

PEC to Design PKI Framework for DEA Regulatory Processes

Fairfax, Va. (July 21, 1999) - Performance Engineering Corporation (PEC) has been selected by the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) Office of Diversion Control to analyze mandated, paper-based regulatory processes and to design and develop Public Key Infrastructures (PKIs) that would allow the DEA and industry to transition to more efficient and secure electronic formats.

The task order calls for two distinct efforts. The first, called the *Manufacturers and Distributors (MADI) PKI Analysis and Design Program*, involves designing a PKI proof-of-concept to better oversee and manage the transfer of Schedule II controlled substances between DEA registrants such as manufacturers, wholesalers, and pharmacies. This process is currently regulated by a paper-based system of multi-part order forms. *MADI* is intended to reduce the amount of paper in the process, speed transaction time, lower costs per transaction, and introduce electronic security services. The effort may eventually expand to incorporate other types of controlled substances and government-mandated industry reporting requirements.

The second effort involves designing a PKI architecture suitable for use in transmitting prescriptions electronically. Called the *DEA-Department of Veterans Affairs (DEVA) PKI Pilot Program*, it will involve identifying aspects of the relationship between the physician and the pharmacy that can be enhanced through implementation of a PKI. The new system would provide improved security, confidentiality, authentication, integrity and non-repudiation to the process.

During Phase 1 of the project, PEC will demonstrate the feasibility and benefit of such a system by designing a prototype that allows select Veterans Administration doctors and pharmacists to issue and process digitally signed electronic prescriptions for all types of controlled substances. Though its use will not be mandated, the DEA expects to make the capability available to all registered practitioners and pharmacies nationwide once the pilot program proves successful.

Headquartered in Fairfax, Virginia, PEC is a total-systems solution provider. PEC engages the entire information technology life-cycle, from architectural design, integration and implementation of infrastructure, to operation and management of technology assets. PEC analyzes, develops, engineers, implements and manages advanced networked information systems and technologies for Federal, state and local government clients, as well as those in the private sector.

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