



IRIS INSIGHT

IRIS - Providing Insight to Alaskans

November 2012

FAQs

What is IRIS?

IRIS stands for **I**ntegrated **R**esource **I**nformation **S**ystem, a technology platform that supports an integrated administrative system. IRIS consists of three software solutions, CGI Advantage, Meridian Global (aka LearnAlaska), and SymPro Debt Manager. These software solutions will replace aging AKSAS and AKPAY systems, add functionality for integrated procurement, debt management, HR functions, and learning management.

Why replace AKSAS and AKPAY?

AKSAS is 28 years old (1984) and AKPAY is 22 years old (1990). In technological timeframes, they are antiquated and cannot be integrated with many of the SOA's newer systems. The absence of integration creates challenges for real-time reporting, strategically viewing SOA's operations, and inhibits informed business decision-making.

How will IRIS impact me?

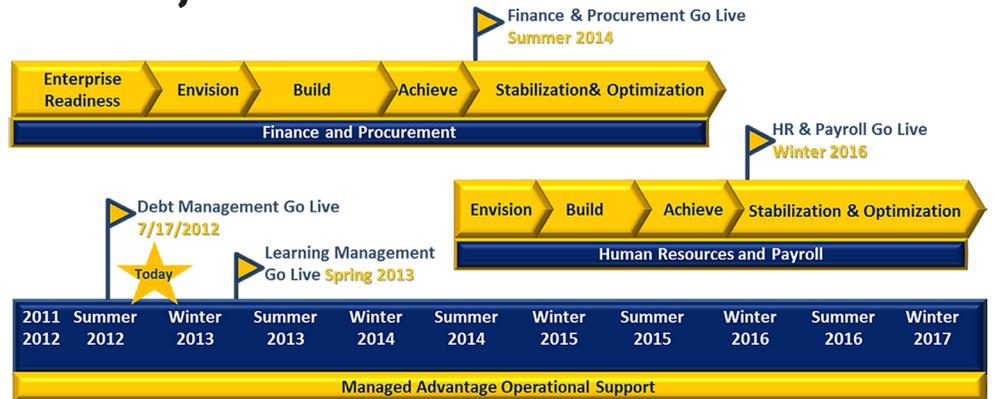
IRIS will streamline current work processes and improve the sharing of and access to information necessary to make informed decisions, to increase transparency and accountability, and to complete your everyday tasks. A learning curve is expected when SOA employees switch from using AKSAS and AKPAY to using IRIS or switch from tracking procurements by spreadsheet to using IRIS. All SOA employees who are expected to use the new system will receive preparation and training in advance of using IRIS for day-to-day work. The IRIS Project Team is dedicated to supporting departments and employees through this transition.

For more FAQs visit:

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

Welcome to the first edition of the IRIS Project's newsletter. This publication will be used to communicate important project information and updates.

IRIS Project Timeline



IRIS is in the Envision phase of the Financial and Procurement software implementation.

Project Updates

First IRIS Module is Live!

On July 17th, the first IRIS module went live! The IRIS Debt Management System allows the State of Alaska to comprehensively manage and administer its debt program. This technology includes management for debt issues, issuance costs, summary reporting on interest and principal payments, outstanding debt balances, and variable rate interest calculations as well as the ability to interface with enterprise-wide cash flow reporting. State of Alaska Debt Manager Deven Mitchell shared, "This is a great enhancement to the State's computing capabilities and to our ability to monitor, maintain and analyze the debt of the State of Alaska."

State Subject Matter Experts attend CGI Annual Forum

In October the SOA sent members from the Alaska Procurement Officers Group (APOG), State Finance Officers Association (SFOA) and the IRIS Project Team to the annual CGI Advantage user group meeting to learn about the IRIS software and network with other state and local governments who use Advantage. Attendees agreed the opportunity to connect with other Advantage users was beneficial. "Attending the CGI Annual Forum was eye-opening because the State has the goal of implementing an enterprise wide-system. It gave me the vision and knowledge of how to get us to successful implementation of the IRIS Project. It will be a journey with constant winding roads, but it will lead us to a better, more transparent state government." - June Gotschall, DOT&PF Accountant V, responsible for operational finances.

What's Happening Now?

Fit Gap Analysis



Having completed 45 prototyping sessions including 25 financial, 17 procurement and 7 joint sessions, the IRIS Project Team has started its Fit-Gap analysis to determine to what degree the IRIS starting model satisfies requirements. During Fit-Gap analysis, the team assesses the SOA requirements against what was demonstrated during the prototyping sessions. Those requirements that were clearly demonstrated are noted as “Fits” while those requirements that IRIS will not accommodate are noted as “Gaps.” The team will focus on mitigation strategies for the Gaps, including recommendations for customizations, conversions, enhancements, business process reengineering, interface, or other (knowledge, reports, documentation, set-up, training). This is an important component of the process to building IRIS and the team may need to reach back to department Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) as-needed.

Your Contribution Matters

Having extensive knowledge of State business processes, SMEs are key to the success of the IRIS Project. We cannot say thank you enough for the time, effort and knowledge our SMEs have contributed to this project. Most recently, SMEs (149 of them to be exact) participated in prototyping sessions, which involved reviewing starting models and determining how they need to be adjusted to best support the SOA.

“While the time and commitment level from staff in each department is considerable, the payoff is huge – one integrated system will enable us to streamline our processes, achieve consistency across state agencies, and improve service to our internal customers and the Alaskans we serve. DNR is excited to be an integral part of IRIS development.”
 - Fabienne Peter-Contesse, DNR Admin Operations Manager

Change - Are We Ready?

Changes in government operations, processes and software can present challenges. For this reason, the IRIS Project has formed a Change Management Team to support SOA departments, leaders, and employees through change. In future issues of *IRIS Insight*, we will share helpful information about navigating change, adopting new behaviors, and what you can expect during this transition.

TECHNICAL SPOTLIGHT:

Universal Requestor Catalog Search Page (URCATS)

In IRIS, the URCATS page will provide on-line access to the Division of General Services and Departmental Contracts. IRIS will allow end-users to search across the SOA's predefined sources of supply that are enabled in IRIS. This includes those contracts currently listed on the DGS Contract Award Manual, Departmental contracts, items stored in inventory, purchasing history, and the National Institute of Government Procurement (NIGP) commodity code structure where no pre-defined source of supply exist. Search results are sorted so that the best match is shown at the top of the list. End-users will be able to access detailed information about catalog items including specifications, extended descriptions, and images. Once an item and source has been identified the end-user initiates a request that is routed for approval. After the request has been assessed for need and funding the request automatically generates the appropriate procurement document: Stock Requisition, Delivery Order, Purchase Order, or Standard Requisition and is routed to the identified Vendor.

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: The Steering Committee

Each newsletter will feature different IRIS Project Team Members. In this issue we are highlighting the IRIS Steering Committee. The IRIS Steering Committee provides oversight across all project modules and phases to address project implementation matters, operational policies and procedures, staffing, business process changes, and department readiness matters.

Steering Committee Members

VOTING MEMBERS	
Scot Arehart	DOA
Guy Bell	GOV
Jeanmarie Davis	DNR
Charlie Deininger	DOT&PF
Vern Jones	DOA
Darla Madden	HSS
Nicki Neal	DOA
Cristine O'Sullivan	ADF&G
Chyenne Schmidt	DEC
Patrick Shier	DOA
NON-VOTING MEMBERS	
June Gotschall	DOT&PF
Jo Ellen Hanrahan	DCCED

TERMINOLOGY

With each issue we will share IRIS terminology. For this first round we are highlighting a couple of terms related to project phases:

ENVISON - A collaborative group of IRIS Project Team members and SOA Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) conceptualizes and designs how SOA's business functions will work in IRIS.

BUILD - IRIS is configured to support the identified future state. Interfaces, forms and data conversion components are developed and tested. Business process reengineering mitigations are implemented and end user training materials are created.