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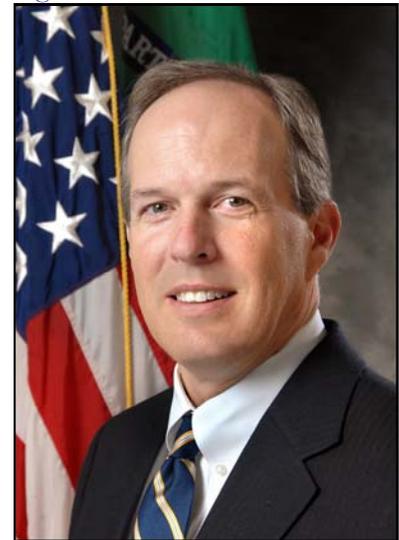
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FMS Celebrates An Exceptional Year of Accomplishments with Federal Partners

By David A. Lebryk, Commissioner, Financial Management Service

As 2011 begins for us at the Financial Management Service (FMS), we see challenges and opportunities ahead. We are proud of the work that we do for the Federal Program Agencies (FPAs) and, ultimately, the U.S. taxpayer. While the current budget environment will create challenges, we still see clear opportunities to make a difference for the U.S. taxpayer, our FPA customers and business partners.

Near the end of each calendar year it has become customary for the FMS Commissioner and Deputy



(Continued on page 3)

Treasury Issues Final Rule Extending Electronic Payments to Federal Benefit Recipients

By EFT Strategy Division

The U.S. Department of the Treasury recently issued a final rule to extend the safety and convenience of electronic payments to all Americans receiving federal benefit and non-tax payments. Anyone applying for benefits on or after May 1, 2011, will receive their payments electronically, while those already receiving paper checks will need to switch to direct deposit by March 1, 2013. The Treasury Department's **Go Direct**[®] public education campaign will provide information to Americans about the change to how federal benefit payments are being delivered and

make it easy for check recipients to switch online or by calling a toll-free helpline.

"Eight in 10 federal benefit recipients already use direct deposit, and now millions of additional retirees, veterans and other Americans will also receive their money in the safest, most reliable way – electronically," says Treasury Fiscal Assistant Secretary Richard L. Gregg. "This important change will provide significant savings to American taxpayers who will no longer incur the annual \$120 million

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The Financial Connection Bids Farewell to Publisher Carolyn Dunston and Associate Editor David W. Burgess

By Teri Hoehn, Editor-in-Chief



Carolyn Dunston, Payment Management, former director, ARM, and Publisher, Financial Connection

For the past six years, Carolyn Dunston has served as the Director of the Agency Relationship Management Division within Federal Finance (FF) and as the Publisher of the Financial Connection (FC) news. During her tenure, Carolyn focused on meeting the needs of Federal Program Agencies (FPAs), customer satisfaction and converting paper collection processes to more efficient electronic means. She strived to provide FC readers with valuable and informative news about FMS initiatives, developments, and strategic changes in the areas of federal payments, collections, government-wide accounting and debt management services in order to assist them in making timely and sound business decisions.

The staff of the FC will miss Carolyn now that she has moved to the Assistant Commissioner area of Payment Management (PM). In PM

she will continue her work with FPAs, now leading their internal and external communication efforts on changes. We wish you the very best of luck, Carolyn, and thank you for your many years of expertise, guidance and direction to the FC.

In January 2008, David Burgess became the associate editor of the FC news. Working within the ARM division of FF, David has assisted the editor-in-chief with news articles, photos, events and program advertisements – all while performing his fulltime duties as a Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) to FPAs. David came to the associate editor role with the FC as part of his Federal Career Intern Program (FCIP) rotation. Now a graduate of FCIP, we especially want to thank David for his dedicated efforts these past two years and wish him the best of luck on his next exciting FMS endeavor.



David W. Burgess, CRM, ARM and former Associate Editor, Financial Connection

FY2010 Financial Report of the U.S. Government Released

By Gregory Barker, GWA

The Fiscal Year 2010 Financial Report of the United States Government (FR) was released by the Department of the Treasury and the Office of Management and Budget on December 21, 2010. The FR is prepared by Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) within the Financial Reports Division of Governmentwide Accounting. This marks the 14th year that the audited FR has been prepared and released on time.

The FR provides a comprehensive view of the federal government's management of taxpayer dollars, by disclosing the government's financial position and condition, its revenues and costs, assets and liabilities, and other responsibilities and commitments, as well as important financial information that affect the nation and its citizens both now and in the future. It is compiled using the accrual basis of accounting, as opposed to the budgetary basis used in the *President's Budget*.

The FY2010 FR reported that:

- the net cost of the government is \$4.3 trillion,
- the total assets are \$2.9 trillion,
- the total liabilities are \$16.4 trillion, with federal debt securities and federal employee and veteran benefits payable making up 90%, and
- projected scheduled social insurance benefits exceed earmarked revenues by approximately \$30.9 trillion in present value terms for the next 75-year period.

The FY2010 FR is located at <http://fms.treas.gov/fr/index.html>.



FMS Celebrates Exceptional Year of Accomplishments with Partners

By David A. Lebryk, Commissioner, Financial Management Service

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Commissioner to write a memo to our employees that not only wishes our employees the best for the holiday season but also reflects back over the year's accomplishments. This past year, as I drafted that memo I realized just how much this agency accomplished during the previous 12 month period. At the end of each week when you reflect back over the week's activities it doesn't seem so monumental, but when you roll each of those weeks into months and the months into the year, what was accomplished for the U.S. taxpayer and our customers was significant. This work helps to position us towards achieving one of my personal goals for the agency, that being recognized by all those who we interact with that FMS is an agency that not just accomplishes its mission, but accomplishes it with exceptional integrity, quality, and responsiveness.

In 2010, FMS put out its first ever consolidated customer satisfaction survey. We received high marks from the 17,000 customers who received and responded to the surveys. We also received valuable feedback on ways we can improve. FMS is working diligently to address those suggestions in a tangible way.

Daily operations in each of our business lines (government payments, collections, government wide accounting and the collection of delinquent debt owed to the government) continued to be our number one priority. With the dedication and commitment of the entire FMS workforce, the daily operations work produced some significant outcomes. FMS:

- issued more than 1 billion federal payments valued at \$2 trillion with an accuracy rate of greater than 99%.
- disbursed 82% of all FMS issued payments electronically, exceeding the performance standard for the fiscal year of 80% saving the government money and providing a higher level of

security to the payment recipient.

- collected almost 85% of government collections by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), exceeding the FY2010 annual goal of 81%.
- expanded the FMS Stored Value Card (SVC) to all branches of the military, loading in excess of \$1 billion onto the cards.
- collected nearly \$5.5 billion of delinquent debt owed to the government, an increase of nearly \$500 million from last year. (About \$2.1 billion of the total was for delinquent child support).
- achieved established accuracy standard of 98% for issuance of the daily financial report (Daily Treasury Statement).

On longer term initiative work, this was an exceptional year for accomplishments. We were successful in gaining approval of the final rule for an All Electronic Treasury. This requires all payments be made electronically by 2013, with a projected 10 year savings of over \$1 billion. This has been a long term goal for FMS for a number of years and in 2010, we were able to garner the support to make it a reality. Also part of the All Electronic Treasury initiative is a positive impact on government collections. The collaborative work accomplished with the IRS resulted in the issuance of the final rule to eliminate paper Federal Tax Deposit (FTD) coupons in 2011. This

will result in 5 year savings to the government of more than \$65 million, with financial institutions and taxpayers saving millions more.

The Debt Collection program continues to grow and expand. It has expanded so much that in FY2010, we began the process of developing a second Debt Collection Center. We anticipate collections in FY2011 will again exceed the previous year's record collections figure of almost \$5.5 billion.



FMS Commissioner, Dave Lebryk, shares his long term goals with FMS staff.

As you can see, much was accomplished, but it was done through the contributions and efforts of not only the FMS workforce but also through the cooperation and partnership of our customers and associations. Thanks very much for your efforts and contributions to our successes. This year in 2011, and more specifically 2012, will be very challenging years for us due to budgetary impacts, but we are hopeful that together we can meet those challenges head on with exceptional integrity, quality, and responsiveness.





CCMM's New Credit Gateway Implements IRS Fedwires

By Randolph Maxwell, Settlement Services Division

On September 13, 2010, the Credit Gateway began processing Federal Program Agency (FPA) collections. The Credit Gateway is a deposit program that the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Financial Management Service (FMS) uses for the receipt of FPA Fedwire and Automated Clearing House (ACH) credit transactions. On a monthly basis it processes about 24,000 non tax transactions totaling \$39 billion and approximately 24,000 tax transactions totaling \$45 billion. The Credit Gateway is a key component of FMS's Collection and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM) effort to simplify and modernize the cash management programs of FMS and the Department of the Treasury. The Gateway is a re-architecting of the settlement function. As part of the Settlement Services Division (SET) component of CCMM, collection channels are separated from the presentment and settlement process. Benefits of this separation for wire transfers and ACH credits are improved system processing efficiencies, reduced application support, standardized interfaces, and cost reductions gained through decommissioning of legacy systems.

The Credit Gateway was implemented in two phases: one phase for non-tax collections and another phase for tax collections.

The first phase went live on September 13, 2010, with the processing of non-tax Fedwires and ACH credits. With this implementation two legacy systems, Remittance Express (REX) for ACH credits and the Fedwire Deposit System (FDS) were decommissioned. All existing agency accounts from REX and FDS were migrated to

the Credit Gateway with no changes. The migration of legacy accounts was done to minimize



changes for agencies' external customers. As collections are processed, the Gateway sends near real-time transaction details and deposit information to FMS's Transaction Reporting System (TRS). Agencies may access their transaction details and deposit information in TRS. To assist agencies with payment related questions a Credit Gateway Customer Care unit has been established. Agencies may contact Customer Care by email at Customer.Care@usbank.com or by calling 1-877-815-1206. Also, a new Credit Gateway website has been created for non-tax agency collections. It includes operational guidelines, forms for account setup and exception processing, reporting information, commonly asked questions, and contact information. The Credit Gateway website address is <http://fms.treas.gov/creditgateway>. New account setup or general inquiries about the Credit Gateway should be directed to Randolph Maxwell at 202-874-3720.

The second implementation phase was completed on December 6, 2010, when the Credit Gateway began the processing of IRS Fedwire tax collections. With this implementation, all Fedwires previously processed through the Federal Reserve – Electronic Tax

Application (FR-ETA) legacy system were directed to the Credit Gateway. FR-ETA has been decommissioned. The Credit Gateway's new Federal Tax Application (FTA) processes tax Fedwires received from taxpayers and sends the transaction information to the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) at the end of each business day. Taxpayers may obtain confirmation of their tax Fedwires in EFTPS on the following business day. For intra-day confirmation or other questions taxpayers may contact the FTA Customer Care area at 1-800-382-0045. Additional information is posted on the FTA website at <http://fms.treas.gov/fta>.

A final migration phase is planned for the Credit Gateway. The remaining implementation will support the processing of tax ACH credits for EFTPS and is expected to be completed in 2012.

Bringing the Credit Gateway live involved multiple parties including financial agents, commercial banks, Federal Reserve Banks, and numerous FMS and agency stakeholders. SET would like to thank all the participants who contributed to the successful implementation of the Credit Gateway. FMS will strive to keep agencies and other stakeholders informed of new developments or enhancements to the Credit Gateway. Copies of all agency communications will be posted on the Credit Gateway webpage at <http://fms.treas.gov/creditgateway>.

For more information or questions about the Credit Gateway, please contact Randolph Maxwell at 202-874-3720.



Treasury Extends Electronic Payments to Federal Benefit Recipients

By EFT Strategy Division

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price tag associated with paper checks and will save Social Security \$1 billion over the next 10 years."

After seeking public comment on the proposed rule issued in June 2010, federal regulations were changed to generally require all federal benefits including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits and other non-tax payments to be made electronically. Benefit recipients have the option of **direct deposit** into a bank or credit union account of their choice or into a **Direct Express®** Debit MasterCard® card account. More than 1.7 million beneficiaries have signed up for the **Direct Express®** card since it was introduced in 2008.

"I urge everyone receiving a paper Social Security or Supplemental Security Income check to switch to electronic payments now, through the **Go Direct** campaign, rather than waiting until the final deadline," says Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security. "Switching now eliminates the risks of lost and stolen checks, and provides immediate access to your money on payment day."

Treasury is launching a public education campaign today to inform Americans about the rule change and to help them understand what they need to do to get their payments electronically, whether they already receive payments by check or will be applying for federal benefits for the first time soon. Current check recipients will receive information enclosed with their payments, and the national campaign will also include public service announcements, a newly redesigned website, www.GoDirect.org, ongoing financial literacy programming and partnerships with hundreds of national, regional and local organizations.

People applying for benefits on or after May 1, 2011: People newly applying for federal benefits on or after May 1, 2011, must choose an electronic payment option at the time

they sign up for their benefits. If they wish to direct their money into a bank or credit union account, they will want to have the following information on hand at the time they apply for their benefits:

- Financial institution's routing transit number (often found on a personal check)
- Account type – checking or saving
- Account number (often found on a personal check)

People who do not have an account at a financial institution or prefer receiving their payments on a prepaid debit card can receive a **Direct Express®** card. For more information, visit www.GoDirect.org.

DIRECT EXPRESS



People currently receiving benefit payments by paper check:

Check recipients must switch to electronic payments before the March 1, 2013 deadline. Switching from checks to direct deposit is fast, easy and free at www.GoDirect.org, by calling the U.S. Treasury Processing Center's toll-free helpline at 1-800-333-1795, or by speaking with a bank or credit union representative.

People already receiving their benefit payments electronically:

Anyone already receiving federal benefit payments electronically will continue to receive their money as usual on their payment day. No action is required.

Related Treasury Rules

Treasury is issuing a related rule to provide Americans receiving federal payments with more options for receiving their payments electronically while ensuring that appropriate consumer protections are provided and, on February 23 2011, Treasury issued an interim rule with request for public comment to protect federal benefit payments from garnishment after they are directly deposited into accounts.

About the Direct Express® Prepaid Card

If direct deposit into a bank or credit union account is not a viable option, the **Direct Express®** card, provided by Comerica Bank, Treasury's financial agent, is a safe, convenient alternative to paper checks for benefit payments. Ninety-four percent of cardholders say they are satisfied with the card, according to a 2010 **Go Direct** campaign survey. Advantages of the card include:

- Cardholders can make purchases, pay bills, and get cash at thousands of locations nationwide.
- Cardholders have access to one free cash withdrawal with each deposit to the **Direct Express®** card account. For cash withdrawals at ATMs outside the **Direct Express®** ATM network, the ATM owner may charge a surcharge fee.
 - No bank account or credit check is required.
- The card accounts are FDIC-insured up to the maximum amount allowed by law.
- There are no sign-up fees, monthly fees or overdraft charges. Some fees for optional services may apply.
- Money is immediately available on payment day.

To sign up for the card, or to learn more about its features and fees, individuals can visit www.GoDirect.org, call 1-800-333-1795 or ask their local Social Security, VA, or other federal benefit agency office.





FMS's SBB: An FPAs First Call for Guidance on Federal Surety Bonding

By Rose Miller, Surety Bond Branch

The Surety Bond Branch (SBB) recently hosted an information session with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) of Indianapolis, IN, on January 4, in Hyattsville, MD. The purpose of the meeting was for FMS to acquire knowledge about CBP's bonding and debt collection processes. CBP is one of the Department of Homeland Security's largest and most complex components. One of its missions is to secure and facilitate trade while enforcing hundreds of U.S. regulations. Companies involved with the movement of international cargo into the U.S. must obtain a surety bond from a corporate surety company listed on the Circular 570.

The Treasury Department Circular 570 is published by SBB annually on July 1, and lists all acceptable surety companies and reinsurers on federal bonds. The Circular 570 guidance is important to CBP as they can accept surety bonds only from those companies listed on

the Circular. "CBP's open and frequent communication with SBB is the essential tool that directly impacts their work," said Casey Horn, Chief, Surety Bonds and Accounts Section. "For example, the January meeting with CBP focused on changes in the Circular 570, such as companies being added and deleted. Customers in the bond market react to those changes and CBP, in turn, must be attuned to how their customers react."

U.S.C. 9304-9308 legislates SBB to qualify insurance companies as acceptable sureties on bonds running in favor of the United States. This includes examining statutory financial statements, actuarial opinions, reinsurance treaties, independent certified audit reports, state insurance department examination reports, underwriting policies and procedures, operational procedures, managerial expertise and safety and soundness.

Additionally, the SBB assists agencies in their daily transaction of business with surety companies in the areas of normal bonding and reinsurance activities, fraudulent activity, and when agencies encounter difficulty with sureties, whether it be on matters such as the interpretation of regulations or in the area of claims.

Federal contracting officials, state and local government officials, commercial enterprise and the general public also seek SBB guidance regarding all aspects of federal surety bonding requirements and related issues.

If you or your agency would like additional information regarding federal surety bonds, please contact Rose Miller, Surety Bond Branch Manager, 202-874-6850.

CCMM Retires Another Legacy System with FR-ETA

By Mike Chew, Tax Collection Division

The FR-ETA system has been in production since 1994 and was a nationwide Central Application Business Function (CBAF) developed and operated by the Federal Reserve Bank (FRB) of Minneapolis. The Federal Reserve operated the FR-ETA system on behalf of the Financial Management Service (FMS). Its primary function was to support the Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) with the same-day payment mechanism for business tax filers and payroll processors. Financial institutions nationwide could make payments of federal taxes by submitting federal tax payment information via Fedwire, which passed the tax payment information to the FR-ETA system for editing of tax data per IRS guidelines and instructions.

The customer base consisted of mandated and non-mandated business taxpayers who used the system to make same-day electronic

tax payments. In fiscal year 2010, FR-ETA processed approximately 1.34 million transactions totaling \$502.2 billion.



The decision to terminate the FR-ETA application was based on FMS's long term objective to streamline, modernize and improve the services, systems, and processes supporting Treasury's collections and cash management programs. This goal, referred to as the Collections and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM) is a comprehensive multiyear enterprise architecture initiative to separate the collection channels from the settlement operations so that there is one system per collection

channel. FR-ETA was among the systems that were considered to serve multiple business lines; hence CCMM realigned it and other collections and cash management systems to match the end-state business line architecture.

The Tax Collection Division worked closely with the Settlement Services Division to transition the same-day wire functionality to the new Credit Gateway and the selected financial agent, US Bank. Additionally, FMS coordinated this action with IRS to ensure that all legacy (historic) data pertaining to taxpayers and payment history is transmitted to the IRS services centers and the US Bank database. The transition to US Bank went "live" on December 6, 2010 with US Bank handling all operational/production functions. The FR-ETA application will be de-activated in March 2011.



Financial Management Service 2011 Contact Directory

PROGRAM/SERVICE

PHONE

Administrative Wage Garnishment	202-874-8700
Agency Cross-Servicing Policy	800-874-8700
Federal Program Agency Inquiries	800-858-0725
Agency Location Code	
Check Reconciliation Branch (4 digits)	202-874-8259
Cash Accounting Division (8 digits)	202-874-7752
Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP) 816-414-2100	
Agency Implementation	202-874-6542
Development	202-874-6467
Operations	215-516-8021 216-414-2100
Automated Clearing House (ACH)	
Payments and Claims Formats	202-874-6781
Treasury Disbursed Payments Inquiries (and Notification of Change)	
Austin RFC Help Desk	512-342-7300
Kansas City RFC Help Desk	816-414-2100
Philadelphia RFC Help Desk	215-516-8154
San Francisco RFC Help Desk	510-594-7300
Treasury Collections	202-874-1251
Business Architecture	202-874-3707
Card Acquiring Service	202-874-0807
CA\$HLINK II	800-346-5465 202-874-3528 202-874-6894 202-874-6714
Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA)	202-874-6751
Check Claims	202-874-8445
Check Inserts	202-874-7133
Check Payment Inquiries (Treasury Disbursed)	
Austin RFC Help Desk	512-342-7300
Kansas City RFC Help Desk	816-414-2100
Philadelphia RFC Help Desk	215-516-8154
San Francisco RFC Help Desk	510-594-7300
Check Reconciliation	202-874-8259



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PROGRAM/SERVICE

PHONE

Checks (Non-Treasury Disbursed Organizations)	202-874-3838
Child Support	202-874-0540
Collateral	202-874-7018
Credit Bureau Reporting	202-874-8580
Credit and Debt Management Policy	202-874-6600
Credit Gateway	202-874-3720
Cross-Servicing Debt Exemptions	202-874-6600
Current Value of Funds Rate	202-874-9428
Debit Gateway	202-874-1251
Debt Check	202-874-0540
Debt Collection Agency Training & Education	202-874-8580
Debt Collection Center Designation	202-874-6600
Debt Collection Performance	202-874-8580
Debt Management Agency Facilitation	202-874-8580
Debt Write-Off	202-874-6600
Debtor Inquiries	800-304-3107 888-826-3127
Department of Justice Debt Referrals	202-874-8700
Direct Express	202-874-7118
Document Examination	202-874-8084
Electronic Check Processing (ECP)	202-874-6754
Electronic Federal Tax Payment System (EFTPS) Development/Operations	202-874-5784
Marketing	202-874-6763
Electronic Transfer Account (ETA) Policy	202-874-6926
Enterprise Business Information Management	202-874-3707



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PROGRAM/SERVICE

PHONE

FedDebt	800-858-0725
Federal Agencies Centralized Trial Balance System I (FACTS I)	202-874-9909
Federal Agency Liaison (Collections)	202-874-7491
Federal Finance Modernization Planning Office	202-874-6935
Fedwire Deposit System	202-874-3528 202-874-6894
Financials, Accounting, Collections, Disbursements & Reconciliation System (FACDR)	202-874-8580
Financial Accounting and Services Division (FASD)	
Credit Accounting Branch	202-874-8740
Judgment Fund Branch	202-874-6664
Surety Bond Branch	202-874-6850
Financial Connection, The	202-874-6694
Financial EDI Payments	816-414-2333
Financial Data Architecture/XML Standards	202-874-7039 202-874-6838
Financial Organization Master File (FOMF)	816-414-2204
Financial Report of the U.S. Government (FR)	202-874-6389
Foreign Check Issues	202-874-7041
Foreign Currency Accounting	202-874-7994 202-874-8004 202-874-8001
General Lockbox	202-874-6754
Go Direct Program	202-874-6558
Go Direct Marketing	202-874-6786
Gold Book	202-874-7770
Government On-Line Accounting Link System (GOALS II)	202-874-8196
Governmentwide Accounting Modernization Program	202-874-8788
Governmentwide Financial Report System (GFRS)	202-874-8923



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PROGRAM/SERVICE

PHONE

Green Book	202-874-7118
Imprest Fund Management: Policy	202-874-9428
Intra-governmental Payment and Collections (IPAC)	202-874-9816
International Treasury Services (ITS.gov) Policy Operations	202-874-6762 816-414-2102
Internet Payment Platform	202-874-3685
Intragovernmental Fiduciary Confirmation System (IFCS)	202-874-6389
IRS Lockbox	202-874-6554
Limited Depository Accounts	816-414-2117
PACER On-Line: Treasury-Disbursed Agencies RDO Accounting	202-874-9138 202-874-7108
Paper Tax System (PATAX)	202-874-7064
Pay.gov	202-874-6940
Payment Application Modernization (PAM)	816-414-2108
Payment Policy	202-874-6576 202-874-6781
PCC OTC (Paper Check Conversion Over-the-Counter)	202-874-6983 202-874-2138
Postage Payments	202-874-7041
Private Collection Agencies	202-874-8700
Prompt Payment	202-874-9428
Repurchase Agreement (Repo)	202-874-7150
Salary Offset	202-874-0540
Secure Payment System	202-874-6947
Seized Currency	202-874-8906
Shared Accounting Module (SAM)	202-874-8947



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PROGRAM/SERVICE

PHONE

State Income Tax Debt	202-874-0540
State and Local Government Tax Withholding Agreements	202-874-9428
State Reciprocal Agreement	202-874-0540
Stored Value Cards	202-874-1845
Tax Levy	202-874-0540
Tax Refund Offset	202-874-0540
TGA Bank Network	202-874-7496
TGANet	202-874-2138
Treasury Offset Program (TOP)	202-874-0540
TOP Call Center	800-304-3107
TOP Payment Exemptions	202-874-0540
Transaction Reporting System (TRS)	202-874-1346
Treasury Check Information System (TCIS)	202-874-9582
Treasury Check Offset	202-874-9061
Treasury Investment Option	202-874-7150
Treasury Investment Program (TIP)	202-874-7150
Treasury Receivable Accounting and Collection System (TRACS)	202-874-9779
Treasury Report on Receivables (TROR)	202-874-8580
TRUFACS	202-874-6955
Treasury Tax & Loan (TT&L) Plus	202-874-7150
Unclaimed Moneys	202-874-8262
U.S. Debit Card Program	202-874-6955
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS) Lockbox and e-Filing	202-874-0275
U.S. Standard General Ledger Division (USSGL)	202-874-9963



FMS Collections Webinar Prepares FPAs for New End State Systems

By Shalene Gupta, Associate Editor

Recently, on February 3, FMS presented the first of two 2011 Collections and Cash Management Modernization (CCMM) webinars for Federal Program Agencies (FPAs). Previously in 2010, FPAs were provided with CCMM's Collections Roadmap and the impacts to their agency systems and processes. The new 2011 series provided specific details and requirements that FPAs "need to know" in order to convert to FMS's new End State systems.

The following is a sampling of the questions asked by FPAs at the recent webinar. For a full list of webinar Questions and Answers (Q&A), or to view the webinar media online, please visit their website today at www.fms.treas.gov/ccmm/outreach.html.

What is the date that CASHLINK II will be turned off?

CASHLINK II will be turned off December 31, 2012.

Can you explain how often collections data will be updated on TRS? Is collections information going to be available immediately or otherwise (e.g., overnight)?

Source systems will be sending financial and associated program data routinely throughout the day based on the source system's voucher processing schedules and end of day processing times.

How will TRS retrieve the old data processed from CASHLINK II?

FMS is expecting a proposal by the end of May that will offer more clarity on where historical CASHLINK II data will reside and how FPAs will access it.

Will CCMM affect or include FedDebt or IPAC collections?

No. CCMM is focused on the collection of public money. It is not focused on other FMS business areas such as disbursements, debt collection (FedDebt), or intragovernmental transactions (IPAC).

ASAP payments are reported on CASHLINK II. How will they be reported if TRS is a reporting system for collections and ASAP is a payment system controlled by the FRB?

Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP) activity will not be reported to TRS, the collections repository. Agencies should access ASAP to view payment information.

I do my deposits now through TGA.net. What are the next steps for me to take to start using this new system?

Your next steps to prepare for converting to OTCnet for Deposit Reporting are:

- 1) Visit our website to review the system requirements for OTCnet at: www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet/sys_req.
- 2) Complete the web based training at:

www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet/training

- 3) Contact the Agency Deployment team if there are any questions or concerns.
- 4) Sign into OTCnet at: <https://otcnet.fms.treas.gov> and verify your agency information is the same as it was in TGA.net. You will use your same Identification (ID) and password.
- 5) Report any discrepancies to the Agency Deployment team.
- 6) Process deposits into OTCnet going forward.



Are we required to go to OTCnet Check Processing? Who will be providing the hardware, the agency?

The priority at this time is for FPAs to enroll into OTCnet for Deposit Reporting to eliminate the paper SF 215. If you are currently not on TGA.net then we recommend you visit our OTCnet website at <http://www.fms.treas.gov/otcnet> and contact FMS immediately.

As CCMM begins its final stages with end dates coming in 2012, FMS wants FPA's transitions to the new end date systems to be as smooth as possible. If your agency has any questions, comments or concerns about CCMM, please contact your Customer Relationship Manager (CRM) directly at FMS. To locate your CRM online, please visit their website at www.fms.treas.gov/crm.