

SFA Modernization Partner Project
LEGACY CONTRACT TRANSITION PLAN
Post-secondary Education Participants System (PEPS)
Executive Summary

Discussion

Since PEPS interfaces with many other Title IV program systems, it is impossible at this time to determine what the new SFA architecture may hold in store for PEPS. What we do know at this time is that the Modernization Partner, Andersen Consulting, has recommended 23 major initiatives for SFA consideration. At least 6 of the initiatives will have a major impact on PEPS.

These 7 initiatives as described in the SFA Modernization Sequencing Plan, dated April 7, 2000, include:

1. Cross Channel Enabling Technology/Infrastructure - Data Warehouse
2. Cross Channel Enabling Technology/Infrastructure - Enterprise Integration
3. Cross Channel Enabling Technology/Infrastructure - Advanced Call Center/Relationship Management
4. Cross Channel Enabling Technology/Infrastructure - Single Identifier (PIN)
5. Information Security
6. FMT - FMS Phase III (Full Program Functionality)
7. Web Portals for Schools

The timetable for Requirements Analysis and Design; Management Decision to Continue; and Development and Implementation varies for each initiative. The completion dates for the initiatives vary but range from as early as June 2000 to June 2002. Past experience indicates these time estimates may be overly optimistic.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Student Financial Assistance seek to offer a solicitation for a new Performance-based contract, through December 31, 2003. The contract should allow for annual task orders to fulfill the requirements for maintenance, operational, technical support, systems, software, and documentation development and support by the Post-secondary Education Participants System (PEPS)..

In addition, because the SFA is a Performance Based Organization, the new contract should include performance metrics by which the contractor is measured and compensated. The solicitation should be offered through a GWAC's program (e.g. GSA Schedule, ITOPs, COMMITS, etc.).