

# News Release

**State of Ohio**  
OAKS Project Management Office  
274 East First Avenue, Suite 200  
Columbus, OH 43201  
(614) 387-2000



**For Immediate Release**  
**April 29, 2005**

## **Taft Administration Takes Next Step in OAKS Project** **(Accenture, LLP selected to Implement System and Assist with Statewide Business Transformation)**

**(Columbus)** — The Taft Administration today announced selection of Accenture, LLP to implement software for the Ohio Administrative Knowledge System (OAKS), a new computer system that will save taxpayer dollars and reduce red tape by replacing a variety of outdated financial, asset management, and human resources systems across state government.

OAKS will streamline and modernize basic administrative functions for state agencies and their employees and will make it easier for businesses to work with the state. OAKS is projected to save an estimated \$251 million over five years by improving efficiency.

“This opens the next chapter of OAKS,” said Oaks Executive Program Manager David White. “Accenture, LLP will be working with software we purchased last October from PeopleSoft to combine a variety of state computer systems into a single system.”

The contract was awarded under a competitive sealed proposal process and evaluated by a team of six individuals from the Ohio Office of Information Technology and other state agencies.

OAKS is an enterprise resource planning (ERP) system that will allow the state to consolidate payments, streamline inventory control processes and eliminate redundancy of many independent administrative processes. Accenture, LLP has performed ERP system implementations for the State of Connecticut, New York, and City of Boston as well as for Ashland Chemical, Bank One, Borden Chemical, Cincinnati Bell, First Energy, The Ohio State University and UPS.

When operational, OAKS will have transformed critical state business functions and reduced red tape throughout state government. The OAKS integrated system will result in benefits such as:

- A reduction in the amount of time needed for the state to purchase and pay for products;
- Allowing companies to do business with the state to track their bills online; and
- Streamlining a variety of statewide human resource functions through new electronic forms and automatic routing.

The OAKS Project is the leading recommendation from Gov. Bob Taft’s Ohio Management Improvement Commission 2000. It includes nearly 2,100 business requirements identified by officials from the Ohio Department of Administrative Services, Office of Budget and Management, Ohio Office of Information Technology and representatives from 76 other state agencies, boards, commissions and universities.

The state plans to aggressively manage the OAKS implementation by:

- Managing the project from a dedicated program management office led by David White, who is responsible for oversight and management of the vendors and the participation of the state agencies in this project.
- Utilization of Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) processes to provide additional project oversight.
- Establishing a Business Oversight Advisory Group consisting of representatives from private industry that have prior experience with ERP implementations. This Advisory Group will meet quarterly and monitor OAKS implementation.

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The next step in implementing OAKS will be the start of detailed design and development work later this year. Completion of the entire system is set for late 2007 or early 2008. Additional information is available at [www.oaks.ohio.gov](http://www.oaks.ohio.gov).

**For more information, contact Ben Piscitelli or Gretchen Hull,  
Ohio Department of Administrative Services, at (614) 752-9521.**