

Manatron Working to Become DLGF Compliant

Manatron has been diligently working on the changes to our software required by the new software certification rule outlined in 50 IAC 23. This article is the first of a series of articles to keep you, our valued client, updated on Manatron's progress as we move towards achieving certified status.

The paragraphs below are intended to share with you the information we considered before determining what we feel is the best course of action to achieve certification. In addition, the current status of the project is outlined briefly.

The Decision

Upon review of 50 IAC 23, it was determined that there were three options available to us in terms of achieving product compliance:

1. Build a new product from the ground up
2. Make modifications to the existing products (Proval and MVP)
3. Configure and install Manatron's GRM suite of products

Our final decision also considered other important factors, including the:

1. Ability to keep the cost to our clients as low as possible
2. Ability to certify all clients in a timely manner
3. Ability to provide continuity of service until certification is achieved

All levels of management and staff were involved in the review of the above mentioned options and additional factors. Based on this information, there was a unanimous decision that the best course of action for our clients is to proceed with making modifications to the existing products (Proval and MVP).

The Team

We have assembled a software certification team specifically dedicated to ensuring the certification process is delivered in an effective and timely manner. Manatron is adding additional programming staff to this project and has moved several individuals into full-time positions on this team.

The team is currently writing the specifications for the new certified code.

The Approach

Our approach to software certification will involve a set of incremental software releases for each product over the next 18 months.

Making the software compliant with the rules of 50 IAC 23 over a set of scheduled releases will enable clients to continue to use our software with little or no interruptions during the upcoming property tax cycles.

Next Steps

Over the coming months, Manatron will meet with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to ensure we are meeting or exceeding the certification testing standards. Manatron plans to certify Proval and MVP individually and together as an integrated solution.

In addition to meeting the certification requirements, each product will continue to receive updates and new features based upon our normal release schedules. The feature rich items that are contained in both Proval and MVP will continue to be enhanced.

We are looking forward to working with each of you as we move toward attaining certification. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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Welcome to New Assessors

This past November, 32 of the 92 Indiana counties, elected new Assessors. In addition, there were 44 new township assessors elected to serve. Many of the newly elected Assessors were working in the offices they are now serving as deputies or clerks but many have joined the ranks as rookies. Manatron would like to welcome this new group to office and hope you enjoy the challenge. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to assist. And of course we wish all of the Indiana Assessors a successful term!

Recent Contract Signings

New MVP signings:

Vigo, Rush and LaPorte

Conversions to Manatron CAMA (ProVal):

Fountain, Monroe, Clay and St. Joseph

Manatron Expands Footprint in Indiana \$1 million of new business in Indiana

Recently, Manatron announced over \$1 million of new business in Indiana, one of its core markets.

Manatron recently received a contract from Lake County, Indiana for its iDox product, through its distribution partnership with DoxTek, Inc. a leading provider of enterprisewide electronic document solutions. iDox enables counties to electronically file personal property and sales disclosure forms that are in full compliance with state legislation and seamlessly interface with Manatron's MVP Tax system. Users are able to leverage their investment by exporting data from the iDox system directly into Manatron's tax billing system.

Lake County, the second largest county in Indiana, and home to Gary, Indiana, is Manatron's largest client in the state with more than 250,000 parcels and 200 users of its Property Tax and CAMA software. Lake was the first county in Indiana to purchase and implement Manatron's MVP Tax solution back in 2000 and has been using Manatron's CAMA solution for over 10 years. The iDox solution has now been sold to 41 counties in Indiana.

"It always pleases us to announce additional business with existing customers," said Paul Sylvester, Manatron's Co-Chairman and CEO. "Lake County has been a great client for us and continues to expand its relationship with Manatron. They also recently ordered a new server from us and contracted for services to help image the County's property ownership cards going all the way back to the 1930's and linking these records to our property tax system."

Manatron also announced a new contract with Vigo County, Indiana for its MVP Tax system. Vigo County has over 96,000 Real, Personal, and Mobile Home parcels, is home to Terre Haute and is located about 75 miles west of Indianapolis. Vigo is migrating from an old, internally developed property tax system, and will be the 53rd county in Indiana to implement Manatron's MVP Tax software.

"These contracts highlight both our ability to penetrate deeper into our installed base, as well as the opportunity for us to add new clients in certain markets," said Bill McKinzie, Manatron's President and Chief Operating Officer. "Indiana is one of our largest markets, and we remain active in pursuing additional business there. Strong client relationships, our track record of providing excellent value and functionality, and our correct assessment of future customer needs continue to serve us well. We look forward to working with Vigo County and serving our many clients in this market well into the future."

Manatron Customers Receive DoxTek Awards

During the DoxTek users "thank you" dinner held on January 17, two Manatron customers were presented awards. David Wesolowski, assessor of St Joseph County was awarded the Innovation Award. Steuben County Assessor, Larry May was given the Public Service Award. We congratulate both counties for their dedication and hard work.

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