



The global e-Invoicing network

Department of Veterans Affairs Financial Services Center Makes Move To Electronic Invoicing with OB10, A&T Systems

Second Largest Federal Agency Embraces E-Invoicing's Efficiency, Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 17, 2007 – The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Financial Services Center (VAFSC) is leaving paper invoices behind and moving to electronic invoicing. To enable that transition, the VAFSC contracted with A&T Systems and OB10, the two companies announced recently.

OB10 operates the leading global e-Invoicing network, and A&T Systems is a provider of technology and other solutions to the federal government. Jointly, they will enroll suppliers on the OB10 network, allowing invoice submission to the VAFSC in any electronic format. The network also provides data mapping and translation services, and presents the VAFSC with the invoice in its desired format.

The VAFSC operates in a shared services environment, with a central site located in Austin, Texas that processes invoices for the nationwide network of Veterans Health Administration hospitals and other field facilities. Currently, the VAFSC processes over one million invoices annually.

The VAFSC is always interested in taking steps that enable it to perform its mission better and more efficiently," said VAFSC Director Rod Wood. "We are looking to eliminate invoice errors, reduce or eliminate late payment penalties, and make our accounts payable process a model for other federal agencies." By going electronic, the VAFSC will gain significant efficiencies in its invoice handling. Not only will it require less staff time to open mail and deal with the mountain of paper involved with nearly 17,000 invoices arriving each week, but security will be enhanced as well.

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Because the OB10 network operates in a secure electronic environment, the security and privacy issues inherent with paper invoice processing will be eliminated. The electronic delivery also eliminates manual errors that occur as VAFSC staffers type paper invoice data into its payment system. The OB10 solution provides instant invoice delivery which will help VAFSC comply with Prompt Payment guidelines that assess interest penalties when payments are not completed within certain time periods.

The OB10 global e-Invoicing network, which has members in 70 countries and across six continents, is distinguished by the fact that it allows suppliers to submit invoices in any electronic format, from sophisticated ERP systems such as SAP and Oracle all the way down to small-business QuickBooks-generated invoices. Its ability to translate these invoices and present them to the buyer company in its preferred format is key to achieving high rates of supplier compliance.

OB10 and A&T Systems will work to convert 70 percent of the VAFSC annual invoice total, received from the 2,700 highest-volume vendors, from paper to electronic within 12 months, and Peter Watson, Senior Vice President of OB10, is confident the company can meet that goal. "OB10 is unparalleled in its ability to bring suppliers onto the network quickly and effectively," Watson said. "The fact that they can submit invoices in any format makes it easier for them to make the transition, and our supplier conversion teams work closely with them to overcome any challenges."

Fred Sanders, Vice President of Strategic Relationships for A&T Systems, said that when A&T and OB10 began closely working together a year ago, he knew that the E-Invoicing solution would appeal to A&T Systems' clients in the federal government. "E-Invoicing is the wave of the future, and is a great addition to the range of solutions that A&T Systems offers to government agencies. It is all about making government operate more efficiently and effectively, and we anticipate that more agencies, at all levels of government, will be making the E-Invoicing migration before long," Sanders said.

As a Franchise Fund operating under the Government Management and Reform Act of 1994, the VAFSC can also provide electronic invoicing services to other federal departments and agencies. By using Franchise Fund services, contracting and implementation activities are streamlined and efficiencies are realized in a short time frame, compared to traditional methods.

E-Invoicing is also a "green" technology that yields environmental benefits, thanks to its elimination of paper. If half of the VAFSC's paper invoices were replaced by e-Invoices, 175 trees would be saved, as well as 30,000 kilowatts of electricity and 438 pounds of air pollutants involved in paper manufacturing, along with 24 cubic yards of eventual landfill space.

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About A&T Systems

A&T Systems Inc., based in Silver Spring, Maryland, is a 23-year old company specializing in Information Technology Solutions, Telecom and e-Solutions, Professional Services and Healthcare Solutions. A&T Systems provides Managed Applications, Managed Business Continuity, Managed Infrastructure & Datacenter Support. Customers include the Department of Veterans Affairs and most of the agencies of the Federal Government, State and Local Governments, as well as commercial enterprises. For more information, visit www.ats.com.

About OB10

OB10 (www.ob10.com) is the leading global B2B e-Invoicing network. OB10 allows A/P departments to receive invoices electronically from suppliers, thereby: 1) eliminating manual scanning and data entry, and 2) enabling dramatic process improvements to reduce exceptions and increase early pay discounts. OB10 is an ideal solution for companies that have struggled to expand EDI beyond their top strategic suppliers due to the associated costs and complexity. OB10 is format independent, so suppliers are not required to implement any hardware or software. Furthermore, OB10 enrolls suppliers on behalf of each client, using a proven process and guaranteeing results. Customers include: HP, General Motors, Sara Lee, Kellogg's, GSK (GlaxoSmithKline), Agilent Technologies, Tyco, Barclays, Cargill, Mohawk Industries, Greif, Eaton, and Fisher Scientific.

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