



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign
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Services

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Agency

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NOTICE TO THE TRADE
FOR CHEESE SUPPLIERS

DOMESTIC ELECTRONIC BID ENTRY SYSTEM

Effective March 15, 2002, offers to supply products under the following announcements **must be transmitted electronically through the Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES) screens:**

Process Cheese PCD4
Mozzarella Cheese MCD3
Natural American Cheese BCD2

Offers submitted by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.

Suppliers intending to submit offers for the March 2002 invitation should use the Internet DEBES sites immediately. **Please test the computer(s) used to submit and practice submission of offers.** The initial passwords needed to access DEBES are provided by the marketing specialist.

The software requirements are as follows:

- Operating System: Windows NT, Windows 2000, or Windows XP (or equivalent)

If the offer does not have more than 50 quantity constraints, Windows 95, Windows 98, or Windows ME (or equivalent) should be adequate.

Constraint Example:

1 plant x 2 pack sizes x 24 delivery periods = 48 constraints.

Note: Generally, 24 delivery period constraints must be entered for each plant and product/pack size combination offered. Due to programming limitations, to offer zero quantity for a delivery period, a quantity of 1 must be entered.

- Browser requirement: Internet Explorer 5.0 or above (OR) Netscape 4.07 or above (or equivalent)
- Encryption: Browser capable of handling 128-bit encryption

In Internet Explorer, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Internet Explorer**. The display should include the line **'Cipher Strength: 128-bit'**. If it does not, download a new browser version from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com>.

In Netscape, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Communicator**. Somewhere on the screen the following will appear:

This version supports U.S. security with
 RSA Public Key Cryptography, MD2, MD5,
 RC2-CBC, RC4, DES-CBC, DES-EDE3-CBC.

If it does not, download a new browser version from Netscape at <http://home.netscape.com/download/index.html?cp=djucc4>. Choose the 128-bit Strong Encryption* version for your download.

The Internet DEBES **temporary long-term contract practice** site location is: [https://pcsd.usda.gov:3053/mdbc1000.exe?](https://pcsd.usda.gov:3053/mdbc1000.exe) (This site should be used for bid entry practice until practice site 3050 is updated.)

The two permanent sites below will be updated with the long-term bid format in mid March 2002; but suppliers should test their computer systems and passwords for compatible access to these sites.

- Internet DEBES **practice** site port location:
[https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?](https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe)
- Internet DEBES **production** site port location:
[https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?](https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe)

Proxy servers: Suppliers must set up their proxy server to allow access to the above Internet production and practice ports.

Connection problems may exist due to improper browser version, not using 128-bit encryption, or not having the above ports accessible through your corporate proxy server. The proxy server must be setup to allow HTTPS protocol through the appropriate port; Supplier Temporary Practice is port 3053, Practice is port 3050 and Production is port 3077. The Internet Service Provider (ISP) your company uses can also affect connections.

Please contact the appropriate marketing specialist if you have any questions:

Process Cheese	Kris Felling	816-926-2504
Mozzarella Cheese	Patty Wagner	816-823-3200
Natural American Cheese	Kathy Wienberg	816-926-2514

George W. Aldaya
 Director