

**2009 Innovations Awards Program
APPLICATION**

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ID # (assigned by CSG): 09-S-36VA

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: **Virginia**

Assign Program Category (applicant): **Emergency Management** (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name

Virginia Interoperability Picture for Emergency Response (VIPER)

2. Administering Agency

Virginia Department of Emergency Management

3. Contact Person (Name and Title)

Chris McIntosh, Operations Section Chief

4. Address

**10501 Trade Court
Richmond Va 23236**

5. Telephone Number

(804) 674-2400

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(804) 674-2419

7. E-mail Address

chris.mcintosh@vdem.virginia.gov

8. Web site Address

www.vaemergency.com

9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program.

VIPER aggregates real-time information from numerous sources, such as Crisis Management Systems (e.g., WebEOC), state agency systems (e.g., Virginia Department of Transportation), and open sources (such as National Weather Service) using a Geospatial Information System (GIS) user interface. VIPER provides a tool for decision makers to perform “real time” analysis of previously “stove-piped” information to facilitate situational awareness at all levels of government.

10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 2, 2009 to be considered.

June 2008

11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address?

VIPER was created to break down the traditional compartmentalization of emergency management information, which severely limited an emergency manager’s ability to visualize the scale and scope of a developing situation.

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order.

April 2008 – Development of a “dots on a map” requirement in response to situational awareness needs.

May 2008 – ESRI-based platform selected based upon availability and business model development

June 2008 – Integration with Crisis Management System (WebEOC) successfully completed. Hazard specific plan overlays integrated.

August 2008 – Open source integration identified and commenced.

September 2008 – Geoprocessing analysis tasks identified and integrated. VIPER successfully used in support of Tropical Storm Hanna response.

November 2008 - VIPER successfully used in support of Presidential Election.

December 2008 – Virginia Department of Transportation data feeds successfully integrated

January 2009 – VIPER provides multi-jurisdictional situational awareness during the Presidential Inauguration.

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method?

VIPER is an application of real-time information, constantly running analytical tools and operational planning overlays to provide comprehensive situational awareness. Additionally, it provides the ability to utilize previously static planning efforts in a dynamic environment.

14. What were the program’s start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.)

Using existing hardware, software, and manpower the project was achieved with no additional start up costs other than staff time.

15. What are the program’s annual operational costs?

Operational costs might be incurred through the integration of third-party vendor products, some of which might have individual costs.

16. How is the program funded?

Further development will be funded through various grants.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number.

No.

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?

ESRI ArcGIS Server 9.3

Adobe Flex

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator’s name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Yes.

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20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ?

Yes

Virtual Alabama (Alabama) – Virtual Alabama is more focused on the visualization of assets and imagery, and is not currently using real-time emergency management information, geoprocessing, or operational planning all of which form the foundation of VIPER.

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken?

No. Integrations with additional data sources are ongoing, as well as the development and maturation of operational analysis, planning, and response processes planned to be implemented in the future.

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program’s effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

This program has been extremely successful, and is being lauded nationwide for its ability to provide previously unattainable situational awareness to decision makers at all levels of government. It has been successfully fielded in support of statewide response operations for Tropical Storm Hanna, the Presidential Election, the Presidential Inauguration, and numerous smaller events in Virginia. Most importantly, it is being used by multiple levels of decision makers to portray normal patterns and new combinations of data that can then be used as a basis for levels of abnormality in the future.

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception?

The program is changing into a regional system to facilitate information sharing between localities, states, and the federal government.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program?

The largest obstacle is predicted to be governance for information sharing protocols. The technology is readily available and the funding required is seen as minimal.

2009 Innovations Awards Program Program Categories and Subcategories

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate *Program Category* for your state’s submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

Infrastructure and Economic Development

- Business/Commerce
- Economic Development
- Transportation

Government Operations

- Administration
- Elections
- Public Information
- Revenue

Health & Human Services

- Aging
- Children & Families
- Health Services
- Housing
- Human Services

Human Resources/Education

- Education
- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
- Training and Development
- Workforce Development

Natural Resources

- Agriculture
- Energy
- Environment
- Environmental Protection
- Natural Resources
- Parks & Recreation
- Water Resources

Public Safety/Corrections

- Corrections
- Courts
- Criminal Justice
- Drugs
- Emergency Management
- Public Safety

Save in .doc or rtf. Return completed application electronically to innovations@csg.org or mail to:

CSG Innovations Awards 2009
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This application is also available at www.csg.org, in the Programs section.

Deadline: March 2, 2009