

## **What's New:**

On October 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 2002, the U.S. State Department hosted a Critical Infrastructure Protection bilateral with the Government of Australia. Judith Spencer, Chair of the Federal PKI Steering Committee participated in the bilateral discussions, gave a presentation on the U.S. Federal PKI Implementation and discussed future opportunities for collaboration with the Australian GateKeeper PKI program. On Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>, representatives from the Canadian Government attended along with Australia and the U.S. in a trilateral discussion on computer security standards.

The U.K. Office of the E-Envoy hosted the International Government PKI Forum, October 7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> 2002 in London, U.K. Judith Spencer, Chair of the Federal PKI Steering Committee represented the U.S. Government at the forum, which is designed as a venue for sharing current strategies and goals in PKI and authentication of user identity among the member governments. Among those in attendance were U.S., U.K., Canada, Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden, Norway and Finland. During the two-day exchange, we identified new opportunities for interoperability and natural acceptance of identity credentials. Understanding the work of these other governments and the lessons learned has greatly influenced our own development in the e-Authentication initiative.

In addition, Judith Spencer met with representatives from the European Electronic Signature Standard Initiative (EESSI) to discuss the synergies and disparities between the Federal Bridge Certification Authority (FBCA) Certificate Policy and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI) Qualified Certificate Policy Guidelines. The EESSI agreed to revisit several items in their Guidelines, provide recommendations to their member states and hopefully pursue interoperability with the FBCA. In the process, the U.S. gained a better understanding of the ETSI requirements.

The Federal PKI Policy Authority (FPKIPA) members voted on and approved the following federal agencies: the Department of the Treasury policy mapping at the medium assurance level and at the high assurance level, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Finance Center (NFC) policy mapping at the medium assurance level and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) policy mapping at the medium assurance level as well as cross certifying NASA with the Federal Bridge Certification Authority (FBCA) at the medium assurance level.

The Federal PKI Steering Committee (FPKISC) was honored by the Potomac Forum, Ltd. in cooperation with Federal Computer Week with its Leadership Best Practices Award. The award was for the work the FPKISC has done with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on the FBCA and interoperability with academia. The Chair of the FPKISC is assigned to the Office of Electronic Government and Technology in the Office of Governmentwide Policy.

The FPKISC would like to extend an invitation to any and all vendors of CA products and services to demonstrate interoperability with the FBCA. CA vendors may choose to demonstrate their products ability to interoperate within the Federal Bridge (FB) or simply to demonstrate their products ability to interoperate with the existing FB software. Additional information, including statements of requirements and test plans may be accessed at the FBCA web site (<http://www.cio.gov/fbca>). Feel free to contact the FPKISC web master ([brant.petrick@gsa.gov](mailto:brant.petrick@gsa.gov)).

The FBCA was open and ready for business as of June 7<sup>th</sup> 2001.