



# Council Communication

Office of the City Manager

Date

November 9, 2009

Agenda Item No. 33

Roll Call No. 09-

Communication No. 09-797

Submitted by: Matthew A. Anderson, Economic  
Development Administrator

## AGENDA HEADING

Recommending Approval of the Gannett Satellite Information Network (GANSAT), Inc. Application to the Iowa Department of Economic Development (IDED) for Enterprise Zone Benefits Regarding a project in the Gateway Enterprise Zone.

## SYNOPSIS:

GANSAT, Inc., Brian Kirkell, State and Local Tax Manager, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean, VA 22107, is requesting approval of their application for State of Iowa Enterprise Zone Benefits regarding a \$985,000 project to expand their regional toning center (RTC) operations at 715 Locust Street in the Gateway Enterprise Zone. The company will create 90-110 new jobs and retain 12 jobs in downtown Des Moines. The project will take place over the next three years.

## FISCAL IMPACT: NONE

This is a State of Iowa program and has no fiscal impact on the City of Des Moines.

Amount: \$47,500 Investment Tax Credit and \$15,750 Sales Tax Refund

Funding Sources: State of Iowa Enterprise Zone Program

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

GANSAT, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Gannett Co, Inc. and is a leading international news and information company. In the U.S., Gannett and its subsidiaries publish approximately 85 daily newspapers, including USA Today, and nearly 850 non-daily publications. Additionally, Gannett operates more than 20 television stations. Along with its hardcopy publishing and broadcasting operations, Gannett operates websites offering news, information, social networking and advertising.

As part of its publishing business operations, Gannett currently operates several small RTCs. The formation of these RTCs was intended to provide a testing ground for centralizing the photograph prepress and toning functions currently performed at the local newspaper level, and to provide Gannett with a vehicle for offering photograph prepress and toning services to the public. The first small RTC was formed in 2007 in Des Moines with staff from the Des Moines Register.

The proposed project will expand the Des Moines RTC and require some reconfiguration of the facility at 715 Locust Street. This will greatly expand the capacity of the RTC currently in place. The first phase of the project will be the hiring of 18 employees and the transfer of 12 employees, with 80-100 additional

employees to be hired by March 2011. The positions will include graphic and production artists with hourly wages ranging from \$12.82 to \$28.31 to start, and \$14.82 to \$30.31 by the end of year three.

**PREVIOUS COUNCIL ACTION (S): NONE**

**BOARD/COMMISSION ACTION (S): NONE**

**ANTICIPATED ACTIONS AND FUTURE COMMITMENTS:**

The Des Moines Enterprise Zone Commission will meet to review the application on November 10, 2009.

For more information on this and other agenda items, please call the City Clerk's Office at 515-283-4209 or visit the Clerk's Office on the second floor of City Hall, 400 Robert D. Ray Drive. Council agendas are available to the public at the City Clerk's Office on Thursday afternoon preceding Monday's Council meeting. Citizens can also request to receive meeting notices and agendas by email by calling the Clerk's Office or sending their request via email to [cityclerk@dmgov.org](mailto:cityclerk@dmgov.org).