Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) industry standards.

We continue to make use of proven COTS software in delivering resource management systems to the Department and our serviced customers. We have pushed to consolidate these systems to the CGFS platform with the goals of meeting user requirements, sharing a common platform and architecture, reflecting rationalized standard business processes, and ensuring secure and compliant systems. A COTS solution is the platform for our Global Foreign Affairs Compensation Systems (GFACS). By managing the process in this manner, we can deliver products that are compliant, controlled, and secure. OMB continues its initiative to standardize Government-wide business processes to address the Federal Government's long-term need to improve financial management. Also, over the next several years, a number of new Federal accounting and information technology standards, many driven by the Department of the Treasury, will become effective. These include Government-wide projects to standardize business requirements and processes, establish and implement a Government-wide accounting classification, and support the replacement of financial statement and budgetary reporting. The Department's implementation of new standards and Government-wide reporting will strengthen both our financial and information technology management practices.

The Department uses financial management systems that are critical to effective agency-wide financial management, financial reporting, and financial control. These systems are included in various programs. An overview of these programs follows.

FINANCIAL SYSTEMS PROGRAM

The financial systems program includes the Global Financial Management System (GFMS), the Regional Financial Management System (RFMS), the Consolidated Overseas Accountability Support Toolbox (COAST), and the Invoice Processing Platform (IPP).

The Global Financial Management System. GFMS centrally accounts for billions of dollars recorded through over 5 million transactions annually, by more than 1,000 users and over 25 "handshakes" with other internal and external systems. GFMS is critical to the Department's

day-to-day operations. It supports the execution of the Department's mission by effectively accounting for business activities and recording the associated financial information, including obligations and costs, performance, financial assets, and other data. It supports the Department's domestic offices and serves as the agency's repository of corporate data.

During 2017, GFMS was updated to meet the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act) requirements. The DATA Act is considered the first legislative mandate for data transparency. It expands on the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 by creating new reporting requirements that require Federal agencies to disclose direct agency expenditures and link procurement and financial assistance spending to Federal programs.

The Regional Financial Management System. RFMS is the global accounting and payment system that has been implemented for posts around the world. RFMS includes a common accounting system for funds management and transaction processing. One of the largest improvements to our overseas financial management environment was the integration of RFMS and Ariba (the Department's overseas procurement and grants system) for procurement activity. When a requisition is approved in Ariba, a commitment transaction will automatically be recorded in RFMS. When a purchase order is approved in Ariba, an obligation transaction will automatically be recorded in RFMS/M, eliminating duplicate data entry. This integration ensures timely recording of fiscal data and funds availability checks, increases operational efficiency by avoiding costly rework generated by rejected transactions, and improves the accuracy of financial reporting. By the end of 2017 over 200,000 integrated transactions had been processed at 180 posts.

In a joint effort with INL, CGFS coordinated the deployment of bilateral agreement functionality in RFMS to 85 posts during 2017. This functionality provides a linkage between a country bilateral agreement and subsequent specific contracts to carry out the agreement. Changes were made to the RFMS/M and Ariba integration to transmit the Bilateral Agreement number for contracts.