

DATE: May 23, 2003
TO: Agency Heads
FROM: Ken Rocco, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Theresa McHugh, State Budget Director
SUBJECT: Linking Accounting and Budget Systems

During the 2003 Legislative Session, the Ways and Means Committee added a Budget Note to several agency Budget Reports directing the agency to match accounting and budget structures. The following Budget Note may not be included in your agency's Budget Report, but the intent applies to all agencies:

"The agency is directed to match its accounting program structure (in RSTARS) and budgetary structure (in ORBITS) for the execution of the 2005-07 biennium budget. This action will more easily link accounting with budgetary information as directed in the Statewide Financial Master Plan approved by the 1989 Legislature. BAM and LFO will approve these structures and work with the agency to ensure timely implementation. A report and plan will be presented to the 2005 Ways & Means on agency progress in meeting these timeframes."

The next release of the ORegon Budget Information Tracking System (ORBITS) is scheduled for February 2004. It includes summarizing monthly accounting data to the budgetary level in ORBITS. This "budget versus actual" process requires that structures match between the two systems. The first phase of this process during the 2003-05 biennium will convert accounting data to the ORBITS system. The next phase will eliminate the conversion process by establishing a direct connection between RSTARS and ORBITS (probably via the DataMart). In order to accomplish the more efficient second phase, structures between the two systems must match.

During the 2003-05 biennium, the ORBITS project team and State Controllers' Division staff will work with agencies to evaluate the match up between RSTARS and ORBITS. Many agencies will have minimal (if any) changes to make to 2005-07 structures. The goal will be for all agencies to have matching structures for the start of the 2005-07 biennium. We will report the progress in achieving this goal to the 2005 Legislature.

The end result of this process should support all decision makers by linking budget and accounting data in the most useful way. We appreciate your agency's assistance in meeting this goal.