



MDP associates

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The Next Big Thing! MDP Associates Announces a New Product

Qualified State Tuition Plans, also known as College Savings or 529 Plans (after the section of the IRS code), are designed to provide a tax-free way to save for college education. While they must be sponsored by a state, other qualified institutions may distribute 529 plans. Being a relatively new product, many distributors have chosen to administer 529 plans on their existing platforms. This often requires a certain amount of retrofitting and could place cost constraints on the program that run counter to the state's mandate (for example, many distributors have minimum balance requirements that discourage small balance accounts, while states want all eligible citizens to participate in the program, regardless of balance size). MDP Associates saw this circumstance as an opportunity to develop software specifically designed for the processing of 529 plans. The end product, dubbed the 529 Industry Utility (IU529), is a stand-alone, browser-based package. Designed to be organic and event driven, the IU529 was developed so that business objects can be added, enhanced or eliminated to suit client needs. Its highly functional web interface makes customer self service a reality. The imbedded Transfer Agency component allows the administrator to offer any class of shares to investors, while providing per-account and transaction costs far below industry standards. The system features multiple payment and disbursement avenues, as well as business objects designed to meet all 529 requirements. Developed using the Microsoft .Net© platform, the IU529 is a complete package - a self-contained, portable and cost-efficient alternative to other 529 solutions in the marketplace. The system will be available for delivery to initial clients in the first quarter of 2003 - check for updates soon at our website - www.mdpassinc.com.

Healthcare: Tools and Services Added for HIPAA Compliance

The healthcare community is rapidly approaching regulatory compliance deadlines set by the Health Insurance Portability & Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996. This legislation aims to improve efficiency in healthcare delivery by standardizing electronic data interchange, and to increase the confidentiality and security of health data. MDP Associates has positioned itself to assist in our clients' compliance efforts by identifying the best available automated tools and subscribing to notification services to stay up-to-date with new rulings and interpretations on HIPAA legislation. As these deadlines approach, we expect to dramatically increase our involvement in this area.

Master Service Agreement Renewal After an extensive review period, MDP Associates' premier client, **State Street Corporation** has renewed our contract as an authorized IT services provider. We are especially proud of this renewal because the selection process was heavily weighted to internal evaluations of past performance of the selected providers. This recognition of our performance at competitive rates strengthens our determination to provide State Street Corporation, and **all our clients**, with high-quality, economical solutions.

State and Local Government Contract Completed

MDP Associates has been awarded a contract with the **Commonwealth of Massachusetts**, Operational Services Division, as an authorized Information Technology provider to the state. Since a number of state authorities and local government agencies (MTBA, MWRA, Boston, Worcester, Cambridge, etc.) use the "ITS07" contract as a basis for IT bids, MDP Associates will be more heavily involved in governmental consulting in the future. We have also filed with the **General Services Agency (GSA)** and expect to be listed as an authorized Federal IT provider shortly. Beyond the obvious prospects such as the Securities and Exchange Commission and Health and Human Services, we will submit bids to the entire range of civilian and defense-related Federal agencies.

Banking and Financial Services Compliance Assistance

For over eighteen years, MDP Associates has provided traditional banking solutions while specializing in external interfaces (ACH, SWIFT, LOC, etc.). We have assisted clients in banking and financial services to meet the emerging regulatory requirements (T+1 & Check Truncation) and the latest SEC reporting standards (CAR, SAR, CIR) which have developed from recent initiatives to improve Anti-Money Laundering protections. MDP Associates is committed to staying at the leading edge of regulatory developments so that our clients can not only comply, but also anticipate changes in regulations in order to minimize compliance costs. For more information, have your *compliance officer* contact us at (617) 265-5124 or info@mdpassinc.com.

Walsh Visa Program Update

In September we attended a luncheon hosted by Hale & Dorr, LLP to welcome the latest group of Walsh Visa recipients to the Boston area. The *Walsh Visa Program* is designed to assist disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland in their transition to a peacetime economy. MDP Associates is an authorized employer under the program in conjunction with the Irish Immigration Center, Boston. We are proud to work with companies such as **Fleet Boston Financial, PNC Financial Services, Mellon Financial Corp., Citizens Bank and Investors Bank and Trust Co.** in this effort.