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## ARC Monthly Bulletin – May 2010

### *Valuable information for ARC's customers*

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1. FY 2011 Agreement Status

We've just about completed the preparation of FY 2011 customer agreements and will be providing them soon. Most customers will receive their agreements by May 14, 2010, which will allow us to set a goal of formal approval of all interagency agreements no later than June 30, 2010. You will notice a few improvements to these agreements. Service descriptions have been standardized, costs are maintained at last year's levels (unless service levels changed), and no reserve fee is added. If you'd like to discuss the agreement or have any questions or concerns, please let us know. We plan to conduct conference calls during the month of June. For more information, please contact Jason Hill at 304-480-7227 or [jason.hill@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:jason.hill@bpd.treas.gov).

2. Oracle Release 12 Program Update

The migration project of ARC's Oracle Federal Financials applications to Release 12 is well underway! We are now in the requirements phase, which includes documenting and performing a gap analysis on all global, functional, and technical requirements. This includes documenting all system requirements that are applicable to the transactions we process on behalf of our customer agencies. For that reason, you can expect us to solicit input from agencies that have Oracle application users who enter transactions in the core financial management modules within our shared environment. This complex phase of the project is scheduled to continue through November 2010.

To keep you better informed, we are also in the process of developing a project website. From that site, you'll be able to track the progress of the R12 Program. Information on the website will be provided in the near future.

For additional information or if you have any questions on the Oracle R12 Program, please contact Shaun Willison at 304-480-7286 or [shaun.willison@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:shaun.willison@bpd.treas.gov).

### 3. Fiscal Service CA Audit Report

On January 27, 2010, our Information Technology Messaging and Identity staff hosted auditors from Treasury's Office of the Inspector General who were on site to evaluate the annual contingency test performed on the Fiscal Service Certificate Authority (CA). ARC provides hosting and technical support for the Fiscal Service CA and for certificates supporting critical infrastructure applications used across the government. The final audit report from that engagement was recently received. We are very proud of the results – no reportable findings or recommendations identified! For additional information, please contact Jim Walker at 304-480-6970 or [james.walker@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:james.walker@bpd.treas.gov).

### 4. Changes in Payroll Deductions for U.S. Savings Bonds

On April 19, 2010, the Department of Treasury announced an initiative to increase the number of electronic transactions across Government. One component of that initiative will phase out the issuance of paper savings bonds through payroll deduction for Federal employees beginning September 30, 2010. After that date, Federal employees will be able to continue purchasing savings bonds through payroll deduction by opening a TreasuryDirect<sup>®</sup> account. TreasuryDirect<sup>®</sup> is a web-based system that allows investors to buy, hold, and manage a variety of electronic Treasury securities including Series EE and I savings bonds, Treasury bills, notes, bonds, and Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities (TIPS). Savings bonds in TreasuryDirect<sup>®</sup> have all of the benefits of paper bonds, but cannot be misplaced or destroyed.

To learn more about TreasuryDirect<sup>®</sup>, visit [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov). For questions about payroll deductions for savings bonds, please contact Steve Berenson at 304-480-8076 or [steve.berenson@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:steve.berenson@bpd.treas.gov).

### 5. Customer Focus Groups for HR Topics

We have recently instituted customer focus groups to address issues and initiatives in the HR arena. The first group, which recently concluded, concentrated on improving ARC's HR performance metrics and provided valuable input that we will use to improve our services. Plans are in place to convene an additional focus group on Federal hiring reform once all of the details of the reform initiative are known. HR customers will be invited to participate in this group via email.

For more information on the HR focus groups, please contact Nancy Smith at 304-480-8260 or [nancy.smith@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:nancy.smith@bpd.treas.gov).

### 6. Treasury and OMB announce FIT Office to improve Financial Management across Government

The Office of Financial Innovation and Transformation (OFIT), led by Adam Goldberg, recently opened its doors with the mission of streamlining financial management across the Government. OFIT, is a part of Treasury's Fiscal Service, and will work in collaboration with OMB to reduce costs, modernize processes, and improve transparency of financial information. OFIT's first priorities will be to develop initial operating capabilities for:

- A shared solution for electronic capture of vendor invoice data;
- A financial information repository of Treasury data that will initially capture invoice and payment information for contract goods and services, and later expand to other Treasury financial information, as appropriate; and
- A design for a shared solution that will develop, capture, and report all interagency buy-sell activity.

Treasury will provide more details on these efforts in the fall of 2010. For additional information, please refer to Treasury's Press Release (<http://www.ustreas.gov/press/releases/tg628.htm>) or OMB's Memorandum for Chief Financial Officers ([http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/financial\\_pdf/OFIT\\_Memo\\_03302010.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/assets/financial_pdf/OFIT_Memo_03302010.pdf)) or contact Anda Coiner at 304-480-8414 or [anda.coiner@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:anda.coiner@bpd.treas.gov).

7. Federal Acquisition Certification – Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (FAC-COTR)

All Contracting Officer's Technical Representatives (COTRs) are reminded of the requirement to obtain 40 Continuous Learning Points (CLPs) every two years in order to retain their FAC-COTR Certification. We have established a common expiration date of July 31 for the certifications. The year will vary based on the date of the original certification.

We have established a new e-mail box ([COTR@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:COTR@bpd.treas.gov)) for COTR correspondence (training certifications and questions related to CLPs). For additional information, please contact Loretta Osuna Cotto at 304-480-8717 or [loretta.osuna.cotto@bpd.treas.gov](mailto:loretta.osuna.cotto@bpd.treas.gov).

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