IBM and Red Hat to Help Modernize U.S. Department of Education's G5 Grants Management System

Modernized system will support effective and efficient end-to-end grants management

WASHINGTON and ARMONK, N.Y. and RALEIGH, N.C., April 21, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- IBM (NYSE: IBM) and Red Hat, Inc. today announced the companies are part of a five-year collaboration to modernize the U.S. Department of Education's G5 grants management system with open hybrid cloud technologies.

The joint effort, led by Innosoft Corporation and including technology from Red Hat and Amazon Web Services (AWS), with industry expertise from IBM, will replace the current G5 system with an open and flexible cloud-based system in line with the department's mission to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. Using open, hybrid cloud technologies, the department will be able to modernize its operations while reducing complexity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has catalyzed increased grant spending by federal agencies such as the U.S. Department of Education. Its G5 grants management system supports the lifecycle of the department's critical grant-making business process, servicing end-to-end grants management activities and processing payments for Federal Student Aid programs, such as Pell Grants and campus-based aid. The goal of modernizing the G5 system is to allow the department to further refine its grants management process, by helping to improve the experience for department staff, applicants, and grantees and make it easier to communicate and manage grants, monitor performance, and review outcomes.

In addition, the new modularized grant platform aims to:

- Improve effectiveness and efficiency of grant programs and management by streamlining related processes and minimizing disjointed grants systems agency-wide;
- Enable more informed decision-making by offering advanced applications and collaboration tools such as artificial intelligence and machine learning;
- Promote useability by leveraging user-centered design and Agile methodologies;

- Facilitate incorporation of future technology advancements and compliance requirements.

"As we carry out our mission, it's imperative that we have the technology to support the best outcomes for our grant programs," said Drew Sanzenbacher, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Business Operations at U.S. Department of Education. "By working with IBM, Red Hat, AWS, and Innosoft, we'll now have the ability to uncover opportunities for performance improvement and execute best-in-class grant program management."

Working with Innosoft, IBM Consulting will serve as the technology strategist and architect of the project, helping consolidate and migrate data and critical grants management processes from the existing G5 system to AWS. The new system will be built on Red Hat OpenShift, providing the department with a consistent foundation for developing and deploying applications across hybrid cloud environments.

"This work is the latest example of IBM's commitment to building and participating in ecosystems that can help accelerate the federal government's modernization journey," said Susan Wedge, Managing Partner, U.S. Public and Federal Market at IBM Consulting. "The U.S. Department of Education's G5 grants management system modernization journey, and the future finished product, can be the starting point for what comes next – ongoing grants management innovation that can help improve efficiency and effectiveness, drive transparency, and promote accountability."

"Modern, scalable, and open technologies are central to helping organizations streamline operations and reduce complexity," said Clara Conti, Vice President and General Manager, North American Public Sector at Red Hat. "With Red Hat OpenShift as the underlying platform for their modernized grants management system, the U.S. Department of Education will have one unified method for developing and deploying applications across hybrid cloud environments, enabling the department to deliver great digital experiences with flexibility and speed."

"AWS is honored to support the U.S. Department of Education's mission to deliver equal access to education through modernization of their grants management system," said Dave Levy, Vice President, U.S Government, Nonprofit, and Healthcare Businesses at AWS. "This project is further evidence of AWS and IBM's global collaboration to help our customers migrate and modernize, which allows U.S. federal government agencies such as the Department of Education to improve their mission delivery."

"Working alongside collaborators IBM, Red Hat and AWS, Innosoft is thrilled to lead the U.S. Department of Education's effort to modernize its G5 grants management system," said Sushil Mehra, Chief Delivery Officer at Innosoft. "The ability to utilize the benefits of the cloud as part of its grants management process will better support the department in its mission today and into the future."

About IBM
IBM is a leading provider of global hybrid cloud and AI, and consulting expertise. We help clients in more than 175 countries capitalize on insights from their data, streamline business processes, reduce costs and gain the competitive edge in their industries. Nearly 3,800 government and corporate entities in critical infrastructure areas such as financial services, telecommunications and healthcare rely on IBM's hybrid cloud platform and Red Hat OpenShift to affect their digital transformations quickly, efficiently and securely. IBM's breakthrough innovations in AI, quantum computing, industry-specific cloud solutions and consulting deliver open and flexible options to our clients. All of this is backed by IBM's legendary commitment to trust, transparency, responsibility, inclusivity and service. Visit www.ibm.com for more information.

About Red Hat, Inc.

Red Hat is the world's leading provider of enterprise open source software solutions, using a community-powered approach to deliver reliable and high-performing Linux, hybrid cloud, container, and Kubernetes technologies. Red Hat helps customers integrate new and existing IT applications, develop cloud-native applications, standardize on our industry-leading operating system, and automate, secure, and manage complex environments. Award-winning support, training, and consulting services make Red Hat a trusted adviser to the Fortune 500. As a strategic partner to cloud providers, system integrators, application vendors, customers, and open source communities, Red Hat can help organizations prepare for the digital future.

About Innosoft Corporation

A leading provider of IT services to federal, state agencies, and commercial customers, Innosoft is recognized for providing cost-effective, high quality, and innovative solutions. The company has successfully executed large-scale, mission-critical shared-service modernizations using SAFe Agile principles and migrated to cloud environments. Innosoft is a prime contractor modernizing groundbreaking technology programs for federal and state Health and Human Services and is a long-term operations and maintenance contractor for Department of Education (EDCAPS).

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