



# IRIS INSIGHT

IRIS - Providing Insight to Alaskans

July 2013

## FAQs

### 1. How will ALDER 2.0 be different from ALDER 1.0?

ALDER 1.0 and ALDER 2.0 are separate data warehouses and separate reporting environments, but the look and feel will be the same. Reports in ALDER 1.0 will be accessible, but the information will be static and only available for historical purposes. Reports relating to IRIS will be accessible in ALDER 2.0.

Since ALDER 1.0 and 2.0 use different reference data, users will not be able to do direct comparison reports between the two versions of ALDER.

### 2. Since IRIS goes live in July 2014, during re-appropriation, the auditors will be working in two fiscal years. Will they be able to pull from both ALDER 1.0 and ALDER 2.0 during re-appropriation?

Yes, auditors will be able to pull from both versions of ALDER during re-appropriation. The SY2014 financials will be closed in AKSAS, and this data will be available in ALDER 1.0. IRIS data will not be available in ALDER 1.0 because the chart of account elements will be different. SY2015 activity will be entered in IRIS. The IRIS data will then be available in ALDER 2.0, and balances will be rolled into IRIS once the CAFR is finalized for SY2014.

For more FAQs visit:

<http://doa.alaska.gov/dof/iris/faq.html>.

## Project Status Update

The Finance and Procurement Teams are working on configuring reference tables for IRIS. Reference table configuration encompasses the setup of both system-wide reference tables, as well as those specific to a particular business function. The first steps involve establishing overall default options, controls and Chart of Account values. Then specific business functions such as General Accounting, Budgets, Procurement, Accounts Payable, Fixed Assets and Cost Accounting are configured.

There are many dependencies, within as well as across each business function, so when the configured reference tables are ready to be loaded into the system, they must be loaded in a specific order for the tables to work. Once all of the reference data has been loaded, the IRIS Team will begin testing the system. This fall, the team will conduct Integrated System Testing (IST) followed by User Acceptance Testing (UAT) early next year. IST and UAT will ensure the data that was loaded is working correctly and also give us an opportunity to identify and address any issues well in advance of Go Live.

## Looking Ahead: A Quick Look at Upcoming Activities

- **Training Plan** - The IRIS Team is analyzing the data they received from departments through the Training Needs Assessment. This information will be used to devise the best way to deliver training with minimal cost and impact to departments' regular work.
- **Outreach Activities Planned for Fall 2013**
  - **Go Plan Outreach 2** - The IRIS Team will conduct the second of three departmental outreaches to discuss the next phase of activities for the IRIS Project.
  - **Go Shows** - End users will have an opportunity to see the IRIS system and get a sense of how some of the processes work in IRIS. Go Shows are planned to occur in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau in October.
  - **Statewide Outreach** - Since IRIS is a statewide effort, the IRIS Team feels it is important to keep all SOA employees informed about IRIS, even if the impact to them may be indirect. We will conduct an outreach effort similar to the one held in April 2013 to share information about IRIS with all employees. Be on the look out for posters, emails and other communications coming this fall!
- **Integrated System Testing (IST)** - IST will begin in October and marks the first round of system testing. IST also signifies a huge milestone for the IRIS Project in preparation for the July 2014 Go Live.

## Translating AKSAS to IRIS

Currently, the State speaks “AKSAS” meaning we understand the way AKSAS works and how it organizes data. However, IRIS has a different way of organizing data. As we prepare to move to IRIS, this information needs to be translated from AKSAS to IRIS. The IRIS Technical team is developing several crosswalk tables to indicate how AKSAS information will translate to IRIS. Since many code structures are being redesigned and IRIS codes do not necessarily have AKSAS equivalents, departments have an opportunity to rethink their approach to coding.

The crosswalk tables will cover both centralized and decentralized (department-specific) data, and will be flexible enough to accommodate the use of different subsets of IRIS Chart of Accounts (COA) elements by departments. Security controls will be put into the crosswalk tables so that departments can only modify their own data in IRIS.

Five crosswalk tables are needed to translate the AKSAS codes into fields in IRIS. The crosswalk tables are:

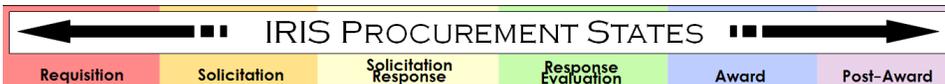
- AKSAS Centralized Account Code Crosswalk
- AKSAS Decentralized Account Code Crosswalk
- AKSAS Collocation Code Crosswalk
- AKSAS External Program/ Ledger Code Crosswalk
- AKSAS Vendor Number Crosswalk

These tables will be used until implementation of the IRIS HR & Payroll module (replacement for AKPAY) is complete, which is scheduled for January 2016.

## The “United States” of IRIS

As we approach the July 1, 2014 Go Live date, we want to help you understand the procurement process in IRIS. The first step is to learn the new terminology.

**States** As described during the prototyping sessions, the IRIS procurement function is comprised of six phases, also known as “states.” In order of how they happen these are: Requisition, Solicitation, Solicitation Response, Response Evaluation, Award, and Post-Award. Each “state” determines in what order things need to happen, what actions can be taken, and which documents are used.



**Milestones** Additionally, each procurement “state” may have milestones established that help guide you through the process. Example milestones include Review Requirements, Protest Period Complete, Add Terms and Conditions, and Assess Written Determinations. Each milestone may also have an assigned duration, providing an estimate of days to completion. This allows for easier, more accurate management of workloads. The completion of a procurement state is tied to completion of the associated milestones.

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT:

This month we are featuring Laura Edfelt and Roger Baines of the IRIS Finance Team.



**Meet Laura Edfelt:** Alaska has always been my home and I truly love it here. I was raised in Kodiak and then moved to Juneau as a small child. Over the last 30 years, I’ve spent time back and forth between Juneau and Petersburg. I began working for the State in 1987. I have served in the Departments of Health and Social Services, Community and Regional Affairs, Labor and Workforce Development, Fish and Game, and now Administration. I have served in varied capacities: Personnel support, general administration, and the largest span of time in the accounting world. As part of the IRIS Team, I am excited to be serving as the liaison for the Departments of Labor and Law and helping the State move forward technologically. My hobbies include fishing (still waiting for the monster King during derby), softball, score-keeping for little league, crocheting, and spending time with family.

### Meet Roger Baines:



I was born and raised in Juneau and started working for the State in 1991. I worked for the Departments of Natural Resources, Administration and Health and Social Services before joining the IRIS Project. I have held many jobs throughout my 22 years with the State, mostly working in the accounting field. I also studied accounting at UAS. I wanted to be part of the IRIS Project since I first heard about it and am very excited to join the Financial Team. In my spare time, I enjoy the outdoors by fishing, hunting, and spending time with family at our South Douglas property.