

Project Snapshot

Aspect Medical Systems Delivers Purchasing Management and Workflow via a Web Browser to Everyone in Company Utilizing ISS Group's iPurchase™ Solution

Challenge

Aspect Medical Systems Inc. (Aspect Medical), a leader in brain monitoring and development of proprietary technologies, needed a web-based Purchase Management and Workflow requisition system that all users in the corporation could use from anywhere a web browser could be used, any time of the day. They needed a standardized and enforced approval process, with full tracking of budgets for projects and cost centers.

Aspect Medical's accounting Month-End close process was slow and cumbersome, with very poor tracking of their purchase commitments. Because the process was manual, many users bypassed corporate approval processes to "expedite" their purchasing needs.

Users would also be in the dark as to the requisition status, and tracking was almost impossible for the finance department. The paper forms would frequently get lost or sidetracked, and receiving was often bypassed for UPS and other front-office deliveries.

"This information was scattered amongst many back office databases including Outlook, Excel, and our ERP system." according to George Papamitrou, Project Manager for Aspect Medical Systems.

"We now have visibility to the complete purchasing functionality both from a Web browser and in the existing ERP system. And since the process can be fully used with a Web browser from anywhere, even when people are on vacation or out sick, we can easily substitute someone without skipping a beat."

George Papamitrou
Project Manager
Aspect Medical Systems

Solution

Aspect Medical determined that the new Purchasing Management and Workflow solution needed to provide a web-based system, allowing full visibility to requisitions throughout the process, with easy approvals via email and web links to the web system. Employees needed to be able to receive purchases at the desktop, but keep full receiving functionality and tracking in their ERP system, MFG/PRO® (QAD®'s Enterprise Applications®) along with

full integration to MFG/PRO. Full traceability was needed to be maintained across the entire process. Each user requires access to reports showing open and closed POs and requisitions. Full data security would ensure that users only see those records and fields that they should see, based on their User ID and role in the system.

After a thorough review of existing Purchasing Management and Workflow solutions from other suppliers, Aspect Medical selected ISS Group as their vendor of choice. A key differentiator in ISS Group that was critical for Aspect Medical was the ability to provide an off-the-shelf total integration to their MFG/PRO system with ISS Group's iPurchase offering.

“When ISS Group demonstrated they could easily connect their iPurchase with our ERP system, this minimized a significant risk we associated with implementing any third-party solution. The idea that ISS Group could install their solution in a short time-frame was very impressive,” according to Papamitrou. ***“Cost and Time-to-Implement were critical to the success of the project. ISS Group convinced us that iPurchase was the way to go.”***

Benefits

Centralized Data Available to Everyone – ISS Group performed the implementation on time and within budget. Now buyers can focus on important purchasing issues instead of non value-added time. There is now improved visibility of the entire process for requisitioners, purchasing, and Finance. Most of the sales, service, and even operations personnel at Aspect Medical are using ISS Group's Solutions. Now Aspect Medical is able to track the complete history of the requisition process, and have full use of the functionality in their MFG/PRO system.

Tight Integration to MFG/PRO – ***“We now have visibility to the complete purchasing functionality both from a web browser and in the existing ERP system. And since the process can be fully used with a web browser from anywhere, even when people are on vacation or out sick we can easily substitute someone without skipping a beat,”*** says Papamitrou.

The Bottom Line – By implementing iPurchase, Aspect Medical now has control of the entire process for hundreds of employees in real-time. ***“Purchase Order web-based integration with QAD's MFG/PRO enabled us to improve on many major areas:”***

- Financial Quarterly Management Reporting
- Departmental Budget Forecasting
- Departmental and Cost-Center Tracking
- Full Document Management for Attachment of Specs, Pictures, Spreadsheets and Commentary
- Better Control of MRO Spend with Suppliers

“This helped save time by reducing employees calling into our purchasing department looking to track open requisitions, orders and shipments,” said George Papamitrou.

Situated Nicely for the Future Plans – Having completed the first two phases of the their Purchasing Management and Workflow project and receiving the expected benefits derived when first started, Aspect Medical is moving on another phase including:

- Add visibility to suppliers to arrival of POs through iPortal™
- Add visibility to requisitioners of product shipments with ASNs from suppliers
- Add ability to use the same system for both capitol projects and raw materials processing where approvals are required Aspect Medical will be extending the ISS Group iPortal Solution to offer additional functionality in the near future

