

## **BI CASE STUDY: Alaska Monitoring Services Anchorage, Alaska**

***“When BI develops a product, they do it right.”***

—Steve Christopher,  
Chief Operations Officer  
for AKMS

### **Alaskan Product Reseller, Monitoring Company Selects BI for GPS**



Photo Courtesy of Anchorage Convention & Visitors Bureau

#### **HIGHLIGHTS:**

- After rigorous testing, AKMS selected BI’s new ExacuTrack AT as its top choice for active offender tracking technology
- AKMS moved 84 offenders over to ExacuTrack AT immediately upon selection of the system
- AKMS provides electronic monitoring services in rural, hard to serve communities
- ExacuTrack AT is being used to monitor the highest risk offenders, including domestic violence and sex offender violators

## THE PROGRAM

Based in Anchorage, Alaska, Alaska Monitoring Services (AKMS) is a respected provider of treatment-based programs and electronic monitoring services, including GPS, alcohol monitoring, drug testing and home and field surveillance to court-ordered and agency-referred clients. AKMS receives pre-sentence referrals from a variety of sources, including the Office of Child Services and the Wellness Court, which is a therapeutic model. Services are typically provided as a condition of bail or pre-sentencing but AKMS also provides monitoring for post-sentenced clients when authorized by the prosecuting authority or courts. AKMS serves most of Alaska, including Anchorage, Wasilla, Palmer, Fairbanks, Bethel, Ketchikan, Kenai, Kotzebue and Dillingham. AKMS plans to expand into Juneau and Nome.

Because it is not a product manufacturer, AKMS supplements its programs with

monitoring equipment built and supported by other companies. AKMS uses a best-in-class philosophy when selecting monitoring equipment from manufacturers. Working with a variety of equipment vendors allows AKMS to leverage its experience and choose the best product available in each category, and remain flexible as new products come to market.

Alaska requires active GPS tracking for both domestic violence and sex offender cases. When active GPS is required, often offenders pay for all or a portion of the cost of the technology as a condition of release. Active tracking is preferred for domestic violence and sex offenders because it allows the supervising agency to set up very specific exclusion and inclusion zones. AKMS had used another active GPS monitoring product for offenders previously, but it consistently encountered GPS service coverage problems and product reliability

issues. To fulfill the mandate of its customers, AKMS continued to search for an active GPS monitoring technology. "There were too many instances of systems shutting down or not tracking at all. Courts and agencies rely on us and these unreliable systems provided unacceptable results," said Steve Christopher, chief operations officer for AKMS.

In 2006, when BI began offering its active tracking GPS, ExacuTrack™ AT, AKMS was interested and sought to test the system. Christopher was familiar with BI because of BI's contracts with the Alaska Department of Corrections and Department of Juvenile Justice. "When BI develops a product, they do it right, so we were interested in its GPS when it came out," Christopher said.

## THE RESULTS

After testing BI ExacuTrack AT, AKMS quickly made the decision to switch products. AKMS found that BI ExacuTrack AT was very consistent tracking offenders in a variety of terrains and environments. In addition, the system did not drop coverage for offenders as they moved about communities. The company also liked how the system allowed for precise inclusion and exclusion zone mapping for each person on the system. The ExacuTrack AT includes four components:

- A transmitter attached to the offender's ankle
- A lightweight, portable GPS tracking unit that an offender wears on the belt or purse when leaving home
- A base station installed in the offender's residence
- A secure web interface that stores all offender data and schedules

When ExacuTrack AT is installed on an offender, it relays GPS data points to a central monitoring computer to ensure the offender is adhering to defined schedules of activity and not crossing into zones that are forbidden. That server is maintained by BI at the company's 24/7 monitoring center,

called the GuardCenter. The ExacuTrack AT monitoring system tracks an offender's movement within 10 meters.

AKMS accesses and maintains offender scheduling and data via a secure, password-protected Internet portal. Once it made the decision to go with ExacuTrack AT, it took AKMS just six days to move 84 clients to the system. Today, AKMS uses both BI's ExacuTrack active and passive GPS systems, with between 110 and 130 people on these systems daily. To date, the results have been positive, with dropped signal issues minimized and a high level of customer service from BI support staff. The AKMS staff finds the hardware and software easy to use as well, including the ability to install and remove the system on offenders.

## TECHNOLOGY:

- BI ExacuTrack™ AT
- BI ExacuTrack™
- BI GuardCenter



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