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CBDNet: GPO Produces Award-Winning Internet Service For Commerce Department

The *Commerce Business Daily*, the Commerce Department publication that provides American businesses with the official listing of Federal contracting opportunities, is now available free of charge to the public via the Internet, as the result of a strategic alliance between the Commerce Department and the Government Printing Office (GPO).

The *Commerce Business Daily*, known as the CBD, is a critically important listing of Government contract and subcontracting opportunities, small business and other set-asides, foreign business leads, special notices, changes in foreign government standards, and sales of surplus Government property.

GPO's unique ability to bring together a variety of technological, procurement, dissemination, and support capabilities in a combined package of services now makes CBD information freely accessible in real-time over the Internet while preserving the printed version for those who still need to receive the daily issues in that form. These changes will save the Government and the taxpayers \$1.7 million, provide American businesses with an instant and "single face" for Government contracting opportunities, and increase public awareness of an important Government information resource. The Internet-based component of the new CBD, known as CBDNet, can be reached on the World Wide Web at <http://cbdnet.access.gpo.gov>.

The new CBD makes it easier and more timely for agencies to electronically submit notices for inclusion in the CBD. It has significantly reduced the cost per notice for agency submissions from \$18 to \$5, a reduction of 70 percent, cutting costs to taxpayers. The new CBD allows for the continuation of a billing and reporting process for these charges, provides support to both agencies and users of the CBD, reduces the time needed to compose the printed version, and enhances the delivery of final copy to the printing contractor for production of the daily issues. The new CBD also enables commercial value-added providers, who offer CBD products, to receive the daily CBD information much faster, in an enhanced format, and at a 20 percent reduction in cost.

The new CBD was made possible by utilizing the knowledge and experience of a number of GPO organizations to put together a proposal that fully met all of the criteria in the Commerce Department's statement of need. Following a thorough analysis of this proposal and other proposals from organizations in Government and the private sector, GPO's proposal was selected as the best submitted in all phases. As a result, the alliance was signed on August 27, 1996. The new CBD process became operational on December 2, 1996, approximately 3 months from the beginning of the project.

CBDNet has been extraordinarily well received by participating Government agencies and the user community. In an unusual development, *CBDNet* was awarded an Association for Federal Information Resources Management (AFFIRM) Leadership Award while still in its testing phase.