

# 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 Classic. 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 . . .

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### **Information Station IP™**

Manage the broadcast program via an Ethernet network or by the station's USB port. The Information Station IP affords full 5000 Hz audio quality plus the convenience of a network-accessible message library. Optional software is available to create natural or text-to-speech messages, then edit, process and place them in playlists for immediate broadcast.

### **Information Station Classic™**

Update the broadcast program remotely by telephone or a two-way radio transceiver, locally by microphone. The Classic Information Station affords a 5000 Hz bandwidth also and allows you to create up to 1,000 messages and 250 message playlists for convenient retrieval. 3 hours of recording time are available. Choose which messages to broadcast and which to store for future use.

Hybrid systems with the characteristics of both versions are available. Associated services and special options for both Information Stations are detailed on the next page.

## Who Operates Information Stations

Federal, state and local governmental entities (see examples below) can license Information Stations to broadcast noncommercial voice programming related to travel, public safety, visitor/tourism historical/interpretive or emergencies. Learn more on our [Permitted Broadcast Content webpage](#) under Resources at our website [theRADIOsource.com](http://theRADIOsource.com). The primary audience? Motorists in a 3-5-mile radius area.

### Operators commonly include...

- **Municipalities** (cities, counties, townships, boroughs, towns and villages) departments of public safety, emergency management and public health.
- **Points of entry** (airports, border protection, ports).
- **Outdoor recreation areas**, *e.g.*, national and state parks, forests, recreation areas and historic sites.
- **Universities and colleges.**
- **Government agencies** (federal and state) departments of transportation, bridge authorities, emergency management and public health.

The National Park Service is among the first proponents of Information Station technology and is the largest nationwide user of these systems for visitor information, orientation and interpretive applications. Listen to what interpreters across the country say about how and why they operate Information Stations. Request a free program on CD produced by Oregon State University. Just email your name and postal address to [info@theRADIOsource.com](mailto:info@theRADIOsource.com). (Please mention the title *Making Waves*.)

## Frequency and Licensing

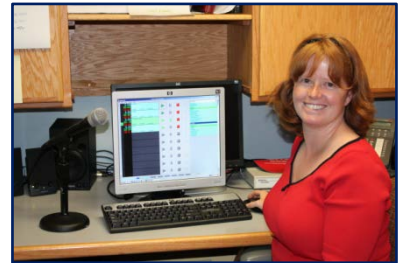
The FCC grants to government entities licenses on available AM frequencies on a first-come-first-served basis, secondary to full power broadcast stations. In 1991, the Commission opened to Information Stations all frequencies in the 530-1700 band, subject to separation requirements. Information Station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

## Antenna Styles

The two most common formats:

1. **Yard Style:** The Information Station may be installed at a building with the electronics securely indoors and the antenna pole mounted in the adjacent yard, connected by an underground cable. This style is recommended because it is most economical and affords the greatest security for equipment. A 50' separation from buildings is recommended.

*Vail, CO, Police Department operates two Information Stations, controlling broadcasts from a PC ( Workstation Audio Control option).*



**Operator Jennifer Kirkland**

- 2. 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, two-way or network service.

If a yard- or isolated-style installation is not possible, a custom installation on a building roof is possible in some instances. Lateral separation of the antenna from large, nearby objects by at least the height of the object is suggested to prevent signal degradation.

## 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, cabinets, antenna, factory-assembled groundplane, lightning arrestors, cables, connectors, mounts, hardware and illustrated instructions.

## Options

- **Flashing ALERT Signs™** with remote-controlled flashing beacons may be installed to notify motorists of the station's signal at key locations along streets.
- **VP9000™ Vertical Profile Antenna 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. VP9000 is compliant with hurricane wind standards for shoreline and critical installations.
- **2X Signal Booster™** offers up to double the efficiency/range of a high band (1610-1700) station's antenna, allowing the transmitter to run at less wattage or allowing the signal to have up to twice the intensity (recommended for federal agencies and for operators in challenging environments who require maximum signal intensity to cut through dense foliage and obstructions.
- **Workstation Audio Control™** may be optioned for the Information Station Classic to provide onscreen PC-based program control.
- **StreamCasts<sup>SM</sup>** This 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<sup>SM</sup>) website..
- **Signal Measurement Radio Receiver™** allows you to measure the Information Station's signal intensity and verify compliance with FCC signal limits.
- **ENcast™** automatically converts text-based alerts from your compliant emergency notification system into voice audio and interrupts the standard program to broadcast them over the Information Station.
- **Cell Modem** for remote system control, when a wired network is not available.
- **Message Recording Services** at <http://www.theradiosource.com/services/recording.htm>



Details about the above options are available on [the Information Station Specifications webpage](http://www.theradiosource.com/specifications) at [www.theradiosource.com](http://www.theradiosource.com).

## 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](#).

The Information Station may be purchased "sole source," or specifications can be provided for agency bid procurements. Lease-to-own terms are also available. [Inquire for details](#).

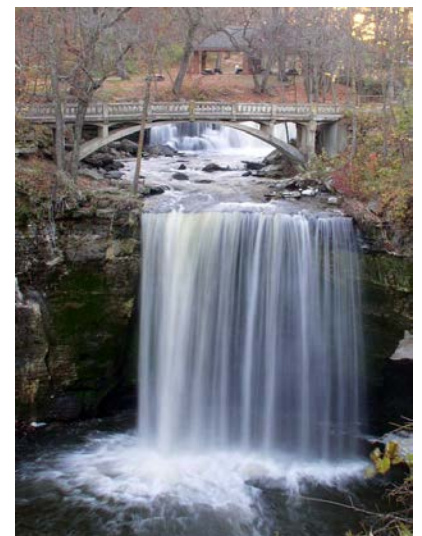
Your information; your station; our dedication.

***Travelers'  
Information  
Station Antenna  
at Entrance to  
Arches National  
Park, Utah***



***"The signal quality is  
amazing, far better  
than I thought, with  
no static. I am very  
pleased. ....thank  
you, this is an  
amazing tool!"***

***Alexander Watson  
Minneopa State Park  
Minnesota***



***Photo by McGhievers***

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PO Box 51, Zeeland, MI USA 49464-0051 • Phone 616.772.2300, Fax 2966

Email [info@theRADIOsource.com](mailto:info@theRADIOsource.com)

Web [theRADIOsource.com](http://theRADIOsource.com)