USDA

June 5, 2000   DDOD-74

NOTICE TO THE TRADE
FOR DOMESTIC SUPPLIERS

DOMESTIC ELECTRONIC BID ENTRY SYSTEM

The purpose of this notice is to inform vendors that bids submitted on and after July 13, 2000, for products under the following announcements **must be transmitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) screens:**

Bakery Flour BF6 (except bakery mix)	Corn Products CP6
Crackers CR1	Evaporated Milk EVD1
Fortified Cereals FC6	Macaroni and Cheese MC3
Pasta Products PA6	Processed Cereals PC5
Peanut Products PP8	Instant Rice Cereal RC5
Rice Products RP1	Vegetable Oil Products VP5
Wheat Flour WF7	

Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

Marketing Specialists began contacting vendors in April to provide the computer software requirements needed to use DEBES. The initial passwords needed to access DEBES are provided by the marketing specialist. The software requirements are as follows:

•   Browser requirement: Netscape 4.07 or above (OR) Internet Explorer 5.0 or above

•   Encryption: Browser capable of handling 128 bit encryption

In Internet Explorer, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Internet Explorer**. The display should include the line **'Cipher Strength: 128-bit'**. If it does not, download a new browser version from Microsoft at http://www.microsoft.com.

In Netscape, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Communicator.** Somewhere on the screen the following will appear:

This version supports U.S. security with
     RSA Public Key Cryptography, MD2, MD5,
     RC2-CBC, RC4, DES-CBC,
     DES-EDE3-CBC.

If it does not, download a new browser version from Netscape at
http://home.netscape.com/download/index.html?cp=djucc4. Choose the 128 bit Strong
Encryption* version for your download.

- Vendor bid Internet **production** site port location:
  https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?

- Vendor bid Internet **practice** site port location:
  https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?

- Proxy servers: Vendors must set up their proxy server to allow access to the above
  Internet production and practice ports.

Most connection problems will be the result of an improper browser version, not using 128 bit
encryption, and not having the above ports accessible through your Corporate proxy server. The
proxy server must be setup to allow HTTPS protocol through the appropriate port; Vendor
Practice is port 3050 and Production is port 3077. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) your
company uses can also affect connections.

Please contact the marketing specialist assigned to your product if you have any questions
concerning this notice,

/s/ Alex King

Alex King
Acting Deputy Administrator
Commodity Operations