

ESKER PUBLISHES ITS ACCOUNTS PAYABLE BUYER'S GUIDE

Derby, UK – 28 March, 2012. Automating the accounts payable process is a complex area, with a huge number of providers in the market offering a variety of solutions and services. With this in mind, document process automation specialists Esker have published a comprehensive A/P Buyers Guide to provide help and support to any public or private sector organisation looking to automate its accounts payable process.

This definitive guide provides details about the key topics and issues that finance departments should be discussing with their A/P solution provider in order to be able to select the most appropriate A/P solution to meet both their business and process needs.

The guide will be a valuable resource for those organisations looking to automate their A/P process, but unsure which solution provider has the most comprehensive and efficient solution to meet their needs. It will make interesting reading for those organisations which understand the purpose and principles of vendor invoice automation but would benefit from guidance on the various features and associated benefits. As well as including instructive guidelines, Esker offers detailed explanations about its various solutions, its value propositions and the business benefits that companies can derive from these solutions.

The guide covers the 15 key points that will need to be addressed by anyone considering automating their A/P process and aims to guide them through their decision-making process. They include :

- 1. No capital expenditure for an AP automation solution**
- 2. Efficient touchless processing from A to Z**
- 3. Workflow outside of ERP**
- 4. Accurate and intelligent data capture**
- 5. Improved and efficient vendor communications**
- 6. Global presence**
- 7. Business continuity**
- 8. Best-of-suite approach**
- 9. Expert SAP® certified integration**
- 10. SAS 70 certification**
- 11. Safe Harbor Privacy Policy**
- 12. Comprehensive solution spanning multiple business processes in the cash conversion cycle**
- 13. Electronic archiving**
- 14. Expert consultancy and project methodology**
- 15. SaaS vs. BPO**

Commenting on the publication of the A/P Buyers Guide, Alistair Nicholas, sales manager at Esker Northern Europe said:

“Now more than ever, businesses are exploring new process efficiencies to drive cost reduction and improve their bottom line. So, if your finance department has ever found it difficult to answer vendor questions about invoice status,

has paid the same invoice twice, or has struggled to gather audit information, make an inaccurate cash forecast or missed out on fast-payment discounts, you will already know the value of A/P automation.

“A/P automation is about eliminating tedious and error-prone manual data entry activities, freeing-up staff from low value tasks and decreasing the costs of bill paying.

“Businesses with paper-based A/P processes are limited in their ability not only to minimise per-invoice costs, but also to improve productivity, prevent duplicate invoices and take advantage of early-payment discounts.

“Financial planning, vendor relationships, employee productivity, inter-enterprise communication and even regulatory compliance efforts may suffer from lack of automation in AP. Manual processes are not only expensive and inefficient; they increase the chance of errors and expose organisations to many risks.

“Businesses that implement A/P automation report that, while transactional savings alone can pay for the investment, strategic benefits also include better integration to financial systems, improved process cycle times, stronger financial controls, better compliance mechanisms, strengthened supplier relations and improved cash flow visibility.

“According to The Hackett Group, increasing the volume of AP automated invoice line items from 2 – 80% can increase on-time payments by 7%, reduce process cost per invoice by 59% and increase early payment discounts by a factor of more than three.

“Beyond significant cost savings, organisations using an automated AP solution can realise efficiencies throughout the process from data entry to archiving. Studies on AP estimate that by automating the process, companies can reduce invoice processing costs and cycle times by up to 50%,” added Alistair.

About Esker

Esker is a recognised leader in helping organisations eliminate manual processes, gain process visibility and control, and reduce the use of paper by automating the flow of documents into, within and out of the organisation. With patented document delivery automation software and hosted document delivery services, Esker offers a total solution to automate every phase and every type of business information exchange. Customers achieve significant and immediate operational efficiencies, cost savings and measurable ROI in as little as three to six months.

Founded in 1985, Esker operates globally with more than 80,000 customers and millions of licensed users worldwide. Esker has global headquarters in Lyon, France and U.S. headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin.

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