

# THE FBMS EXPRESS

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THE FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FBMS)

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## INCREASING FBMS MOMENTUM IN 2008



*Nina Rose Hatfield  
FBMS Project Sponsor*

As we start off 2008, I want to take a moment to step back and reflect on how far the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS) has come during the past year. We experienced many FBMS firsts in 2007, including a successful year-end close for FY07 and integrating core financials with new acquisition functionality for Minerals Management Service (MMS) and Office of Surface Mining (OSM) during Deployment 3.

We also initiated Deployment 4 activities with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), which will be the first bureau to transition from the Federal Financial System. Moreover, FBMS contributed towards the Department's annual audit, which was completed in record time and received a clean audit opinion without material weaknesses from an independent accounting firm.

The Department of the Interior and FBMS Project Management Office (PMO) owe these successes and milestones to all of the hard work and dedication the project teams and bureaus have contributed to our deployments. Also, I would like to thank the 1,002 FBMS users from MMS, National Business Center, and OSM for the patience and perseverance you have demonstrated in learning how to use the system and adapting to new business processes.

Your collective efforts have enabled us to build a strong momentum for FBMS. Congress recognized this, demonstrated by the funding they recently appropriated to support our deployment activities. Deployment 4 will be a major undertaking, as we work towards expanding functionality and adding thousands of additional users. I am confident that we have the talent, skill, and expertise to help make FBMS a success in Deployment 4. Along with the rest of the Executive Steering Committee, I will be counting on current and future FBMS users to help sustain and build on our momentum in 2008 and beyond.

*- Nina Rose Hatfield, FBMS Project Sponsor*



## COMING IN FEBRUARY:

- 2/4:**  
D3 Operational Readiness Review (ORR)
- 2/15:**  
D4 Critical Design Review (CDR)
- 2/19:**  
Executive Steering Committee Meeting

## NEW FBMS OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE PROVIDER SELECTED

A number of changes are being implemented within the FBMS project office to further improve the support provided to the bureaus and users after Go-Live (also known as "production support" or "operations and maintenance"). The Department of the Interior recently awarded a contract to Delta Solutions, which will provide operations and maintenance

services for FBMS. Delta will serve as the primary applications management service provider working closely with the FBMS Project Management Office and the National Business Center. The process of transitioning operations and maintenance activities to the new contractor is well underway. Delta Solutions has begun working with the project

team and will be fully staffed to support FBMS before the end of this month. The transition will be completed by January 31, 2008. The addition of Delta Solutions will help the FBMS management team continue to stabilize and improve the system, as well as improve the support environment.

*(Continued on page 2)*

We are on the web!

<http://www.doi.gov/fbms>

**FBMS**  
**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

Where are we today on the road to FBMS ?



As a result, many carefully determined production support activities are being consolidated within the Project Management Office. This will enable a quicker and easier knowledge transfer between the developments and the production environment, resulting in a smoother Go-Live transition for the project team, bureaus, and end users.

## A LOOK AHEAD...

### Important Gate Reviews for Deployments 3 & 4



Since Deployment 3 Go-Live last November, the project team has been closely monitoring FBMS transactions and the overall performance of the system to ensure that it is fully operational.

This has involved close collaboration among DOI,

Team IBM, and the bureaus to identify and resolve system defects.

The project team has scheduled the **Operational Readiness Review (ORR)** for February 4, the final gate review for Deployment 3. The purpose is to confirm that the Deployment 3 FBMS deployment related documentation are complete; evaluate

the results of end-user training; confirm that operations and maintenance structures are in place with documented procedures; and confirm that critical risks have either been resolved or have mitigation plans in place. Approval of ORR will formally transition ownership of FBMS to DOI.

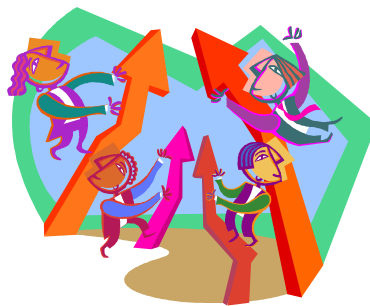
The **Critical Design Review (CDR)** is the first gate review of the Deployment 4 Realization phase and will take place on February 15. Following the preliminary designs that were accepted by the Department of the Interior at the end of the Blueprint phase, CDR validates that the detailed system design satisfies and finalizes the scope of the current deployment cycle. Successful completion of CDR means that the project can proceed with full-scale development of the system.

## IMPROVEMENTS SEEN FROM DEPLOYMENT 2 TO DEPLOYMENT 3

“What a difference a year makes!” That’s what many people in the FBMS community are saying about the performance of FBMS since Deployment 3 Go-Live. Deploying new acquisition functionality and upgrading the SAP software represented a significant release for the FBMS program. Although there is always room for improvement, the bureaus and project team have encountered fewer challenges since Go-Live compared to last year.

For example, the first month end (November) closed as scheduled. The first quarter end (December) had some issues, primarily as a result of not having enough resources available over the holidays. Even still, December closed only one day late and the new period only two days late. This is a major improvement over last year when month end lasted well into the second work week before closing.

In addition, the production support calls, hosted by the operations and maintenance team, were daily until at least May following Deployment 2 Go-Live. This year, they were scheduled to be conducted daily for the first 30 days, but were cut back to the standard twice weekly schedule at the request of the users after the November close.



Similarly, the open phone line, set up between the FBMS project office and bureaus, was used constantly in Deployment 2 and was extended beyond the originally scheduled first 30 days after Go-Live. In Deployment 3, the open line was used very sparingly and was cancelled entirely after November close, one week earlier than scheduled.

The only issue that has been a consistent problem is workflow. However, Core Finance and Acquisition make up less than a quarter of all tickets submitted – and overall, there are only a few severity 1 tickets currently open. MMS recently noted that transitioning off of the Interior Department Electronic Acquisition System and adding new acquisition functionality to FBMS has proven to be a major improvement for the bureau so far.

The change request process, which will approve system modifications, is also being refined. These efforts will continue in the coming months as Delta Solutions is integrated into the FBMS PMO and has a role in the process.