UFMS eFLASH: January 14, 2004

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1. 2004 UFMS Milerocks

CY 2004 will be UFMS's Mount Everest. The looming project deadlines are so enormous and crucial that you might want to think of them as "milerocks" instead of mere milestones. That's not to say that anyone is petrified, it just means that UFMS teams will be getting bolder (or, should we say, boulder) as they reach the peak: "go-live". Global Business Analysis Team Federal Lead, Matt Zakielarz (a rock-solid guy), says that the first important event will occur as early as this month when the configuration of interfaces is approved. Another important date will be FDA's Conference Room Pilot (CRP) in February. Also in February, what Zakielarz calls the "post-deployment operations/support plan" will be developed. That plan is critical because it will detail how UFMS will be maintained once it is implemented. In other words, it will make sure that the candle keeps burning once it's lit.

March will also be an important month as the Global/CDC CRP 2 will be held and the team will need to demonstrate successful global interfaces and extensions. Later, PSC--who services not only itself but also ACF, AoA, AHRQ, HRSA, IHS, OS, and SAMSHA--will have its first CRP. In Summer 2004, CDC will have two mock conversions. Global Project Lead Jennifer Greger notes that the second of these conversions will be the more important, as all the loose ends to CDC's implementation will need to be ironed out. Then, in October, CDC will be the first OPDIV to go completely live with UFMS. At the same time, FDA will be going live with UFMS with its general ledger for payroll (full implementation will occur at FDA in 2005).

That's a mountain of work! But, with their dedication and expertise, all of our local and global teams will be paving this rocky road so that UFMS's customers will have a smooth ride into the financial future.

2. Schedules for Global/CDC CRP2

Within the scope of the Global/CDC implementation, there are two Conference Room Pilots (CRPs). CRP1 took place in August 2003. The sequel, CRP2, will be held March 22 - April 2, 2004 in Atlanta. It will focus on high priority global processes and the CDC-specific business requirements and their integrated business processes. It will include specific Global interface that are common among a minimum of two component OPDIVs as well as the CDC-specific interfaces, Global and CDC extensions, federally mandated reports, and standard Oracle operational reports.

During April 5 - 9, a separate session will also be conducted in the Washington, DC area that will provide the other OPDIVs an opportunity to participate in the demonstration of the Global interfaces, extensions, and federally mandated reports. It is important to note that during site-specific (FDA and PSC) CRPs, other site-specific processes will be covered in more detail.

3. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to Host CRP in February

The UFMS Conference Room Pilot (CRP) for the FDA will be held during the first two weeks of February in Rockville, MD. Expanding on the successes of the Global/CDC CRP1 and mini-CRPs, FDA's CRP will demonstrate Global and FDA-specific functionality through the completion of integrated business scenarios. A joint team of FDA and BearingPoint staff will lead the CRP. Participants will include staff from central financial organizations under the Office of the Commissioner, representatives from the six centers, and field and headquarters staff from the Office of Regulatory Affairs. Participants from the Global Team, CDC, and PSC will also be invited.

Prior to the CRP, participants who have not yet seen the Oracle Financials application will attend an Oracle Financials Overview. Also, all participants will attend a ½-day orientation immediately prior to the CRP.

To learn more about FDA's CRP, please contact Dave Petak at David.Petak@fda.gov.

4. Ask Professor UFMS: "Who is Paying for UFMS?"

This is a new feature of the UFMS eFlash intended to respond to questions and comments received in the recent UFMS survey. A few questions were received about budget issues. "Professor UFMS" offers a few comments in response.

Q: *Who is paying for UFMS? How was the cost of UFMS divided up between the agencies?*

A: The Department's OPDIVs finance UFMS. UFMS is operating on two distinct levels regarding budget--the global level and the individual OPDIV level.

On the global level, all OPDIVs share the cost associated with implementation issues that impact everyone, such as consolidated reporting. The criteria used to establish each OPDIV's portion of the global budget responsibilities include: the number of affected OPDIV FTEs in the personnel 300/500 series, the organizational/operational size of the OPDIV, and the implementation schedule for the OPDIV.

On the individual OPDIV level, each OPDIV will have budget issues unique to it as each OPDIV has its own site-specific issues that UFMS must address. OPDIV costs will vary from year to year, usually increasing as the OPDIV approaches the "go-live" date. Global and OPDIV-specific budget support will continue for the duration of the UFMS project that culminates in FY 2007.

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