



# Modernization MONITOR

*Providing the right information to the right people at the right time and place.*

## ACE Activity Increasing, Access Expanding

By Ruth A. Welch

Communications Manager, CBPMO

Two key pilot tests of new features and an updated program plan reflecting expanded capabilities are on the horizon for the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) for the last half of 2004. Continued progress in ACE development and the expansion of ACE capabilities within government and the trade community are critical components of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) anti-terror and pro-trade strategies.

### Periodic Payment Pilot Test

Currently, approximately 350 ACE users, including CBP personnel, 34 importers, and 17 brokers are involved in a three-month pilot test of account revenue features, including monthly periodic payment capabilities.

*See ACE Program on page 6*



**Acting CBPMO Deputy Director William F. Inch leads session during June 2004 Periodic Payment (Release 3) training.**

## Periodic Payment Pilot Test Encouraging

Volunteer trade community representatives and CBP employees are participating in an ACE Periodic Payment (Release 3) User Acceptance Testing (UAT) pilot. The pilot began in June and will last through August 2004. Results so far have been positive.

“The objective of this pilot period is to fine tune the system and the training as much as possible before releasing it to the full population,” said CBPMO Business Executive Lawrence J. Rosenzweig. “We will take all of the input gathered throughout these sessions and incorporate it into the system prior to releasing the new capabilities to the full user population.”

Currently, 34 importers and 17 brokers are participating in the pilot. Following are excerpts of interviews with a trade community and a CBP employee-subject matter expert (SME) participant.

**Q. What are your initial perceptions regarding the periodic payment feature and ease-of-use?**

**A.** The ACE team did an excellent job in improving and adding features to Release 3. The portal was simple and easy to use. Release 3 added new features while preserving the ease of use. Also, continuity in the scheme of design from Release 2 (launch of the portal) to Release 3 helped me with an easy transition. —Ikue Duncan, Customs

*See Periodic Payment on page 8*

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Sharon A. Mazur

## Message from Sharon A. Mazur, Acting Executive Director, CBPMO

Welcome to volume four of *Modernization Monitor*. We want to let you know the Modernization program is making progress and there has been no summer slowdown for ACE development—a flurry of activity is in the works.

A three-month pilot test of periodic payment and other account revenue features began in June and results so far have been positive. After the pilot test is complete, CBP will begin the roll-out to additional ACE participants. The system will make it easier for the trade community to pay duties and fees, and allow CBP to devote resources to its priority mission—protecting the nation's borders.

On a second front, preparations continue for the launch of e-Manifest: Trucks capabilities. A pilot test of these features is scheduled to begin in late fall, when ACE access will begin to be extended to the first participating government agency (PGA), the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Our integration with additional federal agencies will bring us that much closer to helping us create a single window to government.

Plans are also being completed for the introduction of additional capabilities over the next few years that will speed up the end-to-end trade process, from entry to post-release activities, for imports and exports. Several hundred CBP personnel and members of the trade community currently have access to ACE and more than 150 accounts have been created, representing nearly 30-percent of the total value of U.S. imports.

We want to continue to expand input from the trade community, PGAs, and others to ensure ACE/ITDS meets our needs and is as user-friendly, efficient, and effective as possible. We hope periodic publication of *Modernization Monitor* will help keep you up-to-date on Modernization progress. For more information on how Modernization can help you more efficiently navigate the international supply chain to America's borders, we invite you to visit the Modernization and ACE link on our website, [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). ■



Lawrence J. Rosenzweig

## Message from Lawrence J. Rosenzweig, CBPMO Business Executive

The roll-out of Periodic Payment shifts into high gear as we wrap up pilot testing and prepare for e-Manifest: Trucks. It is an exciting time here at CBP. Test results are encouraging and we look forward to launching the automated truck manifest and other features at the first of the initial seven land border ports by the end of 2004.

As someone whose background is in field operations, my role in this program is to ensure ACE is a user-friendly system that meets CBP, PGA, and trade community needs. It is not just about technology. We want to make sure we build not just the best technology, but also the best operations. Outreach programs like the Trade Support Network and the Government Support Network actively encourage involvement in ACE/ITDS. We continue to build on those outreach efforts to increase trade community, PGA, and CBP Subject Matter Expert participation.

During this pivotal period of growth, it is important to keep the trade community, PGAs, and the CBP workforce fully informed on what is to come and how it will impact all of the people who will be using this system. For more information or to request a briefing about ACE/ITDS, contact us at [cbpmo@dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmo@dhs.gov). ■

### CBP Modernization Monitor

#### Acting Executive Director, CBPMO

Sharon A. Mazur

#### Business Executive, CBPMO

Lawrence J. Rosenzweig

#### Editor-in-Chief

William F. Inch, Acting Deputy Director, CBPMO

#### Managing Editor

Kathleen M. Sulik, Acting Director of Workforce Transformation, CBPMO

#### Editor

Ruth A. Welch, Communications Manager, CBPMO

#### Modernization Web site address:

[www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/about/modernization/](http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/toolbox/about/modernization/)

#### Modernization E-mail address:

[cbpmo@dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmo@dhs.gov)

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Gene Rosengarden

## Message from Gene Rosengarden, Chairman, International Trade Data System (ITDS) Board of Directors

As we move closer to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's on-line integration into e-Manifest: Trucks (Release 4), the realization of the first agency outside of CBP into ACE/ITDS means great strides are being made towards more efficient government, streamlined trade reporting, and enhanced trade/government collaboration. This spring, we rolled out the first in a series of integration-focused workshops designed to aid the agency participation and integration process. We are delighted by the response as the pace of agency participation picks up. A series of sessions were held for repre-

sentatives from our newest 13 agencies. This brings the current total to 21 agencies and the demand to join ACE/ITDS is growing. Subsequent workshops delving deeper into the integration process will continue to be offered throughout the summer months.

In this issue of *Modernization Monitor*, one of these new agencies, the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, shares its experience on beginning its integration and development activities. For more information on how to get involved, please visit our website at [www.itds.treas.gov](http://www.itds.treas.gov) or contact the ITDS Program Support Network Co-Chair or the ITDS Communications Manager. ■

## Agricultural Marketing Service Eagerly Moving Forward

By John Kyranos, Market Reporter  
Market News Branch,  
Agricultural Marketing Service

Here at the Agricultural Marketing Service, we are entrusted with a broad range of duties: the inspection and grading of fresh and processed food products; the establishment and enforcement of marketing orders; and the tracking of supplies and prices of fruits and vegetables, poultry, livestock, dairy, and cotton. We impact the lives of each American every single day. As broad as this mandate is, all our functions can benefit from ACE/ITDS.

Once our integration into ACE/ITDS is complete, we expect to realize great improvements in accuracy and timeliness. Data currently compiled and released on a semi-weekly or monthly basis will become available in near-real time. The statistical branches of the Agricultural Marketing Service will be able to view information as commodities are being imported and compile useful data with greater speed and accuracy without disrupting border operations.

Manifest #	Est. Arrival Date	Filing Date	Type	Number of Statements	Status	First expected P.O.A.
22334	09/16/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
22334			Preferred	2	Preliminary - Accepted	
22390			Preferred	2	Preliminary - Accepted	
22428	09/16/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
22327	09/17/2003		Standard	3	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
22324	09/18/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
22438	09/18/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
24820	09/19/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
24520	09/18/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY
24602	09/18/2003		Standard	2	Preliminary - Accepted	0001 - Buffalo Niagara Falls, NY

The e-Manifest: Trucks feature as seen on the ACE Secure Data Portal.

We are finding the immersion into ACE/ITDS to be a quick and uncompromising process. Either we come to the table prepared to go forward, or we get left behind. Therein lies the challenge—to capture the needs of the vast missions of the Agricultural Marketing Service in a comprehensive integration plan. Since the functions of the various Agricultural Marketing Service programs are widely dissimilar, representatives of each program must all be brought to the table. Without this input, we risk critical elements being left out.

As with any task of this magnitude, everything depends on communication. There is no danger in over-communicating. As the Agricultural Marketing Service gets further along, different subject matter experts will be called upon to handle the various tasks to be completed. We intend to tap the diverse knowledge and expertise of everyone involved.

There are many more challenges to be met, many issues to be resolved, and many processes that must be followed. The scope of ACE/ITDS is impressive. We must help ACE/ITDS help us, by ensuring we identify the information we need, and how it is delivered. So as we navigate our way through ACE/ITDS integration, our vigilance, teamwork, and collaboration with the ITDS Board of Directors, CBP, and other PGAs will pay big dividends for us in the future. ■

## Transformational Partnerships: Trade Community Profile: Hasbro, Inc.

With some of the world's most well-known toy brands such as TONKA, NERF, and PLAYSKOOL, Hasbro, Inc. knows the value of strategic partnerships. So it is no surprise the Pawtucket, Rhode Island-based company has been an ACE Modernization trade community partner since the early 1990s.

"When Hasbro decided to become involved with the Modernization Program more than a decade ago, the main focus was: How can we transform the process? And, how can we extend this to the other federal government agencies we interact with in our trade processes?" said Barry O'Brien, Hasbro director of global trade and customs. "We still have a long road ahead, but the return on investment for the company is paying off."



Barry O'Brien

The initial introduction of ACE in 2003 enabled the establishment of 41 importer account users in ACE, including Hasbro. These 41 accounts are currently accessing the ACE Secure Data Portal to use new features such as the Significant Activity Log (SAL), the on-line Account Action Plan, Quickviews, and other customized reports covering CBP and trade activities.

"One of ACE's most important goals is to transform trade processing from a shipment-by-shipment approach to an account-based one," said O'Brien. "Periodic Payment functionality will allow some 1,100 importers, brokers, and carriers to pay duties and fees on a monthly basis—enabling us to track open items, requiring fewer pay-

ment transactions, decreasing our daily workload, and providing quick access to import updates and revenue reports."

According to O'Brien, other early benefits for trade community users will include preliminary periodic monthly statements generated on a date defined by individual trade community participants. Statements will be sent via the Automated Broker Interface (ABI) and will be viewable on the ACE Secure Data Portal. In addition, entry summary data will be passed from the Automated Commercial System (ACS) to ACE on a real-time basis. When goods enter the country, ACE will also create an accounts receivable posting, which will be made on the sub-ledger account of the Importer of Record.

"The ACE system is going to transform how the trade community and CBP do business," said O'Brien. "The paper-intensive, port-specific, entry-by-entry approach will be gone, and replaced with easy data collection and analysis capabilities. And with nearly 20 million shipments entering the country each year, that's a clear win for CBP as well."

Barry O'Brien, director of global trade and customs for Hasbro, serves as the chairman for the Toy Industry of America - International Trade Committee, and is a member of the Trade Support Network, National Association of Foreign Trade Zones, and the U.S. Council for International Business.

If you have questions or would like to know more about ACE and Modernization, please send inquiries to: [cbpmo@dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmo@dhs.gov). ■

### Ask the CBPMO...

**Q. What is the new periodic payment URL for ACE users?**

**A.** The new periodic payment URL is <https://ace.cbpmo.dhs.gov>. At the start of the pilot, individuals using <https://ace.customs.treas.gov> user were redirected to <https://ace.cbpmo.dhs.gov>. If you need assistance with making this transition, E-mail us at [cbpmo@dhs.gov](mailto:cbpmo@dhs.gov).

**Q. What ports will be receiving e-Manifest: Trucks (Release 4)?**

**A.** When ACE is fully implemented, all land border ports will be able to receive electronic truck manifests. Initially, the capability will be introduced at the seven of the busiest ports on a port-by-port basis to the following:

- Buffalo, New York
- Detroit, Michigan

- Port Huron, Michigan
- Blaine, Washington
- Laredo, Texas
- Otay Mesa, California
- Champlain, New York

Additional ports will be added on a port-by-port basis over the next several years. Scheduling is based on trade volumes and port capabilities to ensure a smooth transition process. ■

## Trade Support Network Hears Latest on ACE

By Janet Pence, TSN Administrator,  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Modernization Office

The Trade Support Network (TSN) Plenary Session was held June 29 through July 1 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Reston, Virginia. More than 300 people attended, participating in discussions on new ACE periodic payment and truck manifest features, CBP security and technology requirements, integration with PGAs, and long-range ACE/ITDS development.

The TSN is a 200-member network of private sector companies established by CBP in 1994 as a means of communication with the trade community. The TSN represents a cross-section of impacted industries working in partnership with CBP in the design and develop-

ment of ACE. Members include importers, exporters, carriers, customhouse brokers, foreign trade zone operators, software vendors, service bureaus, consultants/attorneys, surety companies, and others. Participating Government Agency representatives serve as advisors on various TSN committees.

The ACE development team works closely with TSN members, and the trade community as a whole, to ensure that the private sector realizes the full benefits of ACE/ITDS. Established modernization program trade community partners and TSN members are encouraged to invite their industry counterparts to participate in ACE/ITDS. ■

### How to Participate in ACE

Information about ACE is on the CBP website at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov). From the homepage, scroll down the middle "features" section and look for the ACE logo and the Modernization & ACE link. Click on the logo or Modernization & ACE. Once on the Modernization page, there are a variety of choices.

**For General information:** In the main text in the middle, scroll down about halfway and click on *ACE Federal Register Notices—Instructions on How to Become an ACE Participant*. This page lists all the current FRNs that detail requirements for ACE participation.

**For information about hardware and software being used:** In the main text in the middle, scroll down toward the bottom of the Modernization and ACE homepage and click on Trade Support Network. Once on the Trade Support Network page, click on ACE Access Information. This document describes the hardware, software, and user information

required. As system development progresses, additional information will be provided prior to each new technology release.

**Key Requirements for ACE Participation:** (Please review all of the pertinent Federal Register Notices posted to the CBP website for additional information.)

#### Requirements for Importers and Brokers:

1. Internet access
2. Participation in the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). For information on C-TPAT membership, see the [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) homepage.
3. Additional requirements for use of the Periodic Monthly Payment/Statement feature include:
  - Having the ability to make periodic payments via ACH Credit or ACH Debit
  - Having the ability to file entry/entry summary information via ABI (Automated Broker Interface)

- Submission of a bond rider covering the periodic payment of estimated duties (See *Federal Register Notice* published February 4, 2004, (69 FR 5362) for details)

4. Importer account applicants must provide the following information: Importer of Record number (IR) company name, address, and name of trade account owner.
5. Broker account applicants must provide the following information: filer code number, company name, address, and name of trade account owner.

#### Requirements for Carriers:

1. Internet access
2. Account applicants must provide the following information: Standard Carrier Alpha Code (SCAC), company name, address, and name of trade account owner.

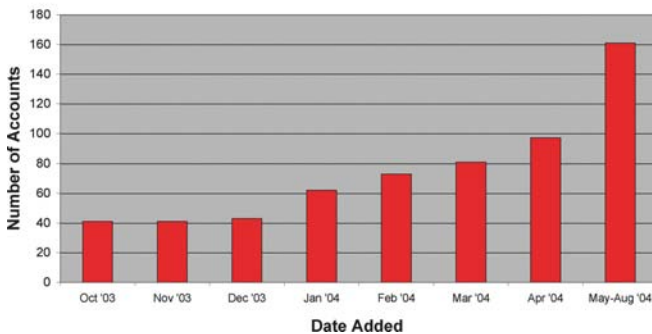
**No fees or additional costs are required to access the ACE Secure Data Portal.** ■

## New ACE Program Plan Offers Expanded Capabilities

Continued from Page 1

“The launch of Periodic Payment and other account revenue capabilities marks a key period of growth for ACE and CBP,” said CBP Commissioner Robert C. Bonner. “This is another important step toward enhancing our ability to both protect America’s borders and expedite legitimate trade.”

**ACE Trade Account Growth**



**More than 150 importer and broker accounts have been established and loaded into ACE. These companies represented nearly 30 percent of the total value of fiscal year 2003 imports, the latest year for which figures are available. The total value of FY03 imports exceeded \$1 trillion, and over \$25 billion in duties were paid.**

The features being tested include new monthly account statement and payment capabilities, as well as ledger integration, notifications, alerts, and other enhancements. Similar to commercial credit card payment processes, ACE participants will be able to receive a monthly listing of their daily account statements and make one monthly payment via the Automated Clearing House (ACH) electronic funds transfer system. The CBP test participants include employees from the CBP National Finance Center (NFC), as well as import and entry specialists, account managers, and client representatives. After the pilot test is complete, CBP will begin the roll-out to additional ACE participants.

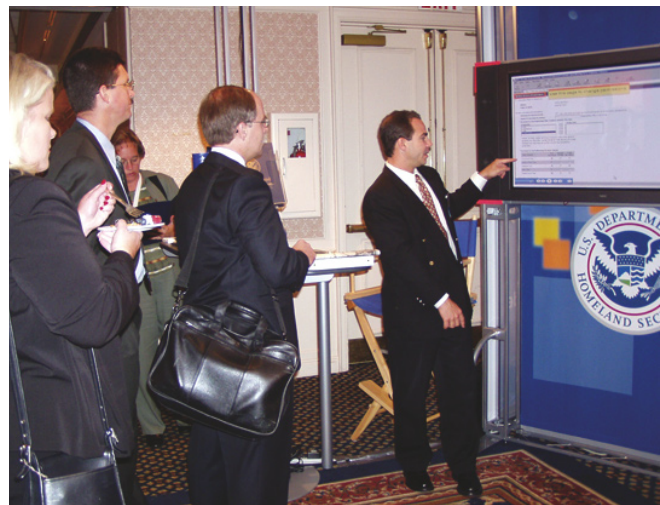
### e-Manifest: Trucks Pilot Test

A pilot test of automated truck processing features starts in late fall and will then be expanded on a port-by-port basis to six more of the busiest land border ports. Truck carriers and the first CBP land border inspectors will gain access to ACE/ITDS, as well as the first Participating Government Agency (PGA), the

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), part of the U.S. Department of Transportation. Using technology similar to electronic payment devices now use to pay

tal—essentially a customized computer screen, similar to a web-site home page—government and the trade community will be connected through a single, centralized, on-line access point. Through the development of tools such as the portal, ACE will provide unprecedented integration of data and communication abilities among CBP, the trade community, and other government agencies, helping government reduce paper-based transactions, and move closer to the “single window to government” concept.

The ACE Secure Data Portal is already enhancing processing and communications with the trade community, and providing quicker, more comprehensive reporting and information gathering capabilities to all users. To date, more than



**Attendees of June 2004 American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI) Conference view ACE demonstration.**

highway tolls, the new Automated Truck Manifest feature will allow CBP to release vehicles, containers, and other conveyances into the United States based on electronically filed entries and manifests. An upcoming Federal Register Notice (FRN) details additional requirements for participation in the automated truck manifest test.

### ACE Secure Data Portal

Through the ACE Secure Data Por-

150 importer and broker accounts are on-line, representing nearly 30 percent of the value of U.S. imports. By the end of winter 2004/2005, approximately 20,000 users will have portal access capability and the number of trade accounts is expected to grow to 1,100. ■

## Future Release Features

	Starting Summer 2006	Starting Fall 2008	Starting Winter 2008
<b>Features</b>	Automated entry summary processing through liquidation. This includes: procedures for antidumping/countervailing duties; quota/visa documentation; reconciliation of accounts/payments; and supporting selectivity. Financial processing is enhanced. Initial automated manifest capabilities are provided for all modes of transportation.	The following will be automated: entry documents; full electronic manifests; cargo tracking; all types of e-Release; and In-Bond documentation for goods transiting through the United States to a foreign destination.	ACE is expanded throughout the full trade process to cover FTZ/warehouse processing, exports, protest processing, drawback processing and document management.
<b>ACE Accounts Impacted</b>	Carriers/Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers (NVOCCs), Sureties, Brokers, Importers	Bonded Facility Operators, Cartmen/Lightermen, Couriers, Carriers/NVOCCs, Sureties, Brokers, Importers	FTZ Operators, Exporters/U.S. Principal Parties in Interest (USPPI), Bonded Facility Operators, Sureties, Cartmen/Lightermen, Couriers, Carriers/NVOCCs, Brokers, Importers
<b>CBP Personnel</b>	Air, Sea, Rail Officers, Import/Entry Specialists, National Finance Center	Border Patrol, Attorneys	Outbound Inspectors, Drawback Specialists
<b>Estimated User Capability</b>	135,000	235,000	Nearly 700,000, with expansion capabilities
<b>Benefits</b>	Availability of additional payment types, including credit card and Internet payments. The entry summary process is streamlined and ACE becomes the system of record for entry summaries.	Electronic manifest will enable visibility of shipments transferring between transportation modes. Cargo tracking will enable visibility of shipment lifecycle.	A fully automated, electronic end-to-end cargo process. An integrated drawback/export process, and ACE becomes the system of record.

## Government Support Network Highlights First ACE PGA Launch

By Susan C. Maskell  
 Supervisory ACS Specialist  
 Client Representative Branch  
 U.S. Customs and Border Protection

With the Department of Transportation's FMCSA prepared to go online with ACE in late November, representatives of federal agencies and the trade community gathered to hear about ACE activities at a July 14 Government Support Network (GSN) meeting in Bethesda, Maryland. The meeting was sponsored by CBP, on behalf of the ITDS Board of Directors.

The GSN was established to provide

ACE information to federal agencies with admissibility, export control, trade promotion, and statistical interests in international trade. Participants have included current ACE PGAs, agencies targeted for future participation, and government entities with the need or desire to learn more about the ACE program. The success of this government outreach network has been measured, among other things, by the increase in the number of attendees and agencies represented at each GSN meeting.

Presentations made at this most recent GSN included reports on ACE

status and expansion plans. New ACE capabilities to be introduced later this year were reviewed. Integration plans for additional PGAs were also highlighted. ■



**ACE Acquisitions Director, Requirements Michael S. Denning addresses July GSN meeting in Bethesda, Maryland.**

# Periodic Payment Reduces Workload, Paperwork

Continued from Page 1

Compliance Manager, Toyota Motor Sales USA, Inc., Torrance, California.

**Q. How will this launch impact your operations?**

A. Two business priorities for Toyota Motor Sales in Release 3 are: Periodic Monthly Statement (PMS) and improved report capabilities. As one of the top five import duty payees in the country, availability of monthly statements will improve our operational flexibility and efficiency. It is a privilege to be one of the testing companies. Also, the reports have been benefiting Toyota Motor Sales in compliance maintenance and improvement since Release 2. With added sophistication and robustness, Release 3 reports will continue to help us in compliance. —I. Duncan



**Ikue Duncan**

informed compliance, importers are being held accountable for our own import activities whether we have our own filer code or not. Yet, we did not have a tool to directly view CBP data under ACS. ACE lets the importer see all of the activity and entry data under its federal ID numbers (IRs). Release 3 confirmed this direction by Customs. Under the “View” pull-down menu, we can choose “importer view” or “broker view.” As an importer, we are allowed to see our data for multiple filer codes

for multiple IRs regardless of the port of entry. This comprehensive importer data view will allow us to maintain and improve compliance as well as working with our broker more effectively. —I. Duncan

**Q. How will this launch benefit your organization overall?**

A. ACE lets us see the “importer view” of the data and not limited to a single “broker view.” ACE is finally filling the gap of CBP data accessibility for a non-filer importer like us. Under the

**Q. How will this capability impact CBP field employees?**

A. It would seem to take the workload off the entry units. After the initial set-up, the National Finance Center and Account Managers will serve as the central

conduits for the payment process, with a consolidated periodic statement and payment system for Automated Clearinghouse (ACH) debit and ACH credit participants. Entry specialists will simply be the on-the-ground “customer service”—freeing up their time to focus on more analytical functions. —ACE SME, Entry Specialist Byron Kissane, Reston, Virginia

**Q. How will this launch benefit CBP... the trade community...and the nation as a whole?**

A. We are streamlining the process. It may be too early to say, but I believe it is a huge step forward in reducing paperwork. CBP processes will be performed more cost effectively, with electronic data collection and payments reducing a host of paperwork burdens. When you think of how many hands would normally touch a paper check, you can imagine the far-reaching benefits of moving to this automated process, long term. —B. Kissane



**Byron Kissane**

The public invitation to participate in the UAT pilot was included in a Federal Register Notice, published February 4, 2004. ■

## Acronyms

<b>AAEI</b>	American Association of Exporters and Importers
<b>ABI</b>	Automated Broker Interface
<b>ACE</b>	Automated Commercial Environment
<b>ACH</b>	Automated Clearing House
<b>ACS</b>	Automated Commercial System
<b>AMS</b>	Agricultural Marketing Service
<b>APHIS</b>	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
<b>CBP</b>	U.S. Customs and Border Protection

<b>CBPMO</b>	U.S. Customs and Border Protection Modernization Office
<b>C-TPAT</b>	Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism
<b>DOT</b>	U.S. Department of Transportation
<b>eCP</b>	e-Customs Partnership
<b>FCC</b>	Federal Communications Commission
<b>FDA</b>	Food and Drug Administration
<b>FMCSA</b>	Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
<b>FRN</b>	Federal Register Notice
<b>FTZ</b>	Foreign Trade Zone
<b>GSN</b>	Government Support Network

<b>IR</b>	Importer of Record number
<b>ITC</b>	International Trade Commission
<b>ITDS</b>	International Trade Data System
<b>NTC</b>	National Targeting Center
<b>NVOCC</b>	Non-Vessel Operating Common Carriers
<b>PGA</b>	Participating Government Agency
<b>SME</b>	Subject Matter Expert
<b>TSN</b>	Trade Support Network
<b>UAT</b>	User Acceptance Testing
<b>USPPI</b>	U.S. Principal Party in Interest (Exporter of Record)