Introducing ARDC

Amateur Radio Digital Communications [ARDC] is the owner and manager of the Internet network known as the *AMPRNet**. Since the 1980's, portions of this address space have been made available at no cost to Amateur ("ham") Radio operators worldwide for use in experimenting with radio-based digital networking, and from this long-time collaborative fusion of Amateur Radio and wired Internet experimenters have come such pioneering innovations as Wi-Fi and the ability to browse web sites or stream media on your mobile phone. If you're a ham, please visit our web site at https://www.ampr.org/joining/ for information on how to join our network.

Besides its historic role in network management, in June of 2019, ARDC initiated a philanthropic endeavor to provide monetary grants to organizations, groups, projects, and scholarships which have, in our estimation, significant potential to advance the state of the art of Amateur Radio, and digital communications in general. Historically under-represented groups (youth, women, minorities, and others) are encouraged to apply. Awards are based on a number of factors, including relevance to the ARDC mission, probability of success, and resulting value to the Amateur community and to the public in general.

NB: **Only public charities currently recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as exempt under IRC section 501(c)(3) are eligible for grants at this time.** We hope to overcome this limitation in the future and to be able to give grants and scholarships to individuals, groups, and foreign organizations.

Our mission is to support, promote, and enhance digital communications and broader communication science and technology, to promote Amateur Radio, scientific research, experimentation, education, development, open access, and innovation in information and communication technology. Every grant must further this mission.

Included in some of our awards will be a requirement that, for projects which may yield intellectual property, work product (plans, drawings, schematics, computer code, algorithms, etc.) must be made freely available to the Amateur Radio community or to the public in general. This includes providing no-cost licenses to manufacture, software releases under licenses like the GPL, and free and open publication of protocol specifications, plans, drawings, schematics, and design documents. Copyrights and patents resulting from these projects must be assigned to ARDC, who will make them freely available.

Preliminary grant applications may be submitted at any time. Grants themselves are awarded at irregular intervals, and encompass a large range of funding amounts, from small to large. The grant application process is documented on our website, where there is also a list of current awards. Visit https://www.ampr.org/giving/ for more information.

*The Internet address spaces 44.0.0.0/9 and 44.128.0.0/10, comprising some 12 million distinct addresses.

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