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# News Release

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Oregon state government gets B+ for technical innovation  
In Energy and Transportation category, Oregon ranks Number 1 among states

Salem—Today the Center for Digital Government announced the results of a national survey to rank state governments' use of information technology, and Oregon state government received a B-plus.

According to the grading criteria the Center used in its national Digital States Survey, Oregon state government's use of technology shows an upward trend, demonstrating leadership in modernizing information systems, sustainability and cooperation among state agencies.

“Oregonians can be proud of the leadership state government has shown in using information technology to keep improving the service our citizens receive from state agencies,” said Scott Harra, director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services. “Our state agencies have worked hard to use technology in reducing costs while raising the quality of work. This kind of innovation will continue to be a critical part of transforming state government to handle ever-rising demands with fewer resources.”

Only eight other states received grades of B-plus, while just four received A or A-minus, said Oregon's state chief information officer Dugan Petty. In none of the previous surveys—which occur every two years—did Oregon score in the top 25.

“Oregon's rapid rise to the top tier among states occurred for a reason,” Petty said. “We have made tremendous progress because state agencies have collaborated with each other to innovate, share costs wherever possible and upgrade the services they provide to the public.”

Oregon's best-in-the-nation showing in the category of energy and transportation reflects efforts by ODOT and its partners to apply technology to meeting the state's transportation needs, Petty said. Example: ODOT's maintenance crews use closed-circuit TV to monitor weather and road conditions at remote locations. The system gives ODOT the capability to detect highway incidents quickly and plan effective responses. The department provides the images to the public through its Web-based "TripCheck," to help drivers make informed decisions about travel.

ODOT has employed other innovations that strengthened Oregon's rating in the category of energy and transportation:

- Electronic detectors determine whether vehicles are too long to safely maneuver a challenging roadway. If a vehicle is too long, signs flash to warn the driver.
- The Green Light program provides a way for truckers to save the time and money they waste stopping at Oregon weigh stations by using a free "preclearance" system at weigh stations.
- The nation's first Solar Highway project feeds clean, renewable energy into the electricity grid. The 104-kilowatt ground-mounted solar array supplies about one-third of the energy needed for illumination at the site.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.govtech.com/enterprise-technology/50-State-Report.html>