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BDS Participates in AgXML to Streamline Exchange of Railroad Tariffs

The Woodlands, Texas - March 1, 2004 – Bourque Data Systems, Inc. (BDS) today announced that it is participating with its client Cargill and AgXML, www.agxml.org, on proceedings to design an XML standard for the exchange of railroad tariffs. AgXML is a committee composed of rail carriers and agricultural shippers with the purpose of developing a file structure to support the exchange freight tariffs in an XML format. These efforts will eventually create an electronic file format for rail tariffs that can be exchanged between rail carriers and shippers, thus drastically reducing manual management of freight rates.

“Our primary interest in participating in the AgXML discussions is to assure that our clients using our RateServer® Freight Contract Management software can import the XML standard file when it becomes available,” said Steve Bourque, president of Bourque Data Systems, Inc. “This will save our clients, such as Cargill, thousands of hours per year in manual entry and maintenance of tariff rates.

“BDS applauds the rail carriers for their efforts in this effort to publish their rates in an electronic XML standard, as this will significantly streamline the process by which freight costs are calculated and paid. This standard they have developed can someday be used for private rail contracts as well.”

About Bourque Data Systems, Inc.

Headquartered in the Houston suburb of The Woodlands, BDS is a software and logistics provider offering comprehensive solutions to shippers' transportation needs since 1989. We serve industrial shippers in the refining, chemical, mineral and agricultural industries. With over 120,000 railcars managed by RAILTRAC®, BDS provides strategic rail fleet management tools for leading industrial shippers. Its offerings are:

Software Systems

Our software is affordable, innovative and continually tailored to meet our customers' transportation needs. Our modules, hosted on redundant data networks, provide integrated functions for loading/shipping, shipment tracking, freight payment, fleet accounting and supply chain management.

EDI and Data Services

Our data services streamline transaction processing and interfaces with our customer's ERP systems. Data sets include CLMs, BOLs, carrier instructions, equipment repair and lease invoices, freight bills, and load tender transactions. Our systems integrate with industry standard systems such as SAP, JDE or other custom in-house order processing and accounting systems.

Logistics Services

Our logistics services offer critical support in the areas of shipment monitoring, fleet management and freight payment. Our experienced staff can provide support for the nitty-gritty shipment execution tasks and carrier coordination while you concentrate on your transportation strategy.

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