

**Baldwin Hackett & Meeks, Inc.**

11602 West Center Road • Omaha, NE 68144 • USA
402-333-3300 • www.bhmi.com

BHMI Launches Concourse – Extended Settlement™, Release 3

Release 3 is based on a rules-based architecture that makes it the most flexible, reliable, and cost effective back office solution in the EFT market.

Omaha, NE — July 1, 2009 — Baldwin Hackett & Meeks, Inc. (BHMI), a leading supplier of back office EFT financial software products and services, has announced general availability of Release 3 of [Concourse – Extended Settlement™](#) which ensures the successful settlement, reconciliation, and funds movement of electronic payment transactions. Concourse – Extended Settlement is one of the most significant releases of the [Concourse Financial Software Suite™](#) due to the integration of a powerful rules-based architecture.

With the new rules engine architecture, Concourse – Extended Settlement is the most flexible, reliable, and cost effective solution of its kind. With Concourse, there are no limits to the granularity or frequency of electronic funds movement. For example, the rules-based architecture allows companies to schedule clearing and settlement to occur multiple times a day, week, and month. As a result, a company can configure the system to settle funds daily for transactions and transactional fees, weekly for international fees, and monthly for fee billing items. Concourse also allows companies to easily integrate non-traditional processing into their business model while isolating the impact on core business processing. This is because the business rules can invoke unique processing on a transaction-by-transaction basis. This limitless flexibility ensures that companies can easily manage complex fee billing plans, create unique partnerships with external networks and third party processors, and explore opportunities to process transactions in new market segments.

Another key benefit of the [rules-based architecture](#) is the significant cost savings gained from no longer incurring the time and expense of modifying software to meet changing business requirements.

Concourse includes a browser-based graphical interface that provides an intuitive, step-by-step process for creating or modifying business rules. As a result, companies have the flexibility to react quickly and cost effectively when new EFT processing requirements need to be implemented.

In addition to the rules-based architecture, the Concourse Financial Software Suite is built on a number of core product fundamentals that make Concourse – Extended Settlement the best choice for settlement, reconciliation, and electronic funds movement. Below is a summary of these fundamentals:

- **Leverages A Continuous Processing Model.** Companies no longer have to work around the barriers of a batch-processing environment because Concourse uses a service-oriented, continuous processing model. It accepts continuous transaction feeds from a wide range of EFT authorization and switching applications. This information is processed as it arrives allowing end-of-day processing to be completed throughout the business day, thereby increasing the ability to quickly deliver time-sensitive data, such as ACH files and reports, to clients and partners.
- **Accommodates Large Transaction Volumes.** Concourse is designed to accommodate the performance needs of high volume transaction processing service providers that must fulfill demanding service level agreements. Concourse is based upon a parallel-processing architecture. As a result, no matter how fast a company grows Concourse can handle the load.
- **Provides Secure & Immediate Data Access.** Companies have immediate access to the transaction detail and summaries that are contained in the [Concourse Transaction Repository](#). This data is accessible via a Concourse Settlement Viewer, which uses a [secure browser-based user interface](#). Both the Concourse Transaction Repository and Viewer are compliant with Payment Card Industry

(PCI) regulations. As a result, system users can only access the information and services consistent with their configured roles.

- **Supports All EFT Formats.** Concourse can load transactions from one or more front-end EFT authorization or switching applications even if these systems are from different vendors or have different record formats (e.g., Base24™, CONNEX™, Authentic™, Kabira Payments™, etc.). In addition, Concourse can load reconciliation files provided by networks and third-party processors (e.g., Visa, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, PULSE, STAR, PLUS, etc.).
- **Creates Transaction Lifecycle Linkage.** Since Concourse receives transaction data from multiple external sources, it has the ability to link multiple records together that are related to a single transaction. This feature allows a transaction from an authorization system's log files to be linked with the corresponding network reconciliation file transaction to create a transaction lifecycle. The transaction lifecycle is leveraged by the Concourse system for transaction viewing, reconciliation processing, and for managing all future dispute activities.
- **Performs Near Real-Time Settlement.** Since Concourse continuously processes EFT transactions from multiple sources and concurrently calculates the resulting settlement positions, settlement processing is spread across the day. This not only ensures on-time settlement, it also provides continuous access to financial positions throughout the day.
- **Automates Reconciliation.** Concourse provides reconciliation services that allow discrepancies between related activity details that are received from separate external sources to be detected and reported. The financial impact of the activities is compared to ensure the Concourse system balances with the external system's view of the same transaction. In addition, the external business' settlement date is observed to allow differences in cutover windows to be recognized and factored into the balancing process.

- **Supports Concurrent Settlement Environments.** With Concourse, companies are no longer limited to settling funds in either a hub-spoke or a point-to-point environment. Concourse can accommodate both environments simultaneously.
- **Provides Flexible Funds Movement.** Concourse provides optimum flexibility with regard to funds movement. For example, Concourse offers an unlimited number of settlement accounts per business, allowing for more granular funds movement based on attributes of the transaction, fee, or dispute. Concourse also offers companies the capability to recognize third parties through secondary stage funds movement. Secondary stage funds movement allows funds to be “fanned” beyond the initial settlement entity. This is often used to support the sharing of surcharges, fees, and commissions.
- **Creates External & Internal Distributions.** In addition to providing distribution files to external sources, such as ACH files for the Federal Reserve, Concourse provides the ability to simultaneously account for distribution through internal accounting practices, such as a general ledger accounting system. Since general ledger entries can be created from any attribute of the transaction or fee being processed, Concourse provides increased granularity that is not feasible with manual procedures and spreadsheets.
- **Leverages An Open Architecture.** A key strength of the Concourse is its ability to adapt to the changing technology needs of an organization. It runs on a wide variety of hardware platforms and operating systems, including IBM AIX, HP/UX, Sun Solaris, Microsoft Windows, and Linux. Multiple database options are also available including Oracle, DB2, Sybase, and SQL Server. Browser-based user access to Concourse can be supported by almost any mainline web server product, including JBoss and WebLogic. Concourse’s open architecture design ensures it will continue to meet the needs of a company regardless of change or growth.

The Concourse Financial Software Suite is designed to manage electronic payments and includes a number of modular business services: [Concourse – Extended Settlement™](#), [Concourse – Fees & Commissions™](#), and [Concourse – Disputes™](#). Each Concourse module can be licensed separately or purchased as part of an integrated solution. The modular architecture of Concourse allows companies to add functionality, as it is needed. Furthermore, since all Concourse business services are designed to readily integrate with each other, additional services can be added without changing previously deployed services.

“Since BHMI has made a strategic business decision to focus its Concourse product efforts on back office EFT processing, the company is continually striving to add new features that make the Concourse Financial Software Suite the most flexible and powerful solution in the EFT market,” stated Susie Swenson, Concourse Product Manager. “Release 3 of Concourse – Extended Settlement includes features that clearly set it apart from other products within the electronic payments industry.”

ABOUT BALDWIN HACKETT & MEEKS, INC.

Baldwin Hackett & Meeks, Inc is the creator of the Concourse Financial Software Suite - a powerful PCI-compliant back office software solution specifically designed to manage electronic payments including credit, debit, POS, ATM, mobile, and prepaid. With user-configurable business rules, an online transaction repository, and a continuous processing architecture, Concourse proactively assesses and allocates fees for all business relationships, settles and reconciles all transaction types, and automates the process of identifying and facilitating disputes. Concourse also has a user-friendly, browser-based transaction viewer and extensive reporting capabilities. For more information, please visit

www.concoursefinancialsoftware.com.

CONTACT:

Casey Scheer, BHMI
(402) 333-3300
cscheer@bhmi.com