

NEBRASKA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

Project Proposal - Summary Sheet
Biennial Budget FY2009-2011

Project #09-02
Page 1 of 5

Project #	Agency	Project Title
09-02	Secretary of State	NECVRS Hardware Replacement

SUMMARY OF REQUEST (Executive Summary from the Proposal)

[Full text of all proposals are posted here: <http://nitc.ne.gov/nitc/documents/fy2009-11/index.html>]

The Help America Vote Act of 2002, Public Law 107-252, 42 U.S.C. 15301-15545 (“HAVA”) following passage by the U.S. Congress was signed into law by the President of the United States George Bush on October 29, 2002. This legislation marked a significant step toward major change in our election systems nationwide. The State of Nebraska successfully implemented the Nebraska Central Voter Registration System (NECVRS) in 2005. This IT Project is for the replacement of server hardware for the NECVRS.

Section 303 of HAVA describes the requirements for a statewide interactive voter registration database. Among the requirements are that the system utilize driver's license numbers and the last four digits of the social security number or in the alternative assign a unique identifier. Other requirements include coordination with other state agency databases and list maintenance procedures as outlined in the National Voter Registration Act. The State of Nebraska received \$18.8 million dollars from the Federal Government to implement all of the changes within HAVA (Voter Outreach and Education, Vote Tabulation Equipment for all 93 counties and a centralized Voter Registration System). \$4.1 million dollars was awarded to Election Systems and Software after a lengthy RFP process in July of 2004 for the Voter Registration System. The server hardware for the NECVRS was purchased in October of 2004 in preparation for all 93 counties' migration. The Nebraska Central Voter Registration System (NECVRS) was completed on November 22, 2005. Server warranties will run out on all 31 servers of the NECVRS on October of 2009.

FUNDING SUMMARY

	Total	Prior Exp	FY09 Appr/Reappr	FY10 Request	FY11 Request	Future Add Request
Capital Expenditures						
Hardware	\$320,000			320,000		
Software	\$0					
Network	\$0					
Other	\$0					
Total	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$0	\$0
Total Request	\$320,000	\$0	\$0	\$320,000	\$0	\$0

PROJECT SCORE

Section	Reviewer 1	Reviewer 2	Reviewer 3	Mean	Maximum Possible
Goals, Objectives, and Projected Outcomes	12	5	12	9.7	15
Project Justification / Business Case	22	15	20	19.0	25
Technical Impact	20	5	15	13.3	20
Preliminary Plan for Implementation	10	3	10	7.7	10
Risk Assessment	10	0	10	6.7	10
Financial Analysis and Budget	18	5	16	13.0	20
TOTAL				69	100

REVIEWER COMMENTS

Section	Strengths	Weaknesses
Goals, Objectives, and Projected Outcomes	- The goal is rather straightforward and obvious, that being the replacement of 31 servers that were purchased in 2004. Not sure, based on the documentation, if these 31 servers are located in one location or placed around the state.	- Possible use of virtualization in an effort to reduce the number of servers required? - Objective unclear - Have alternatives to replacing all 31 servers been researched? Is server consolidation or virtualization feasible?
Project Justification / Business Case	- Justification appears sound.	- This is a long-term project that should be budgeted into the biennial budget. It should not be considered a one-time project. - Mandate is clear but approach details are not clear
Technical Impact	- In that this is basically a hardware upgrade does not appear to be any technical concerns. - Submitter recognizes need for technology refresh.	- Consideration should be given to using State facilities and using State resources to manage the equipment. - Other approaches to simply replacing existing hardware should be explored
Preliminary Plan for Implementation	- Implementation should be straightforward	- There is no plan to evaluate deliverables and implementation timelines are not definitive. No on-going support requirements listed.
Risk Assessment	- Do not see any significant risks for this project	- Has not taken election risk assessment into consideration by establishing a schedule to avoid these dates. Have not documented repercussions of implementation or lack of implementation and no alternative fallback plan identified.
Financial Analysis and Budget	- Not knowing the size and scope of the server configurations it's hard to state unequivocally that the price quoted is appropriate.	- Changes in software licensing may in fact cause an increase in software licensing costs due to dual or quad core capabilities - After six years, this should be a part of the Agency's budget and not considered a one-time request. Were alternative methods of funding considered? Options to reduce costs should be evaluated including the use of the State's facilities and resources. - Are any federal funds available between now and 2010 to help fund this project?

TECHNICAL PANEL COMMENTS

Technical Panel Checklist				Technical Panel Comment
	Yes	No	Unknown	
1. The project is technically feasible?	✓			
2. The proposed technology is appropriate for the project?	✓			
3. The technical elements can be accomplished within the proposed timeframe and budget?	✓			

- This is a regular course of business hardware replacement.

NITC COMMENTS

- Tier 2 (Recommended. High strategic importance to the agency and/or the state.)

APPENDIX: AGENCY RESPONSE TO REVIEWER COMMENTS



STATE OF NEBRASKA

JOHN A. GALE
SECRETARY OF STATE**P.O. Box 94608**
State Capitol, Suite 2300
Lincoln, NE 68509-4608
Phone 402-471-2554
Fax 402-471-3237
www.sos.state.ne.us

November 3, 2008

Lt. Governor Rich Sheehy
Chair, Nebraska Information Technology Commission
P.O. Box 94863
Lincoln, NE 68509

Chairman Sheehy & NITC Members,

I am pleased to present my agency's responses to the IT Project Proposals that we submitted on September 15, 2008. My agency's responses were made after the reviewers published their assessments at the State Government Council on October 9, 2008. An explanation for each project is written below and also in the following pages for the NITC's review.

As Secretary of State, one of my duties is to serve as Nebraska's Chief Election Officer. It is in that role, I instructed my staff to research alternatives for our aging Election Night Reporting System and for replacement of server hardware for the Nebraska Central Voter Registration System (NECVRS).

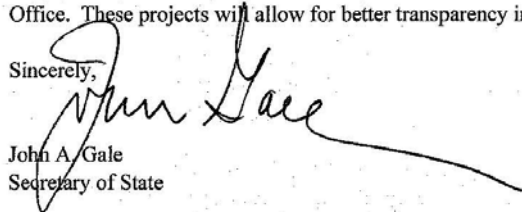
- IT Project Proposal 09-01 (Election Night Reporting) will enable my office to have more transparency by presenting election nights results in several data formats to the public and media.
- IT Project Proposal 09-02 (NECVRS Hardware Replacement) will allow my office to carry on the federal mandate of maintaining Nebraska's centralized voter registration system in accordance with the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-252).

I also serve as the State Records Administrator under Nebraska Statute §84-1203. The introduction of the Nebraska Unified Collaboration Project under the management of the Office of CIO has provided the ability to communicate and collaborate in a more efficient manner across all state government. While state agencies manage the paper and film records very well, the ability for agencies to properly manage their electronic records is not yet present. Therefore, I ordered my Records Management Division staff to research electronic records management vendors with the cooperation of the Office of CIO.

- IT Project Proposal 09-03 (Enterprise Content Management) would be a phased approach to allow State Agencies to retain, index, manage and dispose of email records according to Schedule 124 (General Records) or Agency specific schedules. Other phases would include structured and unstructured electronic records.

I appreciate your careful review and consideration of these projects for the Secretary of State's Office. These projects will allow for better transparency in state government for years to come.

Sincerely,


John A. Gale
Secretary of State

09-02 – NECVRS Hardware Replacement – Agency Response**Goals, Objectives and Projected Outcomes**

Strengths - The goal is rather straightforward and obvious, that being the replacement of 31 servers that were purchased in 2004. Not sure, based on the documentation, if these 31 servers are located in one location or placed around the state

Weaknesses - Possible use of virtualization in an effort to reduce the number of servers required? Objective unclear; have alternatives to replacing all 31 servers been researched? Is server consolidation or virtualization feasible?

Agency response – The NECVRS utilizes virtualization for the testing environment before new functions/new software is implemented into production. We will begin conversations with our vendor ES&S in early 2009 to discuss the server migration issues. Certainly, the Secretary of State's Office will utilize acceptable technologies to implement new servers for the NECVRS.

Project Justification / Business Case

Strengths - Justification appears sound.

Weaknesses - This is a long-term project that should be budgeted into the biennial budget. It should not be considered a one-time project. Mandate is clear but approach details are not clear.

Agency response – The current NECVRS environment was purchased in 2004 using Federal funds provided to the State under the HAVA of 2002. With those federal funds being exhausted in 2010, the Secretary of State is asking for general fund dollars to refresh the server hardware for the NECVRS. The SOS and ES&S have not started composing the migration plan for 2009 because of the current 2008 election cycle.

Technical Impact

Strengths - In that this is basically a hardware upgrade does not appear to be any technical concerns. Submitter recognizes need for technology refresh.

Weaknesses - Consideration should be given to using State facilities and using State resources to manage the equipment. Other approaches to simply replacing existing hardware should be explored.

Agency response - Consideration was performed in 2004 and in 2005; Vendors were asked to provide cost and support proposals. Ultimately, the State chose to have ES&S provide a turnkey approach to supporting the Nebraska Central Voter Registration System in Omaha and Bellevue NE. From a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery viewpoint, having the NECVRS located in a hardened facility with multiple telecoms, multiple power sources, its proximity away from Lincoln and its proximity to ES&S were all factors in using ES&S to host the NECVRS. The Secretary of State is mandated by Federal Law to create and maintain a statewide voter registration system. With the solution model chosen by the State and provided by ES&S, replacement of hardware will become a part of the budget process every 5 to 6 years. As our vendor comes up with new functionality and versions, the Secretary of State will carefully evaluate such functionality/versions for implementation.

Preliminary Plan for Implementation

Strengths - Implementation should be straight forward

Weaknesses - There is no plan to evaluate deliverables and implementation timelines are not definitive. No on-going support requirements listed.

Agency response – Deliverables and implementation timelines are not yet defined. Contractually, ES&S supports this environment for the State of Nebraska. CoSentry Tiers 1 and 2 support the software; while (ES&S) Tiers 3 and 4 support the software and hardware.

Risk Assessment

Strengths - Do not see any significant risks for this project

Weaknesses - Has not taken election risk assessment into consideration by establishing a schedule to avoid these dates. Have not documented repercussions of implementation or lack of implementation and no alternative fallback plan identified.

Agency response - To the contrary, county elections have been taken into account. The detailed IT Project Proposal states that "The State will coordinate with all 93 on any special elections and/or city elections during the transition period. Server hardware could be brought up side by side along old hardware and finally transitioned server by server to minimize risk." The old hardware will remain in place, until the full migration has been completed. Hardware would then be moved back to Lincoln.

Financial Analysis and Budget

Strengths - Not knowing the size and scope of the server configurations it's hard to state unequivocally that the price quoted is appropriate.

Weaknesses - Changes in software licensing may in fact cause an increase in software licensing costs due to dual or quad core capabilities.

Agency response - This is a very good point. The SOS and ES&S will be looking at these kinds of questions after the 2008 Election. Moving to Window Server 2008 AD and utilizing Microsoft HyperV will also be huge topics in our discussions with ES&S.