



2004 FTA Annual Meeting June 2005

Streamlined Sales Tax Technology Update

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Overview

- Introduction and Background
- Current Status of Streamline Technology
- Implementation Issues

Introduction and background

- Central registration system
- Certified service providers
- Database matching rate to local jurisdiction
- Database of boundary information for local jurisdictions
- Taxability matrix

Central registration system

- The purpose of the Streamlined Sales Tax Registration System (SSTR) is to implement a web-based system that will enable taxpayers to volunteer to register to participate in Streamlined Sales Tax.
- Taxpayers can use SSTR for both new voluntary registrations and updates to previously submitted registration information.
- This system is a pass-through system in that the states will incorporate the data into their state system.
- Updates to taxpayer information can be submitted by taxpayers using SSTR.
- SSTR will maintain all taxpayer information for specific business processes.
- The SSTR is web based and a relational database will be used as a back-end for the storage and retrieval of the data thus providing dynamic information anytime, anywhere.
- An XML file schema will be used to exchange data between the SSTR system and the states.

Central registration system

- Issued RFP in Spring 2005.
- Received 9 responses to RFP.
- Contracted with TaxWatch from Louisiana.
- A committee of states along with FTA has been appointed to work with TaxWatch. They are Jonathan Lyon, FTS, Tim Blevins, KS, Terry Garber, SC, Stephanie Weber, MN, Debbie Peterson, TX, Jane Page, SD and Scott Peterson, SD.
- Weekly conference calls have been set up with TaxWatch and the committee to monitor the progress and make decisions.

Central registration system

- The committee along with TaxWatch has:
- Finalized the Business Rules
- Selected URL's and set up web pages
- Completed a draft of the screen shots for Sellers
- Completed a draft of the screen shots for updated information for sellers
- Completed screen shots for the Administrative site
- Begun a draft of screen shots for the State site
- Made a decision to allow multiple names per FEIN or SS number
- Made a decision to eliminate the PUSH method of transmission
- Distributed a draft of the terms & conditions page including privacy statement
- Distributed a draft of FAQ/Help Text for sellers
- Started to set up conference calls with states for help on transmission & other technical areas.
- Draft of a project plan is in the works
- Schema changes for the registration will be finalized at the June TIGERS meeting

Certified service providers

- Issued RFP in the fall of 2004.
- Received 12 responses to the RFP.
- An evaluation team narrowed the list to 7.
- In March 2005 a new evaluation team began developing the certification criteria, timetable, and strategy.

Certified service providers

- Avalera
- EDS (with Vertex and Microsoft)
- Exactor (with Sabrix)
- Taxware
- Sales Tax Services
- Salis
- Paychex

Certified service providers

- An evaluation team of 32 people from 20 states and the Multi-State Tax Commission.
- The team includes policy, audit and computer experts.
- Each company had to complete a security self-assessment guide.
- Each company receives at least one on-site visit by the team.
- The on-site visits started the week of June 1 and will end the middle of July.
- The states have started putting together a collection of sample transactions that will be run through each company's system.

State Databases

- Database matching rate to local jurisdiction
- Database of boundary information for local jurisdictions
- Taxability matrix

Technology Implementation Challenges:

- State development of databases.
- State interfaces with central registration system.
- Continued testing of CSP systems to maintain certification.
- Continue certification of new CSP candidates.

Questions?