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The business makes polyurethane resin systems and construction chemicals for a wide range of industries.

Industry

Manufacturing

Number of invoices per month

Around 60

Goals / Objectives

To streamline Accounts Payable and free up staff to complete other tasks

Results with APtimize

Spectrum Chemicals now processes invoices far more quickly, from data capture through to approval, payment and integration with Sage.

“Now that we’re using APtimize, all the information is captured and automated, cutting out all the manual work. It really frees up my time on our busiest days.”

“The data capture amazes me. There’s very little human input, so there’s less chance of errors or typos. It’s very clever technology.”

Sarah Campbell

Office Manager, Spectrum Chemicals



Spectrum Chemicals streamlines Accounts Payable processes with APtimise

Spectrum Chemicals is a small manufacturing and construction business in Northamptonshire, employing nine people. Formed in the early 1980s, Spectrum Chemicals manufactures polyurethane resin systems and construction chemicals for supply to a wide range of industries.

As a small business, productivity and efficiency are key concerns for the Spectrum Chemicals team. The Accounts Payable process was identified as a potential area for improvement due to its repetitive nature.

“Seeking out new technology to save time and streamline our processes was a logical step for the business,” says Sarah Campbell, Office Manager at Spectrum Chemicals. “During peak times, we need to process around 60 invoices per month. Entering all the invoice details manually and keeping track of Accounts Payable was a significant drain on my time. As part of the process, I would need to send a wad of paperwork to the director for sign-off, so it was time-consuming for him as well.”

Spectrum Chemicals turned to APtimise.

Saving time with APtimise

Using APtimise enabled the company to save time by eliminating the manual work that comes with Accounts Payable, as it works in tandem with the company’s existing accounting software, Sage.

“Prior to using APtimise, our accounts payable process was time-consuming and disruptive,” Sarah explains. “Every Friday, I had to trawl through the bank statements, go through all the suppliers on Sage and allocate payments to them, so I could process payments the following Monday. Now that we’re using APtimise, all the information is captured and automated, cutting out the manual work. It really frees up my time on our busiest days.”

Reducing human error

Processing invoices manually can leave businesses open to human error. If a supplier were to accidentally send duplicate invoices, for example, it may cause problems if using basic manual entry methods.

The APtimise system reduces the chance of human error, because the whole system is automated. Information from incoming emailed invoices and scanned hardcopy invoices is captured and all the data is filled in automatically. If there are issues with duplicates APtimise will flag them up.

“The data capture amazes me,” says Sarah. “There’s very little human input, so there’s less chance of errors or typos. It’s very clever technology.”

Boosting productivity and efficiency

Freed from the endless cycle of manual processing, the team can now spend more time and energy on key business objectives. “The APtimise system gives me more time to manage staff, do environmental work, HR, health and safety, and other Office Manager tasks,” says Sarah “APtimise makes it easy for me to send a list of invoices to the director. I don’t have to physically print hardcopies for him to sign and pass back to me – he can check them on-screen. It’s modernised how we work.”

Authorise payments from any location

Instead of having a pile of paperwork to go through at his desk, Ian Mackridge, Director at Spectrum Chemicals, can log on to the web-based APtimise platform from any location. “Sarah can send me invoices daily and I can check and authorise payments wherever I am, which is much more convenient,” says Ian.

Visibility over Accounts Payable

Prior to using APtimise, the Spectrum Chemicals team could not get a quick, detailed overview of their business accounts. Now they are using the platform it’s easy to view all their account details on just one screen.

“I can find all the information I need by going into APtimise,” says Sarah. “We can get a complete picture of all our payment actions. There’s clear visibility line-by-line, so we can see all the details we need.”

Payment, auditing and Sage integration

Spectrum Chemicals uses Sage and has found the integration seamless. “Initially, I wasn’t sure how much information would be readable on Sage. I’m used to inputting the invoice number and PO details manually,” says Sarah. “However, APtimise links everything automatically. It’s working very well with our day-to-day business.”

See what APtimise could do for you.

Book a 20 minute online demo now at www.APtimise.com