

## Accounts Payable Automation for Global Operations

*Improving procurement processes and supplier relations across the world*



### Case Study

CLIENT Global Sourcing & Logistics Company

INDUSTRY Supply Chain Management for Consumer Goods

INVOICES 1 Million invoices per year

ERP Oracle® JD Edwards

In an increasingly global economy, companies that grow organically or through mergers and acquisitions need to consider how the expanding business will affect their internal processes - the ability to connect various operations and share information seamlessly with the right people. Implementing accounting solutions that are not only capable of supporting multiple languages and currencies, but are also backed by a Professional Services team with expertise in designing flexible processes, can equip a company with capabilities needed to sustain future growth.

### Challenges

As a global provider of supply chain management services for consumer goods, the company requires accounting solutions able to support the international operations. The company's over 250 locations are distributed across more than 40 markets worldwide, with about 22,000 employees worldwide. Such a geographically dispersed operation requires developing streamlined and connected processes to provide the key stakeholders with access to the correct information at the right time. The needs include:

- Processing multi-language and multi-currency invoices for materials, freight, tax and customs charges;
- Flexibility of integrating with multiple ERP systems;
- Multilevel workflow;
- Global user access and 24/7 support.

Over 1 million invoices processed are broken down into trade goods, operating expenses and freight, with approximately 50% of invoices being non-PO based.

### Solution Requirements

The company had previously invested in a basic invoice processing solution, however the solution was only compatible with a single ERP system, and unable to integrate with any other systems. As the company grew, its dispersed operations used multiple ERP systems for various divisions and geographic locations. The company needed a comprehensive AP solution that could be integrated with a number of the existing ERPs as well as any future ERP system. To bring value to the company's investment, such a solution would need to provide:

- Integration with multiple systems;
- Flexibility in process workflow required with the various types of business;
- Analytics and a searchable repository of documents.

*"We need the ability to access the AP process worldwide - we have multiple locations in the world, and need to be able to integrate with all locations."*

## Solution

Typically Accounts Payable department is actively involved in selecting a solution, but for this global implementation situation, the primary role was played by the CTO and the technology team. This team was highly involved in ensuring successful integration, especially in data and document management, to achieve seamless information flow to users in the various regions. The key reasons for selecting Canon as the solution provider included:

- The performance of Canon's optical character recognition (OCR) engine;
- Flexibility of extracting data from PDF or from scanned copy. The license that was purchased from Canon allows for extraction of data from all documents;
- Dedication and skills of the Canon team in designing and delivering a solution to fit the client's initial project requirements, while providing room for growth to additional business units and processes.

*"We have many different business models, and we are not using a single ERP. The flexibility of integrating with different ERPs was key, and ability to align with our central repository."*

## Benefits of the Solution

Features	Benefits
✓ Intelligent document capture with optical character recognition (OCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Ability to capture line items</li><li>- Multiple languages and currencies</li></ul>	✓ Efficient, fast, and accurate invoice processing, regardless of the invoice language or currency
✓ Auto-classify and validate content	✓ Improved compliance of the invoice process
✓ Document archiving and retrieval	✓ Real-time access to the needed documents across departments
✓ Dashboard for real-time visibility	✓ Business analytics and transparency of projects, approvals, budget, vendors...
✓ Approvals from anywhere, on any device	✓ Fast approvals, on-time invoice payments, ability to utilize early-payment discounts
✓ Customizable business process, support for multiple systems.	✓ Flexibility to adapt the AP process to the changing business needs

## Looking Forward

Canon's integrated, scalable Accounts Payable Automation Solution is being rolled out in multiple locations of the company's main operation centers. Canon's solution is helping the organization digitize its documents to reduce cost and improve connectivity to enable long-term efficiencies.



Validated Integration

JD Edwards  
EnterpriseOne

**For more information, please go to [www.ciis.canon.com](http://www.ciis.canon.com).**

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