com](mailto:rebeccam@akrivertracks.com) or at (907)729-3934.



## **ARTN Infrastructure Deployment Advances at Providence Alaska Medical Center**

A new enterprise to enterprise peering link between the ARTN and Providence Health Systems took large steps forward in the third quarter of 2007, culminating in the turn-up of a new 10Mbps transparent LAN service Ethernet link between the two networks in the first week of December. While the link is not yet actively in production, the stage is now set for network-layer service integration between the ARTN wide area network (WAN) and the Providence Alaska region WAN.

Providence and ARTN personnel have been meeting in regular bi-weekly project and planning sessions since August and over the course of the quarter the two groups have developed a mutually-beneficial approach to networking the two systems together. While the ARTN has been working with Providence toward installation of new digital radiography gear at Providence rural campus locations in Kodiak, Valdez, and Seward as the highest priority between the two groups, H.323 video integration has also been identified as a priority application for the new link.

ARTN management team members and Providence Alaska network engineering personnel are scheduled to work together during the first weeks of 2008 to complete the H.323 network handshake, and to test video continuity from Providence remote campus sites to the ARTN, as well as testing of MCU-to-MCU communications between the ARTN Tandberg systems and the Providence Alaska region's new Polycom system.

## **ARTN and Radiology Associates PC Install McKesson PACs at ARTN Core in Anchorage**

The ARTN management team worked with a professional installer from McKesson in late December to install a full-blown McKesson Horizon Medical Imaging PACs at the ARTN core network node. The McKesson installer and PACs system components were provided by Radiology Associates, PC ([www.rapc.com](http://www.rapc.com)) as part of a move toward a strategic partnership between the ARTN and RAPC. Members of both organizations are very excited about the possibilities and performance options that this new installation will offer to the ARTN membership.

"RAPC has been involved with the ARTN effort, and many of its members, for over 5 years now and are glad to see all of the planning and efforts come to fruition," said BJ Hendricks, Director of IT and Business Development for RAPC. "RAPC is excited about the future of better patient care in rural Alaska and we look to continue our part in achieving that goal. RAPC has installed a server in Anchorage, at the ARTN core, to begin full testing of the ARTN WAN to determine the best process for providing full PACS services to our ARTN clients," Hendricks continued, "and we'll begin transitioning our Alaskan Clients to our McKesson PACS after the New Year to allow time for extensive testing of our system on the ARTN Wide-Area-Network. RAPC owns a McKesson Horizon Medical Imaging PACS (v11) which has consistently scored very well on the KLAS report, usually 1 or 2. We offer this *Enterprise Class PACS* to our clients at a *mini-PACS Class* rate, on a per study basis."

RAPC is the largest group of radiologists in the state of Alaska and currently provide subspecialty-coverage to Petersburg Medical Center, Sitka Community Hospital, Iliuliuk Family & Health Services, Cross Road Medical Center, Valley Medical Care, Oonalaska Wellness Center, Providence Kodiak Island Medical Center and Bartlett Regional Hospital. RAPC also provides professional services to several large medical centers, hospital and clinics in Oregon.



## Digital Radiography Rollout

Site	Install Status	Issues Hindering Full Operations
Cross Road	Completed	System in place and transmitting images; connectivity to Radiology Associates complete; RAPC work station install pending
Providence Kodiak	Nearly Complete	With the exception of some remaining monitors, carts, and software, the majority of both the Fuji and ADI equipment has either be delivered or is on its way. All equipment except the 5MP monitors and the Fuji Mammo Workstation is installed, operational, and in use. Fuji and ADI will be onsite to do the Mammo install on January 7, 2008.
Providence Seward	Completed	All equipment order is onsite and installed, and presently in use.
Providence Valdez	Not Complete	All equipment is on site, installed and operational but not yet in use, except for the Digitizer and CD Burner which are already in use at this time. Valdez staff have Fuji application training scheduled for January 15 & 16, 2008, after which time it will all be in use.
Sitka Community	Not Complete	All equipment ordered through ADI has been delivered or, like Kodiak's 5MP monitors, is on its way. Fuji equipment has not shipped, nor has install been scheduled. Due to the fact that the equipment is mammo-capable, it has been delayed. At this point, delivery of the Fuji equipment is set for the first week of March.
Petersburg	Not Complete	Similar to Sitka, all of the equipment ordered through ADI has been delivered except the 5MP monitors which are on their way. The Fuji equipment has not shipped yet, nor has install been scheduled. As with Sitka, mammo-capable equipment has somewhat delayed the install. The first week in March is also the Petersburg delivery time.
Wrangell	Not Complete	Similar to Sitka and Petersburg, all of the equipment ordered through ADI has been delivered, with the 5MP monitors on their way. The Fuji equipment has not shipped yet, nor has an install been scheduled. However, it the Fuji equipment is due to be shipped next week.
Cordova	N/A	Equipment to be ordered in January, 2008