UFMS NEWSFLASH: July 29, 2003

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1. CRP1: Right Around the Corner!

The first UFMS Conference Room Pilot (CRP1) is just a few days away and all the key components are in place. The agency participants are prepared for their role, having attended an overview of Oracle U.S. Federal Financials(the UFMS software) and a CRP1 orientation over the past two months. The UFMS module leads have prepared their test scripts. The CRP1 software instance is configured to reflect the global and CDC-specific requirement "fits." The UFMS team is ready to go!

Do you need more information on CRP1? Please visit "Inside CRP1" at http://intranet.hhs.gov/ufms/crp1info.html for the latest CRP1 information, travel arrangements, FAQs and instructions.

2. FDA FES Kickoff

The FDA UFMS implementation site is officially established. FDA's Office of Management and Systems held a kick-off meeting for their Financial Enterprise Systems (FES), on July 3, 2003, at the Parklawn building in Rockville. FES, in partnership with UFMS, will be the cornerstone of FDA's strategic plan to improve the agency's 30-year-old legacy financial management systems.

Helen Horn, FDA's Office of Financial Management Director, and Deputy CFO, welcomed the attendees and outlined FDA's plan for integrating their financial management systems using the latest web-based technology. FES and UFMS will improve response time and financial reporting to OMB, HHS and FDA components and help maintain FDA's clean audit opinion.

Melissa Chapman, George Strader, and Kathy Heuer from OS/ASBTF; UFMS PMO Director, Tom Doherty; and Global Implementation Lead, Jennifer Greger, joined FDA's Associate Commissioner for Management and Systems, Jeff Weber, for the kickoff event. Each group representing FDA, HHS, and BearingPoint (system integrator) shared their enthusiasm for the project and their confidence that the FES implementation will be successful and advantageous to FDA. Welcome aboard FDA!

3. Oracle's JFMIP Certification Update

In the JFMIP re-certification test in June, Oracle U.S. Federal Financials, the primary financial application for UFMS, did not pass 100% of the requirements necessary for re-certification. Because Oracle did achieve the 90% passing threshold, they are able to participate in a re-test to achieve the required score of 100%. The anticipated re-test date is "weeks, not months away", according to Oracle Corporation.

Mark Johnson, Group Vice President, Federal Sales at Oracle Corporation, recently stated that correcting the JFMIP test issues "is the top priority of the company." During the initial demonstration, Oracle failed on 18 issues. Of these 18 issues, Oracle stated that 12 were not demonstrated appropriately, two required the development of new demonstration scripts, and four required software changes (to date, three changes are complete).

Oracle Corporation holds weekly conference calls with the Federal Customer Advisory Board to provide agency representatives with timely updates on the JFMIP re-certification process. The UFMS PMO participates in the weekly conference calls, representing HHS. Any questions regarding the Oracle Corporation re-certification can be directed to Jennifer Greger at Jennifer.Greger@hhs.gov .

4. From the Desk of Tom Doherty, UFMS Program Director

"Since my official arrival at the PMO on June 30, I've been amazed at the activity and accomplishments of the UFMS teams. The cooperation between the agency sites and the UFMS Global teams is inspiring. Building the government's largest civilian financial management system is no small task, and I'm pleased to say that the work put forth by everyone involved with UFMS has been equally impressive. Thank you to everyone for the excellent cooperation and energy shown."

5. UFMS Gap Closure Analysis (GCA) Task Forces Assume Duties

The UFMS PMO, with input from subject matter experts throughout the Department, identified various requirements that cannot be fully met with standard Oracle U.S. Federal Financials functionality. These requirements were deemed as "gaps" and many have been grouped into categories based on similarities. The UFMS Steering Committee designated individuals from many HHS agencies to participate on Task Forces that will address groups of requirements in the following areas and develop alternatives for satisfying them: cash management, federalized projects, operational reports, scanning and data storage, letters and forms, reimbursable agreements, budget planning, and CAN/BACS realignment.

For more information about GCAs or the Task Forces, please contact Matt Zakielarz at Matthew.Zakielarz@hhs.gov .