

The new reporting application, MARS, is scheduled for release in spring 2008. MARS will replace the current reporting tool, Rapid Query Tool (RQT), which was introduced as a pilot in June 2007 to a limited number of studies users. Additional Studies users in the regions, Revisions and Amendments users, and representatives at FEMA Headquarters will be added as MARS users.

MARS is a flexible reporting tool, allowing users the ability to access MIP data and create ad hoc reports on demand. MARS uses the same user interface as RQT, which means current RQT users will already be familiar with navigating through the application.

Features of MARS include:

- New data elements for Studies reports
- Status information for Revisions and Amendments
- Sign on directly from the MIP, not a separate link
- Accesses a separate data warehouse, not the MIP database
- Data refreshed every 24 hours
- Individualized reports can be created by MARS users and emailed at scheduled intervals to non-MARS users (i.e., mapping partners, NFDA, etc.)
- Additional canned reports:
 - Studies – added 5 for a total of 14
 - Amendments – 4
 - Revisions – 5

Once a user is signed onto the MIP, they can access MARS. A separate link, user name and password are not required. The added data elements in MARS allow users to create reports with data previously not available. In addition, interaction and impact to the MIP will be minimized because the data is stored and pulled from a data warehouse, instead of the production environment as is the current process with RQT. This data warehouse is updated every 24 hours so reports will have a one day lag in data.

The goal of this tool is to provide users increased access to data on the MIP and the ability to create reports. Users in the Regions can work directly with their MIP Champion or Black Belt to create individualized reports to be emailed at regular intervals.

In addition, MARS has the capability that allows us to more easily build real time data exchanges with external systems (i.e., systems used by MSC, NFDA, ASFPM, etc.) For additional information on developing these data exchanges, contact Kristen Heavener, FEMA Process Area Lead, at Kristen.Heavener@dhs.gov.

Training will be provided to selected MARS users. Training will focus on basic MARS navigation and tool use, understanding available data elements, and scenarios to create and manipulate reports. Identified participants will be contacted closer to deployment.