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Achieving Greater Accountability,  
Cost Savings and Transparency

July 14, 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 6

## CMS Wins National Honors for “Herculean” IT Project

Illinois recently joined an elite group of IT professional organizations when it achieved Laureate Medal status in the national Computerworld Honors Program. The honor was accorded to the Department of Central Management Services for its success in maximizing the efficiency and capability of the State’s telecommunications network.

In 2005, the State of Illinois completed the Herculean task of migrating 1,600 mission-critical data circuits to its upgraded communications backbone to provide superior service and new applications to dozens of State agencies, improve the productivity of the State’s 57,000 employees, and save Illinois taxpayers over \$7 million annually.

Before the completion of “Project Hercules,” State agencies routinely leased expensive private circuits to carry mission-critical data – including police reports, unemployment data, prisoner tracking, traffic and road safety conditions, and lottery results – with little coordination or centralization. CMS saw and seized an opportunity to consolidate all that crucial traffic onto one core backbone, the State-owned Illinois Century Network (ICN).

The upgraded, high-speed network now carries all the data traffic that the State needs to operate on a daily basis, and also provides Internet access, email services, videoconferencing and other vital applications to more than 2 million citizens at nearly 8,000 constituent customers including schools, libraries, and hospitals across Illinois.

The State of Illinois has joined an elite group of professionals in the history of IT with this honor," a Computerworld Honors program representative said. Furthermore, key learnings from Project Hercules will become "part of the Global Program Archives on six continents and will be included in the permanent research collections of over 250 distinguished national archives, museums and institutions of higher learning.

"Each year, the Computerworld Honors Program seeks to recognize organizations, from a variety of sectors, for their ongoing efforts to utilize technology in order to benefit society," said Bob Carrigan, Chairman of the Computerworld Honors Program Chairmen's Committee and President, IDG Communications. "Each laureate selected for this honor understands the importance of using one's resources and technical prowess to benefit one's fellow man."



Tony Daniels, CMS Deputy Director of the Bureau of Communication and Computer Services (right), received the Computerworld Honors Program Laureate medal in Washington, D.C., from Bob Carrigan, President of IDG Communications.

