

# ITS Field Operational Test Summary

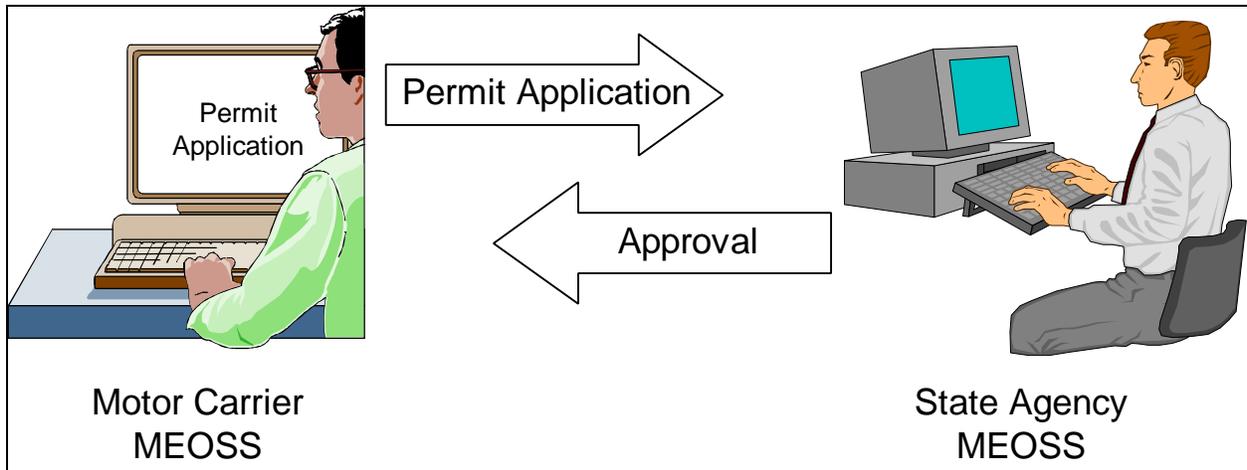
## Midwest Electronic One-Stop Shopping

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### Introduction

The Midwest Electronic One-Stop Shopping (MEOSS) ITS Field Operational Test was conceived to demonstrate the application of technology to enhance the efficiency of the commercial vehicle credentialing and permitting processes. Software designed specifically for the program was intended to help ease administrative burdens placed on motor carriers and state agencies by automating portions of the process and reducing the time required to obtain the desired credential through the use of electronic data interchange (EDI). Representatives from thirteen motor carriers, two commercial leasing companies, and one motor carrier association, and various agencies from the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota, participated in the test.

Data collection occurred from April to October 1997. The Final Report is expected in early 1998.



**Figure 1: System Overview**

### Project Description

The MEOSS test evaluated the potential benefits and costs of “one-stop” electronic handling of motor carrier credentials. Using MEOSS, motor carriers could complete applications for credentials and permits using a PC/Windows based software application, file them with the state electronically via modem. State agencies could then access the application electronically, review the information, and transmit an approval or rejection back to the carrier. MEOSS, thereby, attempted to reduce the credential cycle time by eliminating the need to mail or hand carry applications and credentials. Using the MEOSS system, a motor carrier could:

- Apply for and receive vehicle registration under the International Registration Plan
- Register to pay fuel taxes under the International Fuel Tax Agreement

- Register for Single State Registration credentials and permits
- Apply for and receive Oversize/Overweight permits.

The system had the potential to further decrease the cycle time by providing a validation feature aimed at reducing the likelihood motor carriers would submit an incomplete or incorrect application.

Participating carriers and agencies typically installed the MEOSS system on one or two desktop personal computers. Since the MEOSS software did not incorporate a data import function, users were required to manually enter data. The data entered was stored the system database.

The evaluation of the test is looking at several focus areas, including system productivity impacts, user acceptance, system deployability, institutional issues, system performance and suitability, and system accessibility.

The data collection consisted of a set of surveys (before and after implementation) as well as personal interviews with both carrier and state personnel. In addition, a data collection function was incorporated into the MEOSS software to automatically capture and log transaction data.

### **Test Status**

Carriers and agencies used the system from April to October 1997, when data collection concluded. The evaluators are analyzing the data and preparing the final report. Final results are expected early in 1998.

### **Test Partners**

FHWA

Thirteen motor carriers, two commercial leasing companies, and one motor carrier association

State agencies in: Illinois, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota, Wisconsin

Iowa State University Center for Transportation Research and Education

AAMVAnet, Inc.

RS Information Systems, Inc.

### **References**

AAMVAnet, Inc., Midwest Electronic One-Stop Shopping System, February 27, 1997