

USDA ENCOURAGES EXPORTERS TO SUBMIT INFORMATION ELECTRONICALLY

Jan. 19, 2008 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) encourages U.S. participants of the Export Credit Guarantee Programs, including the GSM-102 Program and the Facility Guarantee Program, to submit required program information electronically.

Program participants are encouraged to submit their information using the General Sales Manager (GSM) Online System or by e-mail at GSM.Registrations@fas.usda.gov.

The GSM On-Line System, which enables U.S exporters and U.S. banks to submit required documentation online or electronically, increases data reliability and reduces document-processing time. The system also helps fulfill USDA's e-Government goals by providing online trade assistance and electronic access to USDA loan programs.

The GSM On-Line System allows participants to control every transaction made under the Export Credit Guarantee Programs, and can be used as a tracking mechanism, particularly for time-sensitive reports such as EOE reports. Program participants can create, modify and submit Evidence of Exports (EOE) reports, Assignments of Payment Guarantees, Amendments to Guarantees, and Notices of Default through the system.

To use the GSM On-Line System users must first establish an online account before they can submit information. Instructions on how to do this may be found at <http://www.fas.usda.gov/excredits/gsonline/intro.asp>. Questions or problems with gaining system access may be directed to (202) 720-4127.

Submitting information by e-mail provides evidence of document submission and allows for document tracking and confirmation. It also helps to facilitate the Commodity Credit Corporation's handling of information, such as EOE reports, and accelerates report reconciliation.

For more information on the GSM programs, contact FAS' Credit Programs Division, Registrations and Operations Branch at (202) 720-3277, or go to <http://www.fas.usda.gov/commercial.asp>.