Council Session: Plenary Session

FDsys Update

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Monday, April 3, 2006 8:30 – 10:00

Background of Presentation:
This session provided a status of the work underway at GPO to develop the Future Digital System, FDsys

System Updates:
- A new version of the Requirements Document, containing more detailed requirements, has been completed. This will be released along with the Master Integrator Request for Proposal. This document is available at: http://www.gpo.gov/projects/pdfs/FDsys_RD_v2.1.pdf
- The Program Management Office (PMO) has been conducting ongoing meetings with key customers – Congress, Library of Congress and Federal Agencies
- We are coordinating 'Round Table' discussions on system interoperability with NARA, LC and NIST. This activity could lead to common digital information package guidelines. We anticipate additional meeting in the next month.
- GPO is leading the StratML (Strategic Plan Markup Language) project. This is a pilot that will test the value and utility of a common data structure for agency Strategic Plans.
- FDsys Release 0 has been completed. This release is a pilot to test information package specifications and automated transformation (i.e., create GPO Access packages from ingested digital content).

Master Integrator Procurement
- FDsys Industry Day, 10/6/2005
    - Vendor community suggested that we issue a Draft Request for Proposal (RFP)
    - Draft was issued in December – out for comment for 30 days
    - Comments were considered in the preparation of the Final RFP
- Master Integrator Day, 1/24/2006
    - Second Industry Day specifically for Master Integrator candidates
    - Reviewed the new plan to complete the final RFP
- Final RFP
    - Complete –released the week of April 3rd (http://www.gpo.gov/projects/pdfs/FDsys_RFP.pdf)
    - Proposal will be due within 30 days – the RFP closing is currently May 10th
- Source Selection Process
    - Proposals will be evaluated by a number of teams at GPO
    - Anticipated Award Timing - target June pending duration of Source Selection process

Monday, April 4, 2006 8:30-10:00

Background
Judy Russell, Superintendent of Documents, Bob Tappella, Chief of Staff, and Mike Wash, Chief Technical Officer, all delivered updates to attendees of the Federal Depository Library Conference in Seattle, Washington on April 4, 2006.

Question 1:
When you were talking about the strategic plan mark-up language, is that based on a standard, like XML, or are you creating a whole new standard?

Summarized Responses:
It is based on XML. It is a structure of information and also a vocabulary.

Question 2:
The section for dates at the bottom of your graphic had no dates. Do you have target dates for the Releases?

Summarized Responses:
The dates were removed. The original target dates were adjusted last year and they are at six month intervals. The dates can still be found in the RFP. Some of the dates might be overly ambitious, but we do have a target of getting functionality in '07. Once we award a Master Integrator contract we will have a very good idea of the release dates. We should be able to report these in the October meeting.

Question 3:
In Federal purchasing of large-scale systems sometimes the easiest steps are completed first and the hardest ones are left for last and the final result is a system that is not fully functional. What are your processes to keep that from happening?

Summarized Responses:
As much subjectivity has been taken out of the performance evaluation process as possible. Performance is evaluated on quality, cost and time. Requirements are classified as "musts" "shoulds" and "could be delivered". Each requirement is measurable. The proposals say what will be delivered and when. We will have program updates by the Master Integrator on a regular basis.

Question 4:
What efforts are being made to adjust for things that come up unexpectedly?

Summarized Responses:
The GPO team has done a good job of writing the system needs down in a detailed and definitive way. However, we know things will change and the market is changing. There are regular

reviews every couple of weeks that offer opportunities to assess the performance of the integrator and also refresh what we believe the system needs to do. The likelihood of a major course correction is very slim. If there is a change needed, it will probably just be a refinement and the order can be changed.

Comment: Recommend an incentive based contract and a backup plan for changing integrators.

Question 5:
Do you have a sense of the percentage of those jobs that actually will be appropriate as FDLP items?

Summarized Responses:
None of the 44 transactions that have gone through the GPO Express have been appropriate for the FDLP.

Question 6:
I think of Kinko's as tangible, paper format. Are there electronic files behind those jobs and would you harvest electronic as well as print? How would that work?

Summarized Responses:
Both tangible and electronic documents would be harvested. FedEx Kinko's is a complete digital print shop and images are captured every time something goes through the DocuTechs machines. There are also a lot of people who electronically submit documents to FedEx Kinko's. GPO executives tested electronic submissions over the Christmas season.

Question 7:
Could this FedEx Kinko's arrangement ever be used for print-on-demand scenarios for delivery of materials to depositories? And it might also be used by light archives, dark archives, etc., to get information to training facilities.

Summarized Responses:
The 950-S contract does not include those things, but a future phase could very well be a print-on-demand model utilizing the 1,300 FedEx Kinko's. That would turn the $100 million dollar contract into a quarter of a billion dollars or more relatively quickly.

Question 8:
There is a potential burden of reviewing an increasing number of publications. How far down the agency chain or within agency procurement of information is this going to go? Also, will these eventually flow down to government contract publication work?

Summarized Responses:
GPO, in order to comply with Title 44, must pay for its own printing. The cost of the printing must flow through GPO. When agencies use a GPO Express Card, GPO fronts the money to FedEx Kinko's and GPO then collects the money from the agency. The chief financial officer has set up a system using billing address codes for this process. Down the road, we might include contractors and other types of government entities.

We have people actively participating in the review process as a team and developing procedures. Although none of the samples were suited for the FDLP, we will be examining if we can give better guidance in the future on what documents would be appropriate and what

definitely is not. We suspect that a lot of the things coming through FedEx Kino's are going to be for internal use only and hand outs for meetings.

Question 9:
Council's Powerpoint yesterday described the versions of the draft vision document which may never become anything more than a draft vision document that went through 365 iterations. These kinds of drafts of important documents are trapped in infinite information space. The concept of what a publication is is changing and we can take a much broader view of the concept of publications in a digital environment than what was possible in the print environment. Historians have interest in drafts to help them understand the policy process.

Summarized Responses:
We have had discussions about how in the electronic environment, everything might be considered a publication and there could be no need to review and limit content. Historically, internal and draft documents have never been considered published. In the FedEx Kinko's process, the agency makes the determination on whether the publication should be duplicated. A standardized form is used and customers can indicate that the document should be excluded from the program and that it is for internal use only. We do not want to offend agencies by taking and distributing something that they considered to be for internal use only.

FedEx Kinko's has a repository that they call DocStore and GPO hopes to see a more robust version in the future. The current version is not ready for GPO's Federal agency customers.

Question 10:
When FedEx Kinko's stores the image, are there proprietary or rights management issues that come along with that particular electronic storage? Are there any lingering after effects of being in that kind of commercial proprietary environment?

Summarized Responses:
PDFs of the documents are used and those PDFs are FTPed to the GPO. Unless a customer requests for the publication to remain in the DocStore of FedEx Kinko's, it goes into the recycle bin once it is transmitted to GPO. GPO does not pay FedEx Kinko's until an electronic document is received by the Superintendent of Documents operation.