CONTRACTOR ANNOUNCEMENT

Mandatory Upgrade to Expedite 5.9a

InfoTech, Inc. recently released Expedite version 5.9a which contains improvements upon version 5.6b. As InfoTech, Inc. releases newer versions of Expedite, older versions will no longer be supported. Therefore, effective with the **November 5, 2010**, bid letting, MDOT will upgrade from Expedite version 5.6b to Expedite version 5.9a. **If you do not upgrade to Expedite version 5.9a, you will not be able to bid beginning with the November 5, 2010, bid letting.**

Below are questions that contractors may have during this transition to Expedite 5.9a. If you have further questions, please contact Heather Stinson at (517) 335-4328 or stinsonh@michigan.gov.

When will Expedite 5.9a be available for download?
Expedite 5.9a will be available for you to download, free of charge, on Monday, October 4, 2010.

Where can I go to download Expedite 5.9a?
To download the free software, visit MDOT's Contractors Service Center Bid Letting Information page and click on the Download FREE Expedite Software hyperlink. Expedite 5.9a is also available from the Bid Express website for Bid Express subscribers. Navigate to MIDOT's home page, go to the Utilities tab, and click on the Expedite 5.9a hyperlink.

Step-by-step instructions on how to download Expedite 5.9a can be obtained from MDOT's website at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/expedite_54449_7.pdf.

Allow ample time to install and test the performance of Expedite 5.9a prior to the November 5, 2010, letting.

I use different versions of Expedite for bidding in other states. How do I manage two or more versions of Expedite?
Contractors will not encounter problems with bid submissions if each of their Expedite bid programs is saved in a different directory. For example, Expedite version 5.6b can be saved in c:\expedite56, while version 5.9a can be saved in c:\expedite59.

When will the EBS files be available for the November 5, 2010, letting?
The EBS (electronic bidding system) files will be available for downloading on Monday, October 4, 2010.

What changes can I expect to see with Expedite 5.9a?
The digital ID creation process was removed from Expedite Bid 5.9a. **There is no change to existing digital IDs**; however, when a new digital ID is required, it will be created at the Bid Express web site. Once logged in, click on Create or Manage your Digital IDs.

Expedite 5.9a has been enhanced to allow MDOT to place a maximum cap on the extended amounts for staking plan errors and extras. If you bid above the maximum amounts allowed for staking plan errors and extras, as stated in Section 104.08(J) of the 2003 Standard Specifications for Construction, an error will be generated upon bid submission. You will still be able to submit your bid; however the Schedule of Items folder will remain red and you will receive an error when you perform the Check Bid function, and also when your bid is submitted.

Another enhancement is the removal of drop-down menus in the Designated and Specialty Items, Warranty Obligations, and Addenda Acknowledgment folders. Expedite 5.9a was enhanced to allow radio buttons in place of the drop-down menus, eliminating the possibility of choosing either Yes or No from the drop-down menu but then using the scroll button on your mouse and inadvertently changing your answer.

Additional testing by MDOT is required to ensure the validity of the radio buttons and of the staking plan errors and extras maximum bid error. Testing will be completed on 9/22/10 and this announcement will be revised.

Other changes made to version 5.9a were internal to the software.

Can I use my current digital ID with Expedite 5.9a?
Digital IDs are fully compatible with all versions of Expedite after version 4.2b. Contractors will not need to create a new ID or even go through the import/export process once Expedite 5.9a is installed. Your current digital ID will be immediately available for use.

If you have not already done so, this would be a good opportunity to back up your digital ID by saving it to a diskette or CD for safekeeping.

Who do I call if I have problems with the Expedite 5.9a download?
Please contact Heather Stinson at (517) 335-4328 or stinsonh@michigan.gov.

Lansing, MI
9/14/10