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Thursday, October 24, 2013

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DWD Enters into Agreement with Burning Glass Technologies, Begins Work on Cutting-Edge Labor Market Information System

MADISON – Department of Workforce Development (DWD) Secretary Reggie Newson today announced that DWD has entered into an agreement with Burning Glass Technologies to develop a state-of-the-art labor market information system (LMIS) to connect job seekers with available job openings.

“Our state’s economic strength will depend greatly on our ability to equip workers with the skills needed to fill positions that employers have available today, and this labor market information system represents an important milestone to achieve this goal, Governor Walker said. “Developing Wisconsin’s workforce is a priority in my Administration, and this cutting-edge and innovative resource will help employers find the skilled workers they need, which will keep our state’s economy moving forward.”

Under terms of the contract signed this week, Burning Glass Technologies will provide DWD with applications to bring new cutting-edge functionality to JobCenterofWisconsin.com, the state’s online employment site. Work will begin this fall with an anticipated launch in late 2014. The labor market system is supported through resources in the Wisconsin Fast Forward legislation that Governor Walker signed earlier this year.

“Thanks to Governor Walker’s vision, Wisconsin employers and job seekers will have access to real-time, accurate labor market data, along with new tools to post openings, submit resumes, and make potential matches that are data driven,” Secretary Newson said. “The comprehensive system we are setting up with Burning Glass will cement DWD’s commitment to help individuals reach true independence, and to help employers build their skilled workforce.”

The new labor data system will unify activities of several in-house DWD programs under the JobCenterofWisconsin.com name through Burning Glass’s state-of-the-art products. Highlights of the new products include:

- **Focus/Career and Lens/Search:** Expands existing job searches to skills matching, recommended training, and information about the current job market in their demand industry or area of expertise. Also has broader resume-building and reading capability than currently offered through JobCenterofWisconsin.com.
- **Focus/Talent:** Will handle activities currently managed through the existing JobNet Business application and expand job posting capability in part through an automated “job writer” system to create more effective job postings. Automatically broadens recruitment searches to skills and credentials.
- **Focus/Explorer, Focus/Report & Focus/Insight:** Will handle and expand upon activities that are currently managed through the existing WORKnet, providing real-time access to comprehensive job data by industry, occupation, education and skills, and help identify labor market supply/demand gaps. Will be able to run sophisticated job data queries and produce reports that describe the activity and characteristics of job seekers, job orders, employers and other groups.
- **Focus/Assist:** Provides additional tools to track employer and job seeker account information.

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In May DWD issued intent to award a contract to Burning Glass Technologies following a competitive bidding process. Since then, DWD assembled components of an agreement and completed the statutorily required procurement review period and signed the agreement with Burning Glass this week.

Burning Glass, based in Boston, has partnered with several states, including Kentucky, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York and Oklahoma.