

# THE FBMS EXPRESS

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 THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FBMS)

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## COMING IN JULY:

**7/23:**  
 Test Readiness  
 Review — Integration

## THE BOTTOM LINE

By David Shearer  
 FBMS Project Director

This month we kicked off the planning process to deliver FBMS functionality to the Bureau of Land Management in Deployment 4 (D4). This deployment will affect the largest number of end users to date, spanning 12 state offices and dozens of field offices.

Representatives from BLM and the FBMS project team met in Denver to begin the process of defining the detailed scope of FBMS functionality that will be deployed in the fall of 2008. The core financial and acquisition components will be included in the implementation. Other functionality, including budget formulation and property, are also being considered as part of the deployment.

Once the FBMS project receives its funding for the next

deployment cycle, we will be able to make a final determination about what will be included in the scope for D4. We anticipate this decision will be made around the middle of July.

After the scope is finalized, we will begin developing the Integrated Baseline Review (IBR), which will establish plans and performance measurement baselines that capture the entire scope of work.

The project team will use the IBR to make sure it is on track with contract schedule requirements and has adequate staff and financial resources assigned to complete the deployment activities. The IBR process will take several weeks and should be completed in early August.

While plans for D4 are underway, continue to work on Deployment 3 (D3). We are preparing for Test Readiness Re-

view—Integration (TRR-I), which is scheduled for July 23. This gate review marks a major milestone in the deployment lifecycle as it validates that the system has been built correctly and is ready for integration testing.

After TRR-I, the project team and bureaus will work together through August and into September to test the end-to-end business processes and determine if the combined FBMS components function correctly together. If there are any errors, the project team will have an opportunity to correct them before the deployment moves into the Final Preparation phase.

I want to thank the bureaus in advance for your participation in the testing process. Your involvement is critical to FBMS' success.

## MMS RECOGNIZED BY NINA ROSE HATFIELD



(L-R) David Shearer, Nina Rose Hatfield, Bob Brown, Scott Mabry

Nina Rose Hatfield commended the MMS employees involved with the FBMS implementation for all of their hard work and dedication during a ceremony held on June 14 in Herndon, VA.

"As one of the first bureaus to deploy FBMS, you are playing a critical role in developing and

implementing a system that will result in the Department's transformation over the next few years," Ms. Hatfield told the attendees.

Although the deployment experience has been challenging for MMS, their support has helped to create a communications path for resolving bureau

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concerns, as well as improvements and time savings in the month-end close process in FBMS.

Scott Mabry was recognized for “supporting a cooperative operations model that is central to the theme of FBMS.” Ms. Hatfield also thanked employees from the finance, budget, and acquisitions staff for their contributions to the FBMS deployment process.

On behalf of MMS, Bob Brown, member of the FBMS Executive Steering Committee and Associate Director, Office of Administration and Budget, and Scott Mabry, Finance Division Chief, accepted a plaque from Ms. Hatfield in recognition of the Bureau’s contributions in leading the way for the Department’s new financial and business management system.

Mr. Brown recalled being a part of setting the vision for an integrated solution 12 years ago, which would become FBMS. He explained that getting there will be hard and will



**Bob Brown, Associate Director, Office of Administration and Budget, MMS**

result in a lot of changes for the Bureau.

He thanked his team for all that they have done so far to implement FBMS. He acknowledged that across the project team, people are willing to do what it takes to make the new system a reality.

## **Q&A WITH NINA ROSE HATFIELD AND FBMS PROJECT LEADERSHIP:**

*Following the MMS appreciation ceremony, Ms. Hatfield and FBMS project leadership fielded questions from the audience.*

**Q:** When will the Property module be implemented?

**A:** It is scheduled for Deployment 4, but we are waiting on our appropriation from Congress. Until we know what our budget is for this deployment cycle, we cannot say for sure whether or not it will be included in the next deployment.

**Q:** With the year-end coming up, what is our plan to ensure that money is being spent?

**A:** We are running a series of year-end tests this July using third quarter data, which will be a larger body of data than was used last year and should produce more realistic results to ensure that money is being spent. In addition, we are aware of the need to document the policy aspects of the process (such as when an obligation takes place) to ensure that anything not coming in through the interface is not “left on the table.”

**Q:** What are the expectations for fixing the workarounds currently in place as they relate to the audit and closing statements?

**A:** A clean audit opinion is job number one for us. We will do what we need to in order to get there, which is why we are testing the year-end close in July. Any pending fixes that have an impact on year-end close are a top priority.

## **Where are we on today on the road to FBMS Deployment 3?**



## **LOOKING AHEAD...**

### **Integration Testing**

Integration testing is an important part of the Realization phase because it answers the question “Did we build the right system?” The integration testing process kicked off on June 7 when the FBMS project team and D3 bureaus participated in a test case planning and development workshop.

A series of test cases are being developed to test every inch of the system. Simulating a day in the life, detailed test cases look at end-to-end processes rather than discrete transactions. For example, a test case might cover acquisition to payment, including 50 steps, multiple processes, multiple interfaces, and converted data. The testing team will

be able to reuse some of the test cases from D2, but many will need to be developed to adequately test new features for D3.

Integration testing consists of two four-week cycles. The project team has developed a formal process for identifying, prioritizing, and fixing the errors that the testers find in the system.

Cycle 1 will involve only the project team, during which time testers will focus on daily master data maintenance and business and month-end processes. The bureaus will identify staff to participate in cycle 2, which retests errors identified in cycle 1 and also includes other system features such as year-end processing and 508 compliance.

## **EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT TERRY CAROLLO, OSM**



**Terry Carollo, Accountant with OSM**

Terry Carollo has enjoyed getting involved with FBMS “on the ground floor” and helping shape some of the rules and decisions for the enterprise-wide system. Through her participation in the FBMS blueprint workshops and involvement in the Financial Management and General Ledger teams, she has learned a lot about accounting systems.

She said that Go-Live and beyond can be chaotic, as everyone is learning and adapting to new business processes and a new software system. However, Terry described the overall experience as being interesting and fun, with a lot of camaraderie among the teams.

Terry strongly recommends that the bureaus scheduled for future deployments involve as many employees as possible to support FBMS. Based on her experience, she said that it’s never too early to begin thinking about what kind of expertise and backgrounds need to be represented on the bureau teams. The challenge, of course, is ensuring there are adequate resources to handle both the day-to-day and FBMS responsibilities.