

## IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK CONNECTING THE STATE THROUGH FIBER-OPTIC TECHNOLOGY

The lowa Communications Network (ICN) is the country's premier fiber-optic network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing lowans with convenient, equal access to education and government. The Network makes it possible for lowans, physically separated by location, to interact in an efficient, creative, and cost-effective manner. Through partnerships with education, medicine, the judicial system, government agencies, and the National Guard, the Network brings live, full-motion video to over 500 classrooms around lowa, located in schools, National Guard armories, libraries, hospitals, and federal and state government offices.

Adesta constructed a border to border high-speed fiber optic network for the state of lowa. The statewide, state-owned network links all 99 counties in the state. The ICN transformed even the most remote rural schools, libraries, and hospitals into an electronic hub for distance learning, telemedicine, and electronic government. The infrastructure supports a full service communications network and serves as a technology platform for constantly expanding applications.

Users of the ICN include public and private schools, community colleges and technical schools, public and private universities and colleges, federal agencies, state agencies, public libraries, hospitals and medical clinics, and the U.S. Postal System.

The ICN was originally built so students in rural lowa could have the same advantages as students in urban areas. The original design of the network was planned for connection of only 250 education sites. With telemedicine, telejustice, and National Guard training sites added to the plan, the total number of sites continues to increase.

Phase I connected Iowa's three universities and 15 local community colleges, Iowa public television stations, and the state capitol complex. Phase II linked community colleges and universities to

end points, primary high schools, and community college branch campuses in the remaining 84 counties. Phase III connected full motion video sites to public and private school districts, area education agencies, and public libraries throughout lowa.

## **ADESTA**

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