

# Federation of Tax Administrators

## 26<sup>th</sup> Annual FTA Technology Conference

August 3, 2010

Presentation by

Rick Mekdessie





# About e-Gov Systems

- In 1997, **e-Gov Systems (formerly RAMware)** was formed to reduce the burden of sales tax compliance for taxpayers and provide taxing authorities with innovative solutions to efficiently collect taxes, licenses, and fees.
- **Sales Tax Manager** is a desktop application that automates the preparation and filing of state and local sales tax returns in Louisiana.
- In 2004, e-Gov Systems completed development of its web-based application, **SalesTaxOnline.com**.



# Louisiana Background

- In 2003, the Louisiana Legislature provided for the creation of the uniform electronic local return and remittance system that gives taxpayers the ability to file and remit all local sales and use taxes electronically from one central site
- Oversight provided by a Governor-appointed 5 member Advisory Committee
- **ParishE-File.com** was launched on October 1st, 2008 for all parishes in Louisiana



# Goals and Objectives

- **Make** Louisiana a better environment in which to do business
- **Reduce** complexities faced by businesses in filing multiple local sales & use tax returns
- **Allow** a taxpayer to file sales & use tax returns that are calculated automatically
- **Allow** the remittance of any tax, penalty, interest, or other amounts due to be sent directly to taxing authority



# Collaboration

**Great example of state and local governments collaborating with business and industry to make Louisiana a better place to do business.**

**A public-private partnership and collaboration between:**

- e-Gov Systems
- Department of Revenue
- Local government agencies
- Trade Organizations




# Benefits of E-Filing

## Taxpayer:

- **Reduce** the average cost/time to file
- **Increase** accuracy of tax rates/returns
- **Eliminate** calculation errors
- **Overall convenience 24/7/365**

## Taxing Authorities:

- **Reduce** the labor cost/increase productivity
- **Higher** availability and accuracy
- **Increase** in out-of-state compliance
- **Quicker** processing of payments



# Important Features (Required)

## 1) Taxpayer Experience

- Register to all Local Collectors at once
- Ability to file Amend Returns

## 2) Method of Payment

- ACH Debits
- ACH Credits

## 3) Administrator's Back Office

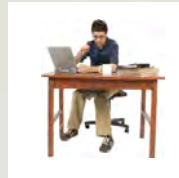
- Batch Processing of Returns/Payments
- Payments Associated with Returns

# Unique Features

- E-Gov Systems has developed a unique web-based portal that allows taxpayers to use one set of credentials to file and pay state & local sales taxes returns separately
- All taxpayer return and payment information is segregated, and accessible only by the individual taxing authority
- Taxpayers are able to use a single bank account to make payments directly to both state and local agencies

# e-File & Pay Portal (for Sales and Use Tax)

Taxpayer may Register for a new account number then File & Pay Online in one sitting



Taxing Authorities can only view data from taxpayers registered in their jurisdiction

Secure Server with latest encryption techniques used in the e-File/Pay Portal



Tax dollars are transferred from taxpayer's bank account directly into taxing authority's bank account

LA DOR

Jefferson

Rapides

Caddo

AL DOR

Individual taxing authority retrieves all Return & Payment Records

# Standard Taxpayer Features

- Account Tax Id Registration
- Rate Lookup
- Amended Returns
- ACH Credit Payments
- Practitioner Accounts
- Data Import



# Administrator Features

- Clerical Users
- Rate Change
- Filing Preferences
- Holiday Calendar
- NACHA Payment Accounts
- Tax Rate Updates



# 2009 to 2010 Comparison

- **January – June Comparison of returns** filed between FY2009 to FY2010 experienced a **51% increase**
- **January – June Comparison of tax dollars** collected between FY2009 to FY2010 experienced a **37% increase**
- **July 2009 – July 2010 Comparison** of returns filed - **39% increase**  
of tax dollars collected - **62% increase**



# E-Filing Statistics

- **Over 55,000** registered users since 10/01/2008
- **Over 700,000** returns filed in 2009
- **91%** of total returns filed are filed to local collectors
- **Over \$1 billion** in taxes collected in 2009
- **77%** of total taxes remitted are paid to local collectors



# Questions & Answers

**Rick Mekdessie**  
**e-Gov Systems**

**7117 Florida Blvd., Suite 304**  
**Baton Rouge, LA 70806**

**800-227-7059**

**[rick@e-GovSystems.com](mailto:rick@e-GovSystems.com)**