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For immediate release:
Sept. 15, 2008

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Building Codes Division announces next steps in e-permitting

(Salem) – A statewide program allowing contractors to conduct building department activities online, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is getting closer in Oregon.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services' Building Codes Division has entered into a contract with Accela Inc. to provide software for the statewide e-building program. When fully implemented, the program will allow contractors to conduct building department activities, such as receiving plan approval, scheduling inspections online, and applying and paying for permits morning, noon, and night, with any participating city or county in the state.

“Accela’s software product has a proven track record, and the company has broad experience providing building department technical solutions,” said Mark Long, administrator of the Building Codes Division. “Accela’s experience and expertise will help us to deliver an effective system to meet our customers’ needs for e-government services.”

The state is entering into a 10-year, \$10 million contract with Accela that builds on the successful Quick Permits system initiated in 2005. Quick Permits allows limited e-government solutions for electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits and is currently being used by 21 local building departments. During the 2007 legislative session, Gov. Ted Kulongoski signed into law House Bill 2405, expanding the Quick Permits program to create the nation’s first comprehensive e-permitting system that will allow local building departments to provide e-government services statewide.

“With Accela solutions already in place in agencies throughout Oregon, we are uniquely qualified to partner with the state on this ambitious and far-reaching e-permitting initiative,” said Maury Blackman, Accela president and CEO. “We recognize the national significance and strategic importance of the initiative and look forward to supporting Oregon as the national leader in utilizing Web-based technology to promote change in statewide standards that spurs economic development and competitiveness.”

The cities of Eugene and Springfield have indicated an interest in serving as test jurisdictions for the new system in 2009 with other cities and counties coming on board in 2010.

Founded in 1979, Accela is the largest software company that connects citizens to government services 24/7. Accela has products in use in over 30 Oregon cities and counties and serves more than 500 government agencies worldwide. Accela’s headquarters are in San Ramon, Calif.

The Building Codes Division, part of the Department of Consumer and Business Services (DCBS), adopts statewide construction standards used by 130 city and county building departments in Oregon. For more information, visit www.bcd.oregon.gov.

The Department of Consumer and Business Services is Oregon's largest business regulatory and consumer protection agency. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.

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