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Revenue to Begin Implementation of New Integrated Tax Processing System DELTA Project to replace antiquated system

BATON ROUGE – On February 1, 2003, the Louisiana Department of Revenue will begin Phase One implementation of the DELTA Project (Defining Excellence in Louisiana Tax Administration), utilizing a new integrated tax processing system that will eventually replace the antiquated system used by the Department for the past 29 years.

“After six months of preparation, the DELTA Project is about to become a reality,” says Revenue Secretary Cynthia Bridges. “We’re very excited about this new system because it will allow the Department to collect revenues and accomplish our responsibilities to taxpayers faster and more efficiently. It’s imperative that new technology like this be implemented as quickly as possible in order to fulfill those responsibilities. The old system is cumbersome and hard to maintain and this new system will allow employees to easily update taxpayer accounts. Also, it considerably decreases the time needed to train new employees by reducing their learning curve.”

Bridges says Withholding Tax, fuel taxes administered under the International Fuel Tax Agreement (IFTA), and the Low Alcohol Content (Beer) Beverage Tax are the taxes being put into production under the Phase One implementation. Another 16 taxes are to be phased in under the DELTA Project by May 2005.

“We realize there could be a slowdown in productivity for a short time after each phase is implemented,” Bridges explains, “but change takes time and I can assure taxpayers that every effort is being made to provide the service they want and need in the most expeditious manner possible during this system conversion process.”

The DELTA Project became a reality last year when the Department of Revenue contracted with Fast Enterprises to implement the *GenTax*© software system. *GenTax*© is the first commercial off-the-shelf system for integrated tax processing. The core software product was approximately 70 percent complete at the start of the project, which means the core programs are the same for all taxes. Programming is required for only those features that are unique to a particular tax. “One of the many advantages of this product is the limited configuration necessary when legislative or business changes are made,” Bridges says. “Another significant advantage to the system is its utilization of plain English instead of codes, making it extremely user-friendly.

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