

Memorandum

To: NASASP Membership
From: Bill LeGro, NASASP Executive Director
Date: 1/8/2003
Re: Federal Asset Disposal System (FAS)

Here is a synopsis of the GAO report on the e-government initiative which includes Federal Asset Sales. Hope you find it interesting. You can find the complete report at www.GAO.gov. Then click on "reports" and enter "GAO-03-229."

SYNOPSIS OF GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE REPORT
GAO-03-229
Electronic Government

Selection and Implementation of the Office of Management and Budget 24 Initiatives October 8, 2002

General: Responding to a request by Senator Lieberman, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs, the General Accounting Office reviewed and reported on the "e-government initiatives" identified within OMB's e-government strategy. This is a synopsis of that report, with emphasis on the initiative involving Federal Asset Sales, which subsequently was expanded to include the entire disposal cycle to include utilization and donation of excess/surplus personal property. If carried to fruition, this initiative will have a profound effect upon the way surplus personal property is moved through the donation cycle and upon State Agency operations. NASASP is closely monitoring the process and is represented on the personal property working group.

Background: A key element of the President's Management Agenda is expanding the use of the internet to enhance access to government information and services. The President's stated goal was to "champion citizen-centered electronic government that will result in a major improvement in the federal government's value to the citizen." OMB established a task force to select activities to be adapted to the internet and to manage these adaptations as "e-government initiatives." Twenty-four initiatives were the result, "Federal Sales Initiative" being one initiative in the "Government to business" category. **GAO Findings and Recommendations:** Too little attention has been given to collaboration and customer focus, information is lacking to measure progress and development of the initiatives, accuracy in estimated costs and funding plans is lacking, and OMB cannot ensure that the initiatives are on schedule or that they are achieving their goals of providing value to customers and improving government efficiency. GAO recommends that OMB "focus on customers by soliciting input from the public and conducting user needs assessments, [and] work with partner agencies to develop and document effective collaboration strategies."

Federal Asset Sales (FAS) Initiative: The only observation GAO makes in this report regarding FAS is that the estimated costs for FY 2002 were \$3 million, and the estimated costs for FY 2003 have

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increased from \$5.7 to \$9.9 million. The original milestones called for "a draft model for a seller-centric, end-to-end process to support on-line asset sales . . . to be submitted by October 15, 2002, [and] the Federal Asset Web site . . . to be in place by January 2003." (Note: Neither milestone was met. The GAO report does not mention the expansion of FAS to include utilization and donation, nor does it mention the fact that DoD personal property--so far, at least--is not included in the plan.)

Bill LeGro, NASASP Executive Director

