

**Broadcasting Board of Governors  
FY 2015 Budget Request Overview**

| (\$ in thousands)                     | FY 2013<br>Actual | FY 2014<br>Enacted | FY 2015<br>Request | Increase / Decrease From<br>FY 2014 Enacted to FY<br>2015 Request |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| Broadcasting Board of Governors       | 713,486           | 733,480            | 721,260            | -12,220   |
| International Broadcasting Operations | 702,632           | 721,080            | 716,460            | -4,620  |
| Broadcasting Capital Improvements     | 6,674             | 8,000              | 4,800              | -3,200  |
| Overseas Contingency Operations       | 4,180             | 4,400              | 0                  | -4,400  |

The FY 2015 request provides \$716.46 million for International Broadcasting Operations. Through this appropriation, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) funds operations of its broadcasting organizations, as well as related program delivery and support activities. The FY 2015 request provides \$4.8 million in Broadcasting Capital Improvements funding to maintain the worldwide transmission network of the BBG, including the security requirements of facilities, maintenance, repairs, and improvements to existing systems.

The BBG is an independent Federal entity responsible for all U.S. non-military international broadcasting programs. BBG broadcasting organizations include the Voice of America (VOA), Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL), Radio Free Asia (RFA), Radio and TV Marti, and the Middle East Broadcasting Networks (MBN) – Radio Sawa and Alhurra Television.

The BBG mission is to inform, engage, and connect people around the world in support of freedom and democracy. BBG radio, television, and Internet programs reach more than 206 million people each week in 61 languages. By exemplifying free media and free expression, the BBG helps foster and sustain free, democratic societies. Those societies have proven to be more peaceful and stable and rarely threaten their neighbors or offer safe havens for terrorists. Nurturing them is thus a national security imperative, consistent with the President’s national security policy.

The FY 2015 Budget Request includes substantial reductions and investments that rebalance BBG resources away from legacy markets (in Europe) and platforms (shortwave and medium wave) and toward current foreign policy priorities (Africa, Asia, and the Middle East) and modern media platforms (FM radio, television, and digital). In keeping with this strategy, the request includes investments to engage audiences in Africa and Southeast Asia, expand English learning programs, and increase and enhance social media presence and products. The request also expands on BBG efforts to transition to digital transmission technology by continuing to evolve away from shortwave radio transmissions.

The BBG will reduce language service duplication in some markets, increasing efficiency and boosting impact, by ensuring coordinated complementary operations and content where two BBG broadcasters co-exist. To afford some of the proposed investments and its transition to digital technology, the BBG proposes targeted significant reductions to administrative costs and scale back less effective transmissions.

As part of a multi-year strategy to realize efficiencies and cost savings in its Satellite transmission program, the BBG included a \$29.9 million funding request through the Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative. By providing this funding the BBG estimates savings of 31% in satellite transmission costs over a seven year period.