

Contacts:
Lisa Counts
OK.gov
Office: 405-524-3468 x101
Mobile: 405-514-7239
lisa.counts@www.OK.gov

Lisa McKim
Senior Auditor
Office: 405-522-2165
Lisa_mckim@dcs.state.ok.us

State offers surplus property auction online

OKLAHOMA CITY – March 15, 2005 – Oklahoma is one out of only a handful of states offering the public a Web-based state surplus search and auction service. The Oklahoma Online Surplus Property Auction is available through the state’s official Web site at www.OK.gov.

The online service will give the public, especially those outside of the greater Oklahoma City area, access to state surplus items for bid, which will expand the agency’s customer base.

“The Online Surplus Property Auction is an excellent example of how technology can connect government with citizens in Oklahoma and throughout the world,” said Governor Brad Henry. “We are excited that the Department of Central Services is able to provide this service.”

Following a simple registration process, users are given access to an online directory of surplus items. Auction items are represented by digital images and accompanied by condition, description and item details. If the user is interested in an item, a sealed bid may be placed online. Bid amounts are kept confidential and the bidder will receive notification through the site and via email if the item has been outbid by another user.

If a bid is won, the user will have the ability to pay for the item online via credit card, electronic funds transfer or by an approved purchase order. Shipping is available for many items.

Registered users can also set up “watch lists” to monitor the site for desired items.

Agency staff have an administrative module that enables the management and maintenance of the application. Staff can maintain items, manage user accounts, and retrieve a number of reports consisting of statistical data, shipment orders, sales, etc. The administrative features handle a number of previously paper-intensive tasks and are expected to allow agency staff to be directed to other duties.

The online auction service is the result of a partnership between the Department of Central Services and OK.gov, Oklahoma’s official Web portal managed by eGovernment firm NIC Inc. (Nasdaq: EGOV). OK.gov built the service with no cost to the state through NIC’s self-funded model, enabling the development and maintenance of applications without the use of state appropriated tax dollars.

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“This is Oklahoma’s first online auction service,” said Lisa Counts, OK.gov general manager. “We are extremely pleased to have partnered with the Department of Central Services to make the state’s property available to anyone surfing the Internet.”

About OK.gov

OK.gov (www.ok.gov) built and manages the official Web site for the state of Oklahoma and partners with state agencies to bring new government services online. OK.gov is managed by eGovernment firm NIC. (Nasdaq: EGOV)

About NIC

NIC manages more eGovernment services than any provider in the world. The company helps government communicate more effectively with citizens and businesses by putting essential services online. NIC provides eGovernment solutions for 1,500 state and local agencies that serve more than 51 million people in the United States. Additional information is available at www.nicusa.com.