Fiscal Year 2009
FEDLINK's Direct Express Option

Alert Summary

More than 50 online services vendors participate in FEDLINK's Direct Express program. Similar to making a purchase using the GSA schedule, FEDLINK customers can place orders directly with online services vendors via the Direct Express option. Under this streamlined purchasing process, products and service offerings are as comprehensive as always—electronic database publications, document delivery services, associated print publications and specialized access options.

Revolving Fund Establishes Authority for Direct Express

Established as a revolving fund in 2002, FEDLINK, via the Library of Congress, can provide "the procurement of commercial information services, publications in any format, and library support services,...related accounting services,...related education, information and support services" to federal offices and to other organizations entitled to use federal sources of supply. In addition to interagency transfers for Transfer Pay services, FEDLINK can accept fees from federal agencies that have "passed through" a vendor and have been earned for facilitating federal purchasing, i.e., the vendors pay the FEDLINK administrative fees.

To establish this option, FEDLINK negotiated indefinite delivery indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts on a sole source basis with online services vendors. An IDIQ allows the government to place orders for an indefinite quantity of commercially available supplies or services during a fixed period.

Place the Order Directly With the Vendor

With Direct Express, customers simply cite the FEDLINK contract number on their agency's purchase order and send it straight to the vendor. No synopsis nor further competition is required on purchases over $25,000 as the FEDLINK IDIQ establishes the vendors as sole source for their individual products and services. When comparing two vendors with similar databases, customers may want to compare prices or choose a vendor based upon their interface.

The vendor receives the purchase order, sets up the customer's account and promptly issues passwords and/or authorization numbers. The vendor will then invoice the FEDLINK customer directly against their agency's purchase order. The customer's agency finance office pays the invoice (and any interest penalties) and reports disbursements to the customer. FEDLINK does not issue statements of account for Direct Express purchases.

The vendor pays the FEDLINK fee based on the volume of quarterly sales of Direct Express customers. Direct Express customers are

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responsible for initiating the purchase, managing delivery of the products and services, and paying invoices.

Online Services Vendors Participate in Direct Express

The following online services vendors have contracts with FEDLINK to accept Direct Express orders. (See the chart below.) These same vendors are also available under Transfer Pay mode but are no longer available through the FEDLINK Direct Pay option.

Vendors Offering Direct Express and Transfer Pay Options

(Vendor ID follows vendor name.)	Contract #
1105 Media - EF	LC09G7025
Acquisition Solutions - AQ	LC09D7051
American Chemical Society - CA	LC09D7028
Berkley Electronic Press - BE	LC09G7047
Books24x7/SkillSoft Corp. - TF	LC09G7062
Bureau of National Affairs - NA	LC07D7004
ChoicePoint - CT	LC09G7043
Columbia University Press - CO	LC09D7036
Congressional Quarterly - CQ	LC09D7048
CRIBIS Corporation - SM	LC09G7003
Dialog (LLC) - DI	LC09D7101
Overdrive - DR	LC09D7045
Dun & Bradstreet - DU	LC09D7052
East View Information - EV	LC09D7033
Ebrary, Inc. - EY	LC09D7104
EBSCO Publishing - EH	LC09D7041
Economist Intelligence Unit, N. A .- EU	LC09D7055
Gale (Group) - GR	LC09D7046
GalleryWatch.com - GW	LC09D7019
Global Insight - WG	LC09D7023

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Greenwood Publishing - GP	LC09D7035
H. W. Wilson - WI	LC09D7016
IEEE - IE	LC09D7011
IEEE Standards - SI	LC09D7011
Information Handling Services - IH	LC09D7059
InfoUSA - AI	LC09D7054
Inventory Locator SVC - IL	LC09G7034
JSTOR - JS	LC09D7031
Knovel Corporation - KN	LC09D7029
Leadership Directories - LE	LC09D7056
LexisNexis - ML	LC09D7027
LRP Publications - PS	LC09D7039
Morning Star, Inc. - MG	LC09G7014
MyiLibrary, LLC - MY	LC09D7013
National Archive Publishing - AN	LC09D7017
Nature Publishing Group - NA	LC09D7053
netLibrary, Inc. - NE	LC09D7037
NewsBank, Inc. - NB	LC09D7058
Org. for Econ. Coop. & Dev. - OE	LC09D7038
Outsell, Inc. - OS	LC09D4001
Ovid Technologies, Inc. - BR	LC09D7010
Peterson's Nelnet - PG	LC09D7015
ProQuest, LLC - UM	LC09D7026
Questel/Orbit - OR	LC09D7040
Sage Publications - SG	LC09G7060
Safari Books Online - SF	LC09D7102
The PRS Group, Inc. - PQ	LC09G7002
Thompson Reuters (Tax & Acctng) - RI	LC09D7103
R.R. Bowker, LLC - RB	LC09D7005

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TDNet - TD	LC09G7022
TLC (The Library Corp.) - LC	LC09D7018
Periscope (UNICOM Grp) - UC	LC09D7021
West Group - WE	LC09D7012
World Bank - WB	LC09D7042

Transfer Pay Option Offers Customers More Account Options

As cost effective as Direct Express is, most current members will continue to prefer transfer pay mode, which offers them more flexibility in managing their funds and provides more assistance with procurement processes.

Under the Transfer Pay option, customers transfer both FEDLINK administrative fees and estimated annual service dollars to FEDLINK/Library of Congress (LC) via a signed Interagency Agreement (IAG), purchase order, or MIPR. On behalf of the customer, LC/Contracts issues a delivery order to the vendor in the amount specified on the IAG. After receiving the delivery order, the vendor provides service to the customer and submits the customer's invoices to FEDLINK. FEDLINK reviews the invoices, rejects improper ones, and pays acceptable ones from the customer's account. FEDLINK sends the customer copies of rejected invoices, paid invoices, and a monthly statement of account.

If there are surplus funds in one vendor account, an amendment form can conveniently move these funds to another needed service.

Another major benefit of Transfer Pay is extended order deadlines. Instead of having to fulfill a member's order either by providing services or by issuing delivery orders to vendors prior to the end of the fiscal year, before their funds expire, FEDLINK is able to accept signed IAGs with firm orders late in September every year and generate delivery orders well into October. In addition, FEDLINK is also authorized to accept IAGs and amendments by fax, pending receipt of originals via courier service or mail. This reduces the lead time necessary to add funds to purchase information products and services at the end of the fiscal year.

More Information Is Available

For questions on Direct Express, contact FEDLINK Network Operations by phone at (202) 707-4848 or by email to FLICCfno@loc.gov. For assistance with your current accounts, please call the FEDLINK Fiscal Hotline at (202) 707-4900.