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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
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### **New “SPAN” computer system to modernize Saskatchewan’s property assessment**

New provincial funding will allow the Saskatchewan Assessment Management Agency (SAMA) to modernize the computer system used for provincial property assessment.

SAMA will use an allotment of \$990,000 announced in this year’s provincial budget to begin phase one development of the Saskatchewan Property Assessment Network (SPAN), replacing the current system designed in the 1970’s.

“Our old hardware and software simply can’t provide the level of service that property owners, municipalities and the government require of us,” said SAMA Chairman, Bill Reader. “Technologically, we’re 30 years out of date, and now that’s going to change.”

“With the new system we’ll be able to maintain a more accurate, accessible database and have the capability to conduct research and use other valuation methods such as the income approach for commercial property. We’ll be able to provide property assessment information on a more timely basis to government, stakeholders and customers, and have the ability to link externally to Geographic Information Systems and Land Titles data.”

The development work will start this month. SPAN is expected to be fully deployed in early 2004 for use in the next provincial revaluation scheduled for 2005. The work will involve services from software companies Systems Design Inc., Govern Software Inc. and CGI Information Systems and Management Consultants Inc.

SAMA is an independent agency with a legislative mandate to manage the province's property assessment system. SAMA is funded jointly by the provincial government and municipalities.

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