

The Information Station

AEL/SEL Category 04AP-09-ALRT



Introduced by the Federal Communications Commission in 1977 as a Travelers' Information Station (TIS), the Information Station is now the most installed system of its kind in the United States, with more than a thousand stations licensed to date. Its popularity stems from its versatility and affordability in a package that makes installation and operation simple and seamless.

Today government agencies broadcast information to the public about emergencies, public health, airport security and border control – in addition to conventional traffic, travel and visitor information content.

Two models are available to meet your needs – IP and USB. Information Station Specialists is the sole provider of the Information Station in the United States and offers 24/7 remote technical support for the life of the product.

Two Stations . . .

IP Edition

Manage the broadcast program via an network or locally using the station's front-panel controls. In an emergency, message files can be loaded physically via SD card with a USB adapter. The Information Station IP affords full 5000 Hz audio quality plus the convenience of a network-accessible message library.

USB Edition

Update the broadcast program from a simple flash drive through the station's USB port. The USB Edition of the Information Station combines high quality 5000 Hz bandwidth with the convenience and flexibility of flash drive control. The length of the program is only limited by the flash drive size, so virtually any length and number of messages is feasible.

For both editions, we provide audio creation software to allow you to create, edit and process natural voice messages for broadcast. Archive the messages on the PC, laptop or device of your choice for quick call-up. Our Hybrid Package option allows for both IP and USB methodologies, providing additional convenience and redundancy plus the addition of a program mixer for live mic / live feed applications.

Who Operates Information Stations

Federal, state and local governmental entities can license Information Stations to broadcast noncommercial voice programming related to travel, public safety, visitor / tourism historical/interpretive or emergencies. The primary audience? Motorists in a 3-5-mile radius area.

Operators commonly include...

- **Federal, State & Local Agencies** e.g., cities and counties use Information Stations for public affairs, public health and emergency management.
- **Recreation Areas & Historic Sites** commonly uses these systems for visitors. The National Park Service is among the first proponents of Information Station technology and is the largest nationwide user of these systems for orientation and interpretive applications.
- **Points of Entry** (airports, border protection, ports).
- **Universities & Colleges** for parking, security and venue information.

Vail, CO, Police Department operates two Information Stations, controlling broadcasts from a PC.



Operator Jennifer Kirkland

Frequency and Licensing

The FCC grants to government entities licenses on available AM frequencies on a first-come-first-served basis, secondary to commercial broadcast stations. In 1991, the Commission opened to Information Stations all frequencies in the 530-1700 band, subject to separation requirements. Information Station Specialists can help identify the optimal frequency at your location and will apply for your station's FCC license.

Antenna Styles

The most common formats are . . .

Yard Style: The Information Station may be installed at a building with the electronics securely indoors and the antenna pole and groundplane located in the adjacent yard, connected by a coaxial cable. This style is a recommended first choice because it is most economical and affords the greatest security for equipment. We recommend a 50' separation from buildings. We can provide the mounting pole for yard areas with limited room grounding.

Roof Style (flat): If no earth surface location is available, a flat building roof may be your best choice for antenna installation. We can provide an installation package that requires no roof penetration.

Isolated Style: At remote locations where there is no building, a weatherproof cabinet containing the electronics is attached to the antenna support pole. The location must have electrical power and, if equipment is to be remotely controlled, telephone or network service.

Equipment Array

An Information Station can be installed by the buyer, his agent or as a service of Information Station Specialists. Included in the package is the FCC type-accepted transmitter, digital message system with audio recording software, electronics cabinets, antenna system with preassembled groundplane, lightning arrestors, cables, connectors, mounts, hardware, illustrated instructions and an array of services that include system planning, engineering and 24 / 7 remote technical support for the life of the station.

Options

- **Vertical Profile Antenna Support and Grounding System** allows the antenna system to be located in tight spaces – the yard of a building, for example – with the station’s electronics inside the building for security. No horizontal groundplane is required. Is compliant with hurricane wind standards for shoreline and critical installations.
- **Headphones & Mic** for recording or live broadcasting.
- **Hybrid Package** for both USB and network-based audio control.
- **Signal Measurement Radio Receiver** that allows you to measure the Information Station’s signal intensity and verify compliance with FCC signal limits.
- **Cell Modem** for remote system control, when a wired network is not available.
- **Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)** – 2 hour backup for momentary power interruption or when generator starts in a power outage. Extended runtime available.
- **Outdoor Electronics Enclosure** of weatherproof, gasketed, NEMA4 steel construction. It is pole or wall mountable (includes wood pole mount). Can be used indoors or outdoors. Its back panel has wiring harness, local test phone. Includes AC-terminal block and power-surge arrestor. Pad-lockable design.
- **Broadcast Quality Audio Processor** for increased audio quality, intelligibility and range.
- **StreamCAST Network Audio Interface** allows streaming of the broadcast program directly to smartphones, tablets, laptops and PCs. Listeners gain access to the stream by merely scanning a QR tag or by clicking a unique link on your (or a special HearMoreInfo) website.
- **Message Recording Services.**
- **Flashing ALERT Signs** with remote-controlled flashing beacons may be installed to notify motorists of the station’s signal at key locations along streets.



Details about the above options are available on the [Information Station specifications webpage](#).

Complete Package



As you would expect, Information Station Specialists provides a full menu of technical services to help you put and keep your Information Station on the air. We will help plan and implement your station, including frequency and site selection, FCC licensing, installation, staff training and the FCC-required field survey and documentation.

Even professionally recorded audio messages can be provided, so your broadcast is ready to place on the air as soon as the station is turned on.

Best of all, each system comes with remote technical support and potential interference notification service for the life of the product.

Purchase Methods

Grants

Many of the solutions we offer are eligible for FEMA grants. We have an Approved Equipment List (AEL) number prominently displayed on the title of this brochure to plug into grant requests.

Credit Cards

For purchases under \$2,000, you may use MasterCard and VISA credit cards for free. We pass along MasterCard's 2% surcharge and VISA's 3% surcharge if your purchase is over \$2,000. We do not accept Discover, American Express and other credit card payments at this time. If you prefer PayPal, let us know. We can send you a PayPal invoice.

Competitive Bids

For sole source procurement, we can supply documentation showing that our solutions are not offered by other providers. Though our products are exclusive, if you are unable to purchase them on a sole-source basis and must seek competitive bids, we can offer bid specifications to match your needs for you to use in Requests for Proposal (RFPs).

Purchase Orders

Purchases by governmental entities may be made by purchase order, agency order on letterhead, VISA/MC or simply by signing and returning our quote sheets. Standard terms are Net 30 days.

Rentals and Lease-to-Own Arrangements

If you only need a radio system for an event or an emergency or would like to test one, you may rent one of our [EventCAST](#) Radio Stations. Many of our systems can be purchased on a lease-to-own basis. Inquire.