

Department Of Revenue Offers Online Business Tax Payments

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HELENA, Montana - January 6, 2003-Montana businesses now have a new option to pay their state withholding tax online.

The new service, called Business Tax Express, allows businesses to establish an account and password. Once an account is established, the business simply logs in each time they wish to make a payment or file a tax return, enters the necessary data, and prints a receipt. The payment will automatically be withdrawn from the business' bank account.

The online service also allows a company to transmit payments and filings on behalf of multiple businesses, and allows 'warehousing' of the payment for a later date.

"This service will make it easier than ever to file and pay withholding taxes," said Neil Peterson, administrator of the Montana Department of Revenue's Customer Service Division. "Online payments are more convenient for the customer, and they are much faster to process. There are no paper forms to mail in, and no manual processing for the Department of Revenue. This service will truly streamline the process, start to finish."

In 2004, the Department of Revenue will add additional tax types to be filed and paid as part of Business Tax Express; rental vehicle taxes will be added in March and in April customers will be able to pay lodging and accommodations taxes online.

"Customers now expect to be able to interact with government online," said Peterson. "We are trying to meet that demand, and allow Montana businesses to benefit from the efficiencies and convenience of handling payments online."

A significant number of Montana businesses will be served by the new online filing capabilities of Business Tax Express. It is estimated that more than 38,000 Montana businesses will be able to take advantage of the new service.

Business Tax Express is the result of an alliance between state government and the private sector. The system was cooperatively developed and is supported by the Montana Department of Revenue, the Montana Department of Administration's Information Technology Services Division and Montana Interactive, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of eGovernment provider NIC (Nasdaq: EGOV).

For more information on Business Tax Express, visit www.DiscoveringMontana.com or call the Department of Revenue's Customer Service Center at (406) 444-6900.

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