



STATE CONTROLLER'S BULLETIN

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State Controller

Rebecca M. Wyke, Commissioner
Administrative & Financial Services

Bulletin #FY07- 06

SUBJECT: Change In Go-Live Date For AdvantageME

DATE: December 11, 2006

TO: All Departments and Agencies


FROM: Edward A. Karass, State Controller
Richard Thompson, Chief Information Officer
Betty Lamoreau, Director of Purchasing
David Lemoine, State Treasurer

During the beginning of December the project steering committee and the implementation team leads met to discuss the readiness of the AdvantageME System Software, the status of statewide training, progress of system testing, and the technical environment, i.e. data processing. Our discussions reached a consensus decision that we should plan for a July 1, 2007 go-live for AdvantageME. Our decision was based on the following considerations.

- Although UAT software test went very well and turned up only minor issues, we believe that parallel testing is required to ensure that we minimize the risk of having to step back from Advantage once implemented.
- Our discussions revealed that the Office of Information Technology's data center was not quite ready to operate the system in a fully operational production environment on January 1, 2007.
- The project staff in Office of the State Controller, the Division of Purchases, and the State Treasurer will use this time to ensure that we have coordinated the business processes amongst our offices.

Although we must ensure that the system goes through parallel testing, the data center completes its readiness tasks, and the team gears up for system production, each day beyond January 1, 2007 is another day where conversion of the granular data in the current MFASIS System is lost to summarization making very cumbersome for Advantage system users. The accountants, purchasing, and other financial management personnel would spend an inordinate amount of time toggling between the two systems to accomplish their work. The goal of any new system is to provide a better tool kit for users; however, the loss of granular data this late in the year would not allow us to meet that goal.

What will happen now between January 1st and July 1st? We must maintain the knowledge all individuals who will be dependent on the system gained during training to conduct the State of Maine's business. We will make the system available to all prospective users in a "sand box" environment to familiarize themselves with all of the feature and capabilities of the system by practicing using all the features they will use in the live environment.



The project team will continue to conduct some additional testing and ready the data center environment to ensure the system is finely tuned when we implement on July 1st. In order to ensure that we bring up a fully stable system, we will not be using this time to add new features or enhancements to Advantage. We will use the time we have to continue to refine the system we would have gone live with on January 1st.

Finally, a new schedule of events to bring us to implementation will be released after January 1, 2007 to provide vendors and state agencies with a guidepost for go live. While six months may seem like an eternity to some, it amount to fewer than 130 workdays or approximately a little over 1,000 hours to “go-live”.