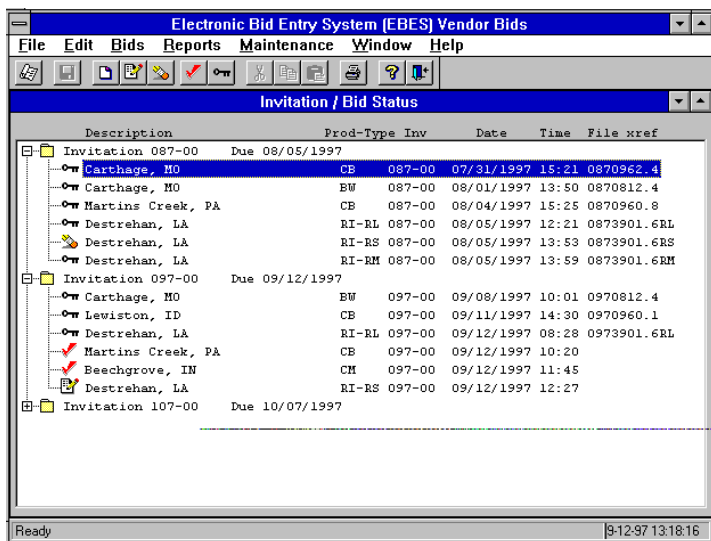




USDA\FSA\KCC Electronic Bid Entry System (EBES)

The Electronic Bid Entry System (EBES) is a software application designed to automate the bid entry portion of the USDA's procurement of commodities exported under Foreign Food Aid for Humanitarian Assistance Programs. EBES is the first FSA business application that electronically integrates customers and government operations via client / server and Internet technology. This system was developed through a joint effort between KCMO and KCCO of the USDA and EDS.



EBES incorporates many of today's leading edge technologies while retaining a user friendly interface.

Scope

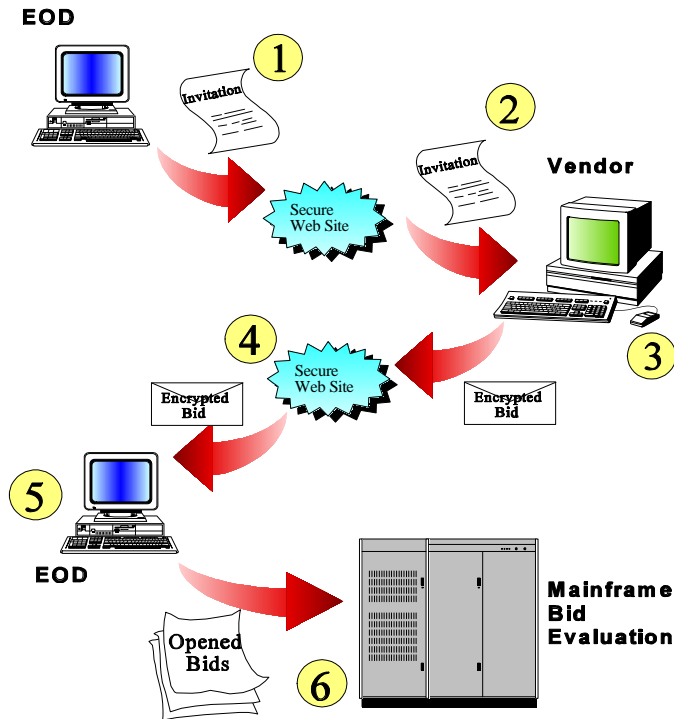
EBES provides a secure electronic means of entering and receiving vendor commodity bids which:

- ▶ Supports the procurement of \$2 Billion of export commodities annually
- ▶ Will be used by over 80 independent vendors throughout the USA to provide approximately 200 bids per buy
- ▶ Is utilized for monthly purchases as well as supplemental buys.

Features

- ▶ **Standard Graphical User Interface (GUI)**; Follows Microsoft and USDA/FSA GUI standard designs.
- ▶ **On-line Help**; Incorporates extensive on-line help with context sensitive links, table of contents, and topic search capabilities.
- ▶ **Validation**; Performs validation of bids reducing errors and preventing incomplete bids from being transmitted to the USDA.
- ▶ **Bid Security**; Encrypted bids are secured from corporate espionage and kept private until bid opening time.
- ▶ **Web Security**; The Netscape Secure Server encrypts the password a vendor uses to access the EBES Web site. This ensures that only authorized vendors can submit bids and that vendor's passwords are "safe" traveling on the Internet.
- ▶ **Reporting**; Includes several standard reports which provide easy access to bid data during bid evaluation, aids in determining short falls, and identifies any vendor constraints.
- ▶ **User Friendly Design**; Provides easy navigation through application using menus, popups, and toolbar icons. Includes easy to understand tree-view presentation of invitation/bid data.
- ▶ **Easy Distribution**; Is initially distributed on CD-Rom along with printed documentation. Version upgrades are distributed via the EBES Web site.
- ▶ **Contingency Plans**; USDA has the capability to input a bid for a vendor.

EBES Business Process



1) EOD Creates an Invitation;

An invitation for commodity purchase is created by USDA/FSA/KCCO/Export Operations Division (EOD) and is made available to Vendors via the EBES Web site.

2) Vendor Downloads Invitation;

The downloaded invitation is loaded into the Commodity Vendor's EBES application database.

3) Vendor Creates Bid(s);

Bids are created / modified, checked for accuracy and completeness, then encrypted.

4) Vendor Transmits Bids;

Encrypted bid files are sent to EOD via the EBES Web site.

5) EOD Opens Bids;

At opening time, bids are decrypted. Reports are created and preliminary analysis is performed.

6) Bid Evaluation and Awards;

Bids are formatted for mainframe evaluation process and contracts are awarded.

EBES Architecture

EBES runs under a Windows 3.1 and Windows 95 environment.

EBES was developed with the following tools:

- ▶ PowerBuilder 5.0
- ▶ Windows help in ForeHelp 2.1
- ▶ Encryption by PGP 4.0
- ▶ Stored procedure in Transact SQL
- ▶ CGI program in AIX 'C'
- ▶ Web pages in HTML

EBES incorporates the following databases:

- ▶ DB2 on IBM mainframe
- ▶ Sybase Server 10 on RS-6000
- ▶ SQL Anywhere on PC

Benefits

- ▶ Significantly shortens bid award process.
- ▶ Virtually eliminates human intervention - reducing risk of error.
- ▶ Allows vendors to submit secure, encrypted bids based on up to the minute market prices - more competitive pricing.
- ▶ Vendors receive real-time bid receipt acknowledgment via the EBES Web site.
- ▶ Provides for the logical growth of the application to encompass the entire export business process. The parallel bid award processes within AMS, Domestic, Dairy, and Bulk Grain commodity purchases will be able to leverage the existing EBES architecture.

Contacts: For more information regarding EBES, please contact the following:

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