



State of Utah

GARY R. HERBERT
Governor

Department of Administrative Services

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NEWS RELEASE

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Department of Administrative Services

UTAH LEADS THE WAY – AUDIO/VISUAL MEETINGS THAT SAVE TIME AND MONEY

Salt Lake City, November 3, 2009 – Governor Gary R. Herbert will help launch the new Utah Division of Facilities Construction and Management “Remote Video Construction Pilot Program” which adapts the Utah Educational Network (UEN) video conferencing technology along with the Internet to construction management. While video conferencing is not new, it is a new and efficient way of doing more with less with live action from a specialized on-site camera.

“This is just one more innovative example of Utah being on the leading edge of efficiency and technology,” Governor Herbert said. “As far as we can tell, no other state in the union is using this technology in construction management.”

The demonstration will highlight a regular weekly construction meeting of the new Utah State University BEERCE (Bingham Entrepreneurial and Energy Research Center for Excellence) in Vernal, Utah. The meeting will include project managers, state personnel, architects, contractors and consultants located in two locations, Salt Lake City and Vernal, Utah. The system has the ability to connect to four locations simultaneously and can conduct site inspections in fine detail showing the progress of each stage of construction via portable, high definition digital cameras.

“We were skeptical with the concept and practicability at first,” said Ken Romney, General Contractor Project Manager from Gramoll Construction, “but when we saw the quality of the audio/visual ability accomplished in a short meeting, we realized the advantages in savings of drive time, total expenses and liabilities to our company. We wanted to be involved immediately.”

The camera system and related components cost \$104, 849.00. While the system is not expected to replace all in-person physical inspection of construction projects, DFCM anticipates that reduced travel and employee time will allow for a more efficient use of project manager hours.

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