

Fiscal Year 2007

FEDLINK's Direct Express Option

Alert Summary

More than 60 online services vendors participate in FEDLINK's Direct Express program. Similar to making a purchase using the GSA schedule, FEDLINK customers can place orders directly with online services vendors via the Direct Express option. Under this streamlined purchasing process, products and service offerings are as comprehensive as always—electronic database publications, document delivery services, associated print publications and specialized access options.

Revolving Fund Establishes Authority for Direct Express

Under Section 103 of P.L. 106-481 (2 U.S.C. 182c), which established FEDLINK as a revolving fund beginning in Fiscal Year 2002, FEDLINK, via the Library of Congress, can provide “the procurement of commercial information services, publications in any format, and library support services,...related accounting services,... related education, information and support services” to federal offices and to other organizations entitled to use federal sources of supply. In addition to interagency transfers for Transfer Pay services, FEDLINK can accept fees from federal agencies that have “passed through” a vendor and have been earned for facilitating federal purchasing, i.e., the vendors pay the FEDLINK administrative fees.

To establish this option, FEDLINK negotiated indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts on a sole source basis with online services vendors. An IDIQ allows the government to place orders for an indefinite quantity of commercially available supplies or services during a fixed period.

Place the Order Directly With the Vendor

With Direct Express, customers simply cite the FEDLINK contract number on their agency's purchase order and send it straight to the vendor. No synopsis nor further competition is required on purchases over \$25,000 as the FEDLINK IDIQ establishes the vendors as sole source for their individual products and services. When comparing two vendors with similar databases, customers may want to compare prices or choose a vendor based upon their interface.

The vendor receives the purchase order, sets up the customer's account and promptly issues passwords and/or authorization numbers. The vendor will then invoice the FEDLINK customer directly against their agency's purchase order. The customer's agency finance office pays the invoice (and any interest penalties) and reports disbursements to the customer. FEDLINK does not issue statements of account for Direct Express purchases.

The vendor pays the FEDLINK fee based on the volume of quarterly sales of Direct Express customers. Direct Express customers are responsible for initiating the purchase, managing delivery of the products and services, and paying invoices.

Online Services Vendors Participate in Direct Express

The following online services vendors have contracts with FEDLINK to accept Direct Express orders. (See the chart below.) These same vendors are also available under Transfer Pay mode but are no longer available through the FEDLINK Direct Pay option.

Vendors Offering Direct Express and Transfer Pay Options

<u>(Vendor ID follows vendor name.)</u>	<u>Contract #</u>
Acquisition Solutions - AQ	LOC04C-7069
American Chemical Society - CA	LOC04C-7039
Blackwell Publishing, Inc. - BO	LOC06C-7085
Books24x7/SkillSoft Corp. - TF	LOC06C-7082
Cambridge Scientific (CSA) - SA	LOC04C-7010
CCH, Incorporated - CC	LOC05C-7075
ChoicePoint - CT	LOC04C-7058
Columbia University Press - CO	LOC04C-7046
Congressional Quarterly - CQ	LOC04C-7011
CountryWatch.com - CW	LOC04C-7065
CQ Press - QP	LOC04C-7013
CRIBIS Corporation - SM	LOC04C-7049
Dialog (Thomson) - DI	LOC04C-7019
Digital Library Reserve - DR	LOC05C-7074
Dun & Bradstreet - DU	LOC04C-7018
East View Information - EV	LOC04C-7030
Ebrary, Inc. - EY	LOC05C-7071
EBSCO Publishing - EH	03CSFC70101
Economist Intelligence Unit, N. A. - EU	LOC04C-7023
Economy.com, Inc. - EC	LOC04C-7002
Edgar Online, Inc. - EO	LOC06C-7077
Elsevier-MD Consult - MK	LOC04C-7050
ERI-Economic Research Institute - ER	LOC04C-7067

Ex Libris - XL	LC07D-7089
Fastcase.com, Inc. - FC	LOC04C-7014
Gale (Thomson) - GR	03CSFC70102
GalleryWatch.com - GW	LOC05C-7073
Global Insight - WG	LOC04C-7008
Greenwood Publishing - GP	LC07D-7092
H. W. Wilson - WI	LOC04C-7035
IBIS World Pty Ltd - IS	LOC04C-7063
IEEE - IE	LOC04C-7022
IEEE Standards - SI	LOC04C-7022
Information Handling Services - IH	LC07D-7086
InfoUSA - AI	LOC04C-7005
Ingenta - CU	LOC04C-7036
Inside Washington Publishers - IW	LOC04C-7003
Jane's Information Group - JN	LOC04C-7037
JSTOR - JS	LOC04C-7043
Knovel Corporation - KN	LOC03C-7031
Leadership Directories - LE	LOC06C-7090
LexisNexis - ML	03CSFC70103
LRP Publications - PS	LOC04C-7060
MarketResearch.com - MA	LOC04C-7015
netLibrary, Inc. - NE	LOC04C-7048
NewsBank, Inc. - NB	LOC04C-7009
Org. for Econ. Coop. & Dev. - OE	LOC04C-7006
Outsell, Inc. - OS	02CSFC40001
Ovid Technologies, Inc. - BR	LOC04C-7038
Oxford University Press - OU	LOC04C-7007
Peterson's - PG	LOC04C-7044
Press Association - AP	LOC04C-7012
ProQuest Information & Learning Co. - UM	03CSFC70104
Questel/Orbit - OR	LOC04C-7059
Reis Reports, Inc. - RR	LOC04C-7064
Research Libraries Group (RLG) - RL	LOC04C-7053
RIA (Res. Inst. of Amer.) - RI	LOC04C-7042

R.R. Bowker, LLC - RB	LOC04C-7061
Springer Science & Business Media - SO	LOC06C-7079
Tax Analysts - TA	LOC04C-7056
TDNet - TD	LOC04C-7054
TLC (The Library Corp.) - LC	LOC04C-7025
United Communications Group - UC	LOC04C-7001
West Publishing Corp. - WE	03CSFC70105
World Bank - WB	LOC04C-7055

Transfer Pay Option Offers Customers More Account Options

As cost effective as Direct Express is, most current members will continue to prefer transfer pay mode, which offers them more flexibility in managing their funds and provides more assistance with procurement processes.

Under the Transfer Pay option, customers transfer both FEDLINK administrative fees and estimated annual service dollars to FEDLINK/Library of Congress (LC) via a signed Interagency Agreement (IAG), purchase order, or MIPR. On behalf of the customer, LC/Contracts issues a delivery order to the vendor in the amount specified on the IAG. After receiving the delivery order, the vendor provides service to the customer and submits the customer's invoices to FEDLINK. FEDLINK reviews the invoices, rejects improper ones, and pays acceptable ones from the customer's account. FEDLINK sends the customer copies of rejected invoices, paid invoices, and a monthly statement of account.

If there are surplus funds in one vendor account, an amendment form can conveniently move these funds to another needed service.

Another major benefit of Transfer Pay is extended order deadlines. Instead of having to fulfill a member's order either by providing services or by issuing delivery orders to vendors prior to the end of the fiscal year, before their funds expire, FEDLINK is able to accept signed IAGs with firm orders late in September every year and generate delivery orders well into October. In addition, FEDLINK is also authorized to accept IAGs and amendments by fax, pending receipt of originals via courier service or mail. This reduces the lead time necessary to add funds to purchase information products and services at the end of the fiscal year.

More Information Is Available

For questions on Direct Express, contact FEDLINK Network Operations by phone at (202) 707-4848 or by email to FLICCFno@loc.gov. For assistance with your current accounts, please call the FEDLINK Fiscal Hotline at (202) 707-4900.