

POSTAL NEWS

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1. United States Postal Service Chooses Diebold to Implement Nationwide Security Program

Wednesday, September 10, 2008 - Article #1273

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Diebold Provides Technical Expertise, Infrastructure for Massive Security Initiative

NORTH CANTON, Ohio, Sept. 10 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- The United States Postal Service (USPS) is capitalizing on the national presence, IT and security expertise of Diebold, Incorporated (NYSE:DBD) to implement a multi-site, technologically-advanced, video security program. With more than 40,000 sites across the country, the USPS has selected Diebold Security to manage this nationwide implementation under a three-year agreement. The contract has the potential to span more than 12 years.

According to the agreement, Diebold Security will install IPv6-compliant cameras, encoders, software and networking equipment, as well as provide education and training along with maintenance and support services at targeted USPS sites. The IPv6 platform is the next-generation Internet protocol set to replace the current IPv4 platform. USPS specifications also call for Diebold to build the new security system on an open architecture to allow for streamlined future expansion or reconfiguration.

"Our comprehensive infrastructure and technical expertise make us well-suited to efficiently execute and oversee a government project of this size and scope," said John Stroia, vice president, government solutions, Global Security Division, Diebold.

"Our presence in the government security sector continues to steadily grow as we demonstrate the depth and breadth of our capabilities."

Adding an advanced level of complexity to this project is the federal government mandate for all federal agencies to migrate their network systems to IPv6. To comply, the new systems Diebold will install must be compatible with both protocols. The architecture of the new surveillance system will offer the USPS unprecedented access to high-quality video and enhanced mobility, security and network management features.

"Diebold is one of only a few security integrators with the infrastructure and technological expertise to undertake such an extensive project and deliver an integrated video security solution. The government sector is paving the way for IPv6-based networks, and Diebold is excited about the opportunity to be a participant in this cutting-edge movement," said Thomas W. Swidarski, Diebold president and chief executive officer. "We can offer large agencies like the USPS comprehensive capabilities to ensure a smooth migration from the older platform, as well as the security know-how to ensure they are deploying the most effective video security systems available."

The USPS relies on video security to combat robberies, burglaries and other security breaches around the clock, indoors and out, making an IP-based system the ideal technology.

IP-based security systems are superior to traditional analog CCTV systems because IP surveillance can be viewed remotely from any location with an Internet connection. This allows massive organizations like the USPS to centralize security operations, with the ability to view and record activity from multiple locations. And, with digital technology, storage and management of surveillance footage is more accessible, allowing for more efficient search techniques to quickly target specific incidents and identify suspects.

Diebold is working with best-in-class security equipment providers to deliver the USPS the latest network video security technology. Throughout the length of the USPS agreement Diebold will deploy a full-time team, staffed by experts in program management, IT, quality control and other necessary disciplines to ensure successful delivery of an integrated video solution across the USPS' nationwide footprint. Diebold has provided security solutions to the USPS since 1859.

About Diebold Security

Diebold Security is a leading security integrator with representation in every region of the world. Focusing on the sale, installation and service of security components, Diebold Security provides comprehensive protection and detection solutions to the commercial, financial, government and retail markets. For more information, visit <http://www.diebold.com/security>.

Diebold, Incorporated is a global leader in providing integrated self-service delivery and security systems and services. Diebold employs more than 17,000 associates with representation in nearly 90 countries worldwide and is headquartered in Canton, Ohio, USA. Diebold is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol 'DBD.' For more information, visit the company's Web site at <http://www.diebold.com>.

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2. Postal union leaders fight outsourcing

By JOHN ANASTASI
Bucks County Courier Times

American Postal Workers Union leaders are fighting a U.S. Postal Service proposal to outsource processing work at the nation's 21 bulk mail centers, saying it could hurt service and result in lost union jobs.

"We believe that if they get away with this, they could go after the next group [of public postal employees]," said Vince Tarducci. He's president of the APWU Local 7048, which covers the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center on Philadelphia's Byberry Road. "They could continue to cut out government workers. ... They want to farm it out to people who are not in public service."

Built in the 1970s near major metropolitan centers, bulk mail centers process and distribute mail — including magazines, packages, thick envelopes, books, sound recordings, recorded video tapes and mass mailings — in bulk form at reduced postage rates.

The postal service recently reported the centers have been underutilized for years and that outsourcing jobs there would allow the centers to be reconfigured to meet other needs.

Though discussed with the unions early in the year, the proposal officially came as part of the Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act of 2006. Implemented in May 2008, the act provides the postal service with more flexibility to respond to market conditions and changing customer needs. It includes a series of postal service proposals, including outsourcing work at the bulk mail centers.

Philadelphia region postal service spokeswoman Cathy Yarosky said discussions about subcontracting bulk center work were just starting but added that the postal service's contract with the union includes "no layoff" provisions the postal service plans to honor.

"As we go through this process, we have to consider our commitment to our employees as well," she said. "We need to balance all the needs of all of these people — employees, customers, suppliers — with the financial realities we're facing today."

She said the postal service has never had a layoff "since we've been working the unions."

"We always find positions for people whose jobs are no longer there," she said. "Times change and they change rapidly. The work changes and the needs of the customers change. We need to evaluate and reevaluate what we're doing to make the best use of our resources."

Tarducci said each bulk mail center employs about 1,000 workers. Even if the postal service doesn't lay off union members, he said, it can move their jobs to other facilities that are too far away for the workers to continue their employment.

"They can send people from one place to another," he said. "It's very hard if they're being told they have to work 500 miles away. If they want to cut the workforce, it's that simple."

Tarducci said he believes if the change goes through, it will be much harder to negotiate a "no-layoff" provision in the next contract. The current pact expires in November 2010.

The union head also said he doubts the work could be subcontracted without hurting the level of service. Jobs would go to people "who are probably making minimum wage and who are not used to handling" the responsibilities the positions entail, he said.

Bucks County Congressman Patrick Murphy, D-8, recently asked the House Appropriations Committee to pass legislation that funds postal service operations only if it also suspends the "misguided plan to privatize BMC operations."

"Privatization of the BMCs is an ill-conceived move that could prove disastrous for both our parcel delivery service and for the employees who currently work at the centers," Murphy said in his Aug. 8 letter.

The letter also raised the possibility that the move could increase parcel delivery prices and lead to strikes by subcontractors' employees. Postal workers are not allowed to strike.

Murphy and Tarducci both appeared at a press conference Saturday afternoon at the Philadelphia Bulk Mail Center to call attention to the impact outsourcing could have on union workers and mail service operations.

Murphy represents the residents of Bucks County, some districts of Abington, Upper Dublin and Upper Moreland in Montgomery County and two wards in Philadelphia. John Anastasi can be reached at 215-949-4170 or janastasi@phillyBurbs.com.

September 14, 2008 7:01 AM

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3. Commission to study future of French post office
09.17.08, 8:45 AM ET

PARIS, Sept 17 (Reuters) - A commission will look at the future of the French post office, which is aiming for partial privatisation in 2010, government spokesman Luc Chatel said on Wednesday.

State-owned La Poste has announced plans for a partial sell-off of its activities ahead of the full liberalisation of the European postal services market from 2011.

Speaking after a meeting of the cabinet, Chatel said the 22-strong commission, to be headed by a former top executive of EDF, Francois Ailleret, would be made up of a wide range of members including customers, staff representatives and parliamentarians.

'This commission will be charged with considering the future of the post office, reflecting on what developments are necessary, given the European environment and the competition that will appear on Jan. 1, 2011.'

The commission will consider the issue during October and November, Chatel said.

Any move towards privatisation would require the postal service to become public limited company instead of a branch of the civil service.

Unions have already signalled their opposition to the planned sale and are planning a strike in protest on Sept. 23.

(Writing by James Mackenzie; Editing by Paul Bolding) Keywords: FRANCE
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4. Postal Service upgrades Web site

By Doug Beizer

Published on September 15, 2008

The U.S. Postal Service has redesigned its Web site to make it simpler and easier to navigate.

The new site, designed to improve customers' ease of use, was launched today.

The redesign has less clutter than the old site, and has easier-to-find links to the most popular products and services, USPS said, adding that the new site makes it easier to find links to online shipping, package pickup and shipping supplies.

The changes are the first in a series of improvements planned for the site, USPS officials said.

Before the redesign, the service's site ranked fourth among all government agencies, according to a recent report from the Brookings Institution. Brookings ranked 61 government sites based on their effectiveness at using interactive features to engage the public and provide services.

The new site has sections for both consumers and businesses. Consumers can calculate prices, find a ZIP code, locate a post office, track and confirm mail delivery, print shipping labels and request free package pickup. The usps.com b

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5. Postal workers union bringing convention to Detroit

By JOHN GALLAGHER • FREE PRESS BUSINESS WRITER • September 16, 2008

The Detroit convention market got some good news today as the American Postal Workers Union agreed to hold its 2010 Biennial National Convention at Cobo Center.

The convention will span five nights in August 2010 and bring 3,300 delegates to town, said Renee Monforton, spokeswoman for the Detroit Metro Convention & Visitors Bureau.

With more than 15,000 hotel room nights to be booked for the convention, the event is expected to pump several million dollars into the local economy.

Contact JOHN GALLAGHER at 313-222-5173 or gallagher@freepress.com.

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6. Sumner residents say 'postal service' is contradiction in terms

06:32 PM PDT on Sunday, September 14, 2008

By ERIC WILKINSON / KING 5 News

SUMNER, Wash. - The mailbox Kelly DePaoli and 27 other neighbors share has been ripped open and all the mail inside stolen. Now she worries constantly.

"Fraud. I've already been watching all my credit. Every day we watch it," she said.

It's the second time in a month that the same homeowners have been hit. Neighbors paid \$550 to put a more secure box up here, but that one lasted barely a week.

"Not again and what do we do now? We can't get anybody to help us," said DePaoli.

Neighbors gathered Sunday to discuss their options. They say they've asked the Postal Service for a stronger mailbox, individual boxes at their homes or even just a more secure location for new boxes to be installed. The neighbors say all the requests have been turned down.

For now, they have to drive into town and wait in line to get their mail - a trip than can often take 30 minutes or more - or get post office boxes, which some carriers like fed ex will not deliver to.

None of it sits well with Ed Massey, who says the postal service needs to live up to its motto.

"You always hear, "rain, sleet or snow we're going to get the mail to you." They must have changed their motto because this is not what we've seen," he said.

KING 5 News tried to contact the Postal Service for a comment, but our calls have not been returned.

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7. Rural post offices look to tie-ups for survival

Shigeaki Ishii and Hiroyuki Kato / Yomiuri Shimbun Staff Writers

With many small post offices being forced to close in rural regions due to lack of business, Japan Post is pinning its hopes on teaming up with other companies to improve access to the postal network.

On Friday, Japan Post Network Co. of the Japan Post group and Lawson Inc., a major convenience store chain, opened a post office in a Lawson outlet in Sakakimachi, Nagano Prefecture, as part of this effort.

As it is likely that calls will mount for a review of postal privatization depending on the result of the next general election, post offices also hope the move toward such partnerships could head off public criticisms about falling levels of service, business analysts said.

Japan Post Network Chairman Shigeo Kawa praised the convenience store post office at its opening Friday.

"By utilizing a network that covers the whole country, we'll be making an active contribution to assisting people's day-to-day lives in local communities," Kawa said in the town's Murakami district.

The district had been without a post office since September 2007, when a small one managed by a local agricultural co-op closed.

The new post office opened as a branch of the Ueda, Nagano Prefecture, office and will become independent by the end of this fiscal year, to be managed by the owner of the convenience store.

Small regional post offices in rural areas, hit by declining populations, have been closing one after another in recent years. As of the end of August, 433 such post offices, or more than 10 percent of the total, had closed.

In addition to a decrease in customers, rural post offices also have been forced to close because managers have been aging, and local governments and agricultural cooperatives that were consigned to manage the post offices have dropped out of the business as they have restructured.

When postal privatization was discussed in the Diet, lawmakers attached a resolution calling for maintenance of the nationwide post office network.

The Japan Post group, therefore, is bound to ensure that services are maintained. It also expects that maintaining a nationwide network will benefit new business in the future.

In August, commissions for those managing small post offices were raised by 40 percent. The Japan Post group also has held explanatory meetings to attract candidates to manage small post offices in rural areas.

Japan Post Network also operates mobile post offices--minibuses staffed by postal workers that travel from one site to another in mountainous areas--and sets up temporary post offices in town halls and municipal government buildings.

The company also is considering setting up small post offices inside unmanned train stations.

The Democratic Party of Japan has been critical of the large number of small post office closures since the privatization.

"It's extremely doubtful the network [of post offices] can be maintained," a DPJ lawmaker in the House of Representatives said.

Together with the People's New Party, the DPJ plans to release early this week a draft manifesto for the next general election in which it will call for the postal privatization policy to be reconsidered.

Zentoku, a national association of post office managers, also is worried about the decline in services in rural areas and plans to beef up its political lobbying activities to demand a review of the postal privatization policy and relevant laws.

The government's Postal Privatization Committee examines the progress of privatization every three years as well as the business conditions surrounding the Japan Post group. The committee is scheduled to draft its first review by March 2009.

If the lower house is dissolved, it appears inevitable that during the subsequent general election campaign calls will intensify for the maintenance nationwide of postal services, including provision of postal savings and postal insurance services.
(Sep. 15, 2008)

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8. Enhancing postal dept's revenue

Responses to Sticklish Issues dated September 8..

India Post needs to leverage on its three main strengths — trust, network and the large pool of human resources.

Networking the 1,50,000 odd post offices will enable revival of the money order business but with a difference — funds can be remitted to the remotest corners of the country instantaneously. India Post can also tie up with banks, whereby their clients, by using Internet banking, can remit money even to centres with no bank branches but having post offices. A win-win for both banks and India Post.

Tie-up with banks having a wide network, such as SBI, to take banking to the rural masses through the business correspondent/business facilitator (BC/BF) model, whereby the villager can operate his bank account through a smart card on a handheld device with the postman.

As email penetration is only going to increase, installing PC kiosks at post offices will enable even the common man who doesn't own a PC, to send e-letters, at a trifling cost of, say, one or two rupees.

The move by the Department of Posts to go in for public-private tie-ups is welcome. With most private couriers making a lot of money, it is the right time for the postal department to enter into tie-ups with the private players.

Palakkadan S. Narayan, e-mail

There are many ways by which the postal department can earn more revenues. These include:

Having a dynamic Web site with up-to-date information on the services being offered;

Turning post offices into vibrant malls selling bouquets, greeting cards, gift cheques, etc;

Web-enabled money order transfers, repayment of small savings deposits, etc.

Converting postmen into postal relationship managers with powers to open small savings account and accept crossed cheques at the door steps of the customer and delivering the certificates the very day or next day.

Cross selling of products — mutual funds, life and non-life insurance, driving licences, ration cards, PAN cards, etc. — for a fee

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