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WAPA has selected a new vendor to provide supervisory control and data acquisition and energy management system, or SCADA/EMS, software to all of WAPA's regions.

The vendor – Open Systems International—offers Monarch, a state-of-the-art open system architecture designed for portability and available on various high-performance hardware and operating system platforms. OSI has nearly 120 transmission EMS deployed worldwide while developing all of its software in the U.S. with an U.S.-based workforce.

This selection comes after a year and half of evaluation and procurement negotiations to provide a commercial-off-the-shelf SCADA/EMS platform to implement WAPA-wide. With the new common platform, WAPA's control centers will be able to partner with each other and learn from each other in ways that were not previously possible.

Currently, WAPA has three separate SCADA systems, each with primary and backup control centers for a total of six control centers. The three systems all grew independently, with different hardware, software and maintenance agreements.

By installing a common SCADA platform in WAPA's control centers, we will improve our operational flexibility, increase reliability and cybersecurity, and avoid future support and administrative costs related to supporting multiple SCADA vendors and contracts.

As a next step, WAPA will produce common configuration standards and support processes to implement the OSI Monarch systems in all our control centers. Each transition is projected to take about 16-24 months. Sierra Nevada will be the first to begin implementation in late 2020, followed by Upper Great Plains starting in late 2021 and finally Rocky Mountain and Desert Southwest in late 2023. We anticipate the implementation phase to take about five years. The lessons learned at each implementation will help improve later transitions.

Implementing common tools, a core tenet in the Roadmap Critical Pathway of Business, Technology and Organizational Excellence, will result in fewer maintenance, service, installation, employee training and other redundant costs paid separately per region for the same service. This cost avoidance will allow WAPA to redirect limited resources to other pressing priorities in the energy frontier.

If you have any questions about this project, contact Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer Mike Montoya at [MMontoya@wapa.gov](mailto:MMontoya@wapa.gov).

#### **Office of Public Affairs**

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