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# The EDI

# Wave

Riding the Wave



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**Issue 16**

**August 2003**

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## Trading Partner Stats

From October 1, 2002 through June 30, 2003, we sent 1,717 task orders and 2,133 task order modifications via EDI. The contractors receiving both 850s and 860s are Applied Technology, Perma-Fix Government Services, and Clean Harbors. Thanks to all our Trading Partners for working with us.

## Contractors Using BOSS for Input

(By Cathy Bednar)

In August 2002, two of our current Hazardous Waste (HW) contractors, World Environmental and Perma-Fix, started inputting Phase II data directly into BOSS. Since that time, five other contractors have gained access to BOSS. They are Fluid Tech, Alpha Technical Services, Midwest Environmental Services, Tri-State Government Services, and Emerald Services. Several other contractors have submitted their paperwork to our security office and are waiting to receive access.

To get access to BOSS, a contractor must receive the necessary security clearance and a BOSS password. Instructions on how to get access to BOSS is located on our Procurement Web page located at: <http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/index.html>

Having access to BOSS not only allows you to input Phase II data directly into the system, it allows you to verify DRMS records such as the status of modifications, payment information, and delivery orders pending disposal information. Training on the system is being offered at the HW Symposium in September 2003.

Plans are currently underway to make direct input into BOSS for Phase II mandatory for all HW contracts. The HW Contracting Directorate is working on modifying current contracts to include the necessary clauses and adding the clauses to new solicitations.

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For additional information on this issue, please contact me at 269-961-7309 or via email at [cathy.Bednar@dla.mil](mailto:cathy.Bednar@dla.mil). You may also contact your contract specialist or contracting officer.

## An Alternate Pay Procedure

(By Cathy Bednar)

The Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service Hazardous Waste (HW) Contracting Division (DRMS-PH) would like to inform our HW contractors of our intention to meet the requirements stated in the Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement (DFARS) 232.70. This section of the DFARS deals with the electronic submission and processing of payment requests. Currently, DRMS-PH sends our Hazardous Waste (HW) contractors a 591 report, which is then submitted by the contractor, with the contractor's invoice, to the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS) in order to receive payment of services performed. DRMS-PH reviewed several different options that could be used to comply with DFARS 232.70 and we have determined that the best solution is to implement a third-party payment tool – U.S. Bank's PowerTrack®.

PowerTrack® is a web-based system that is currently being used to pay Department of Defense transportation contractors. By using PowerTrack® for hazardous disposal contracts, both parties will benefit. DRMS-PH will meet the requirements of electronic submission and processing of payment requests, and our HW contractors will receive their payments between 24 and 72 hours after submittal of the payment request vice the normal 30 days when paid by DFAS.

When we implement the PowerTrack® system, DRMS, not the HW contractor, will submit the payment request to U.S. Bank. The payment requests will be sent electronically each evening to U.S. Bank with a copy (to be called a 626 report) being sent to the HW contractor. This 626 report will replace the current 591 report for participating contractors. Contractors, who have access to the HW Base Operations Support System (HWBOSS), will have the capability to review this information in the system. In addition, all contractors will be able to access the PowerTrack® system to see what payment requests have been submitted and to see which have been paid.

We want to inform each contractor that there is a minimal fee for using PowerTrack®. This one percent fee is charged per transaction (similar to those fees charged by Credit Card banks). For example, if an invoice is for a total of \$3,000, U.S. Bank will charge the contractor a \$30 processing fee. This charge is an allowable cost and can be included in your overhead for new solicitations. This transaction fee cannot, however, be placed as a separate line item on our HW contracts. We believe this fee is a small cost compared to the speed at which our contractors will now be paid.

We believe the use of the PowerTrack® system will streamline the payment process, enabling our contractors to receive their money in a more timely fashion. Representatives from U.S. Bank will contact you about using this system and establish a Trading Partner Agreement between you and U.S. Bank. U.S. Bank representatives will be able to provide additional information and training on the PowerTrack® system once the Trading Partner Agreement is signed.

For our current contract holders, the contractor will have the option of using PowerTrack® or DFAS for payment. If you opt to be paid by U.S. Bank, the contract(s) will be modified and a Trading Partner Agreement from U.S. Bank will need to be signed. Our goal is that by Fiscal Year 2004, all new contract awards will be paid via PowerTrack®.

As this is a new system for DRMS, we need HW contractor(s) to partner with us in testing the system and becoming one the first HW contractor(s) to be paid by the PowerTrack® system. If you are interested in this pilot program, please contact your contract specialist or me at 269-961-7309 or by email at [Cathy.Bednar@dla.mil](mailto:Cathy.Bednar@dla.mil). It is projected this system will be available by October/November 2003.

As stated above, we feel the use of the PowerTrack® system will greatly improve the payment process and enable DRMS to meet the DFARS requirements of electronic payment. You will benefit by receiving your payments within 72 hours vice the normal 30 to 40 days that it currently takes using DFAS. For additional information on PowerTrack®, visit the U.S. Bank PowerTrack® website at: <http://powertrack.com>. More information will be available when contractors begin using this system for payment.

# HW Symposium

(By Cathy Bednar)

DRMS is hosting the 2003 HW Symposium September 16-17<sup>th</sup> here at the Federal Center in Battle Creek, MI. We are also offering training in BOSS for Phase II input on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding the symposium is available at: <http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/index.html>. Some topics being presented are: Phase II tracking developments; PowerTrack® presented by U.S. Bank, developments in past performance; potential HW initiatives; ADR; and presentations from HW contractors. There is no charge to attend the symposium. If you have any questions, you may contact Joe Bednar at 269-961-7546 or by email at [Joe.Bednar@dla.mil](mailto:Joe.Bednar@dla.mil).

# Use of EDI for Manifesting

(By Cathy Bednar)

We are still in the process of testing the capability of receiving manifest information via EDI. The proposed EDI transaction set is the 861 with the 824 transaction set being sent back to the contractor to inform them of any errors. These transaction sets are listed at: [http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/html/electronic\\_data\\_interchange.html](http://www.drms.dla.mil/newproc/html/electronic_data_interchange.html)

# Communication

Communication is vitally important to the success of EDI. Please let one of the POCs listed below know if you are experiencing any problems with your EDI transmissions. We are here to help you in any way we can. We are always interested in receiving your opinion and input. Please submit your questions, concerns or ideas to one of the POCs listed below. We are here to work with the Trading Partners so that all can “Ride the Wave”. Hope to hear from you. Let’s keep the lines of communication open.

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