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State identifies software vendor for e-building project

(Salem) — The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Building Codes Division has begun negotiations with Accela Inc. to develop software for the statewide e-building program. Accela was identified as the top scorer among three national software providers in the final round of the contract bidding process.

Oregon's e-building program will allow contractors to conduct building department activities, such as receiving plan approval, applying and paying for permits, and scheduling inspections online, morning, noon, and night, with any city or county in the state. It builds on the Building Codes Division's "Quick Permits" program, at www.BuildingPermits.Oregon.gov, where contractors and homeowners can buy electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits from 20 building departments in the state. During the 2007 Legislative session, the Governor signed into law House Bill 2405, to expand the Quick Permits program to create the nation's first comprehensive statewide e-building program. The e-building program is part of Gov. Kulongoski's regulatory streamlining initiative.

The Building Codes Division and Accela will work with a volunteer advisory committee to design the e-building system.

"It is imperative to have a product capable of making the total building process available to contractors online," said Mark Long, Building Codes Division administrator. "Accela will work with the state and local government through the next steps in this project to help make Oregon an even better place to do business."

"Building Codes has taken time to thoroughly analyze this choice. They know how important it is to pick the right vendor and get off to a solid start to deliver a system that meets our needs," said Stuart Ramsing, city of Eugene's building official.

"An easy-to-use, statewide permit system is critical to our industry," said Stan Heil, co-owner of Heil Electric of Portland. "As an industry sponsor of this project, we are looking to the State to deliver a cost-effective system on time and under budget to ensure Oregon maintains a competitive business climate, now and into the future," said Heil.

Founded in 1979, Accela is the largest software company that connects citizens to government services 24/7. Accela has products in use in over 30 Oregon cities and counties and serves more than 500 government agencies worldwide. Accela's headquarters are in San Ramon, Calif.

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The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), building code development, administration, inspection, plan review, licensing, and permit services to construction industry to help ensure the safe and effective construction of structures in Oregon.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.