



Press Release

Express Mart Accelerates Settlement with NAXML Services from fintech.net

Tampa, Florida – April 19, 2001 – Enhancing its current set of popular financial settlement solutions, fintech.net today announced the immediate availability of its seamless B2B financial settlement solutions utilizing the National Association of Convenience Stores (NACS) NAXML format.

Along with many other popular data formats, fintech.net's scalable XML (eXtensible Markup Language) services and advanced financial settlement network now provides NAXML-based document processing. NAXML is the adopted XML guideline for the convenience store industry allowing back-end systems to easily and efficiently communicate commerce information to and from fintech.net.

"Fintech.net currently utilizes XML technology as the core language for its advanced settlement network. The addition of NAXML to the other formats fintech.net processes not only adds to the flexibility of the fintech.net system, but brings a value-added solution to the industry as well," stated Walter Pickel, chief technology officer for fintech.net. "As the newer data formats like XML become more pervasive and begin to impact electronic data interchange (EDI), some technology analysts predict companies will have to integrate XML into existing EDI systems in order to stay competitive. By employing NAXML, convenience stores now have the opportunity to utilize not only XML but also a well-constructed data format; empowering them to drive front and back-end costs out of the system with fintech.net," he added.

Working in conjunction with NACS and Professional Datasolutions, Inc. (PDI), fintech.net is piloting the NAXML settlement solution for Express Mart Food Stores, Inc. The pilot currently consists of Express Mart transmitting payment remittance data in NAXML to fintech.net directly from their PDI Resource Management Series (PDI/RMS) application. Fintech.net then processes the NAXML data for payment and then converts that data into each of the formats utilized by the Express Mart vendors. The next step will be converting Express Mart's other fintech.net data into the NAXML format for post back into PDI/RMS for a seamless payment/reconciliation solution.

"NACS applauds fintech.net for its continued support and implementation of NAXML. This achievement now provides convenience stores a much-needed process for automating financial settlement," said John Hervey, chief technology officer for NACS. "As original members of the NAXML pilot, both fintech.net and PDI have aggressively implemented and rolled out NAXML solutions. With these partners, NACS looks forward to NAXML continuing to flourish in the convenience store industry."

"This process gives us direct control of the timing of our payments," commented Donna Meriwether, vice president Express Mart Food Stores. Express Mart sees the great benefit the fintech.net/PDI solution offers, even to their small company. "We are anxious for more of our vendors to jump on board the fintech.net program. We look forward to receiving invoice information from our vendors via fintech.net in the NAXML format and importing into our RMS system via DataExchange," added Meriwether.

Express Mart is not alone: the support for NAXML is growing and many convenience stores are betting their systems on the fintech.net/PDI solution. More information about convenience stores using fintech.net technology solutions can be found at <http://www.fintech.net>.

ABOUT FINTECH.NET

Since 1991, fintech.net has been the leading provider of business-to-business electronic funds transfer ("EFT") and financial settlement services that enable retailers and their trading partners to more efficiently manage their purchase and financial settlement information. fintech.net's subscription and transaction-based services allows manufacturers, wholesalers, distributors and retailers to communicate and synchronize electronic financial settlement information in a more cost-efficient manner than have been possible using other electronic and paper-based methods.

ABOUT EXPRESS MART

Express Mart Food Stores, Inc. operates eight convenience stores in the Fort Worth area and has been in business for over 20 years. Rob Austin, President, owns the company. Donna Meriwether has been with Express Mart since 1982, and areas of involvement include accounting and technology.

ABOUT PDI

PDI provides software, hardware, and professional services to more than 340 convenience store chains that operate approximately 23,000 stores. With headquarters in Temple, Texas, PDI has been in business since 1983 and is a wholly owned subsidiary of McLane Company, Inc., the nation's largest grocery and merchandise distributor to convenience stores.

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