THE FBMS EXPRESS

AUGUST 2007
THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FBMS)

INTERIOR FBMS

COMING IN SEPTEMBER:

9/14:
Cycle 2 Integration Testing concludes

9/18:
Executive Steering Committee Meeting

THE BOTTOM LINE

By David Shearer

FBMS Project Director

This is an exciting, yet hectic, time for the FBMS project. With unanimous approval among the project team, MMS, and OSM, on July 23 FBMS passed the Test Readiness Review for Integration (TRR-I) quality gate for Deployment 3 (D3). This was a strong team effort thanks to everyone's contributions.

D3 is now focused on a rigorous testing process to make sure that FBMS has been built correctly before we transition to the Final Preparation. Representatives from the FBMS Project Management Office (PMO), MMS and OSM will be working hard during the next few weeks

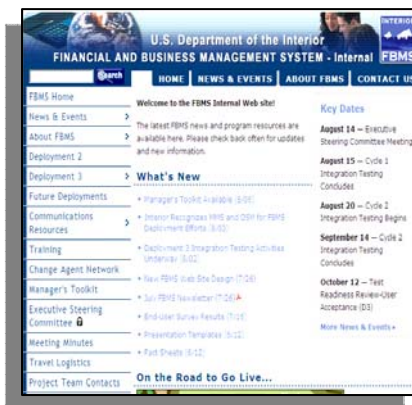in Herndon, VA and Denver, CO to test end-to-end processes throughout the system.

Soon after that, we will be gearing up for User Acceptance Testing, during which testers from MMS and OSM validate that the system will enable them to perform their job duties.

Meanwhile, the bureaus will be involved in some work behind-the-scenes to prepare their data to be migrated over to FBMS. The new system requires that some data be reformatted (e.g. capitalization of characters or use of select abbreviations) so that it displays properly and is available to end users when FBMS goes live.

We are also moving forward with plans for Deployment 4 (D4). FBMS project leadership is working with bureau and DOI leadership to finalize the scope for D4. Project scope will take into account the funding that Congress has appropriated for FBMS, the goal of expanding functionality, and lessons learned so far in the deployment process.

I want to thank BLM for all of their cooperation so far in the D4 planning process, as well as MMS and OSM who are juggling two deployments at the same time. Your involvement is critical to the project's success!

NEW FBMS WEBSITE MAKES ITS DEBUT

New internal homepage of the FBMS website

If you have not logged on to the FBMS website lately, you should! Visitors will find that the website has been completely revamped with a new design and navigation.

"We know how important it is to communicate project updates and make it easy for end users to find the information they need," Pamela Martinez, FBMS Organizational Change Manager, explained. "I believe that

the new and improved website will be a more effective communications tool for the project."

The FBMS website will continue to have two components. First, there are the public pages with general project information. Then, there are the internal, password-protected pages with more detailed information targeted at end users whose bureaus are about deploy FBMS

functionality or are scheduled to do so in the future.

The user ID and password for the internal site remains the same. End users should contact their bureau lead for access.

New features include:

- Revamped homepage that highlights recently posted information and key dates;

- More detailed FBMS information organized by implementation phase and target audience;

- Additional communications resources and templates that can be tailored to meet bureau-specific needs;

- Version control to identify more easily new information and documents that have been posted to the site; and

- A "Contact Us" page where visitors can submit questions and comments for the project team.

Visit www.doi.gov/fbms and check it out! Additional information and updates will be posted on an ongoing basis, so please be sure to check back regularly.

If you have any questions or comments about the website, please contact FBMS@fbms.doi.gov.

Click on "Contact Us" on the left-hand navigation to send a question to the project team

LOOKING AHEAD...

Cutover & Conversion

As FBMS transitions from the Realization phase to the Final Preparation phase, the project team will begin performing a series of tests to ensure that the system is ready to move from the development environment to the production environment.

Data from the legacy system(s) used by the bureaus will be changed into a format that can be accommodated by the FBMS system. The project team provides the bureaus with a list of data that they need to cleanse and a timeline for accomplishing it. The data clean up/conversion process enables end users to have access to the data they need in FBMS when the system goes live in order to perform their job duties.

Next, the project team will conduct two sets of cutover tests that simulate transitioning from the legacy systems to the new FBMS system. System activity is monitored during these tests to ensure that FBMS is performing correctly.

Key Dates for D3:

Cutover 1 will begin on October 9 and last for approximately two weeks.

Cutover 2 is scheduled for October 31 to November 8.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT BARBARA BELLIO, *BLM*

Barb Bellio is a Subject Matter Expert for acquisitions and will be involved with supporting the FBMS deployment process for BLM. While the implementation tasks seem daunting, she is excited for the challenge. As a procurement analyst for BLM based in Denver at the National Business Center, Ms. Bellio has 30 years of government experience. She has been with BLM since 1987.

BLM is about to enter the Blueprint phase for Deployment 4. Ms. Bellio recognizes that the deployment process will be a challenging experience for everyone involved. Staff resources will be stretched to support FBMS deployment activities while handling day-to-day operations for the bureau. Given employees' time constraints, Ms. Bellio said that it is important that project communications are concise and personal. She also commented that bureau management will play a key role in supporting the implementation of FBMS.

However, Ms. Bellio is cautiously optimistic about the benefits and improvements the new system will bring. She believes that a single, integrated system makes sense for the Department of Interior.

Barbara Bellio
Procurement Analyst, BLM

DEPLOYMENT 3 TESTING ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

David Shearer announced on July 23 that the project passed Test Readiness Review—Integration Quality Gate for Deployment 3. The project team did not waste any time, as integration testing activities (Cycle 1) started the next day in Herndon, VA and will continue in both Herndon and Denver through August 15.

Cycle 1 involves only testers from the FBMS Project Management Office (PMO). Testers will focus on daily master maintenance and business and month-end processes. Cycle 2 is scheduled for August 20 to September 14 and involves the PMO, as well as bureau representatives and NBC. Errors identified in Cycle 1 are retested. It also includes other system features such as year-end processing and 508 compliance.

Testers participating in Cycle 1 in Herndon, VA