MINUTES

Technology Committee Teleconference Meeting
Tuesday, October 11, 2005
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Eastern

I.   Welcome and Introductions

Tim Blevins (Kansas), Committee Chair, called the meeting to order.
The following members participated in the call:

NAME	STATE/ORGANIZATION
Robert Johnston	Hawaii
Joe Randall	Idaho
Steve Wilson	Idaho
Samuel Cabrera	Iowa
Tim Blevins, Chair	Kansas
Margaret Kauska	Montana
Dick Gettemy	Nebraska
Cynthia Mastalesz	New Jersey
Blane Braunberger	North Dakota
Debbie Peterson, Vice-Chair	Texas
Hester (?)	?
Susan Ribe, Antonio Soto, Chris Lane	Multistate Tax Commission

II.   Public Comment Period

III.   Combined Electronic Tax Registration (CETR) Update

Mr. Blevins reminded the Technology Committee that the CETR
project had been deferred by the Executive Committee at its annual
meeting. He expressed his impression that the project would not be
resumed. Ms. Peterson asked that the latest information on the status
of the project be communicated to the Combined Registration
Committee. Mr. Blevins also noted that the CETR work proved
beneficial in that it was leveraged for the SSTP registration system.
He stated the MTC should keep all work products from the CETR
project for potential use later.

IV.   IT Project Development & Oversight Document (Review & Comment)

Mr. Blevins referred to a draft document outlining the organization of MTC IT project oversight. He suggested the MTC and this committee should come to agreement on organizational overview to manage activities for upcoming projects. No objections or comments on the document were expressed. Mr. Blevins asked that the document be posted.

V.   Streamlined Sales Tax Project Update

- SSTP Registration

The SSTP registration went live on October 1st with 18 states participating, Mr. Blevins reported. For some states this is their first experience with web services. The SSTP registration site and its web service is hosted by TaxWatch. There have been approximately 50 registrations thus far. Most have registered as Model 4's, although a few have indicated Model 1 or 2, in anticipation of CSP and CAS availability.

He noted that the registration system development started in April and cost approximately $30 thousand. The states have been exchanging emails regarding functionality and design issues. Any changes to the system will be coordinated by Jane Page (SD) or Stephanie Weber (MN). He also noted that Jonathan Lyon (FTA) manages the national registration authority. Tim suggested the system could use a more rich management site for analysis purposes. He encouraged those involved in aspects of the registration system to participate in relevant email lists on registration topics.

- CSP Testing Progress

    Mr. Blevins called attention to the upcoming Governing Board and CSP certification committee meetings in Nashville. A primary topic will be compensation for CSPs. The certification committee is working to certify 7-8 candidates. It appears that two of them are nearly ready to go, 3 or 4 will need 30-90 days to come up to standards, and the remaining will not likely make it. The candidates have given feedback on rates, boundaries, and exemption supplied by the states. Once these are resolved and compensation is determined certification can occur. The certifying committee is shooting for mid-November for the initial certifications. Mr. Blevins expects that around beginning of January the next round of certifications will begin.

Regard CASs, Mr. Blevins noted that once a CSP is certified, it can sell its engine to a CAS, so CAS will likely follow quickly on the initial CSPs. While CSPs have physical and operational security requirements, CASs do not. There is a news article or some other publication indicating that CSPs have been certified but Mr. Blevins clarified that this claim is not true.

VI.   MTC Technology Project Priorities

Mr. Blevins expects that the MTC's IT priorities will be crystallized at the November committee meetings. Based on statements from the Audit Committee chair at a September meeting of the committee chairs, it appears the Audit Committee wishes to develop and audit management system. It seems likely this will involve a third-party developer. Mr. Blevins encouraged the Technology Committee to think about how to position the committee to support the work. He asked the committee to consider the system design lifecycle – scope, design, build, test – and the underlying need for electronic secure communications.

VII.   Other Items Related to the Work of the Committee

VIII. Planning for Next Teleconference

The Technology Committee plans its next teleconference for Tuesday, November 15, 2005 at 2 PM Eastern, to discuss the developments coming out the Committee meetings. Likely topics will include the system design lifecycle, especially business requirements, and how to engage the vendor and determine their needs.

IX.   Adjournment