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GSA E-Travel Announcement: Ready for Business

WASHINGTON – E-Travel Service vendors are ready to go, the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) announced today. Eight agencies plan to place orders by the end of June.

“The E-Travel Service (eTS) is an easy-to-use, integrated, federal government desktop travel service,” said Tim Burke, eTS program manager. “It is one of President Bush’s E-Government Initiatives that simplifies federal travel management and maximizes competition among vendors. As a result, agencies will receive best values and prices. eTS is expected to save taxpayers up to 50 percent in federal travel management costs over 10 years.”

A January 2004 amendment to the Federal Travel Regulation requires all agencies to begin implementing eTS by the end of 2004 and complete deployment by Sept. 30, 2006. The eTS contract accommodates existing travel agencies and FedTrip™, the existing federal online booking service.

Since January, during the testing period required in the contracts, eTS enabled more than 200 Federal Aviation Administration travelers to book, authorize and create vouchers for foreign and domestic trips, seamlessly in Oklahoma City. Of the total, 75 percent chose to book online.

Testing included Independent Verification and Validation and Initial Operational Capability, along with Security Certification and Accreditation, which included visits to vendor sites plus a detailed review of information vendors submitted.

Last November, CW Government Travel Inc. (CWGT) of San Antonio, Electronic Data Systems Corp. (EDS) of Fairfax, Va. and Northrop Grumman Mission Systems (NGMS) of Fairfax, Va., were awarded, after competitive bidding, 10-year, eTS contracts to provide Web-based, travel management services for the federal government. Each vendor’s portion of a total \$450 million allocated for eTS over 10 years will depend on its success at competing for agency business.

GSA is a centralized federal procurement and property management agency, created by Congress to improve government efficiency and help federal agencies better serve the public. It acquires, on behalf of federal agencies, office space, equipment, telecommunications, information technology, supplies, services and enables policy solutions. GSA’s 14,000 associates, provide services and solutions for office operations for more than one million federal workers in more than 8,000 government-owned and leased buildings in 2,000 U.S. communities.

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