

Transform™ AP for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne™ Takes the Pain Out of the Invoice Approval Process for Stillwater Mining Company

Under the big sky and below the earth's surface in Montana lies the J-M Reef. This geological formation is the only known significant primary source of platinum group metals inside the United States. Mineral exploration in the Stillwater Complex dates from at least the late nineteenth century, with early mining activities — primarily for chromium — beginning in the 1920s. With a corporate office in Columbus and mine sites near Nye and Big Timber, as well as a smelter and base metal refinery in Columbus, operations in this historic company spread across south central Montana. The history and culture of the mining industry is one of folks who work hard and keep their head down. When change comes around, it better come for good reason.



STILLWATER
MINING COMPANY

Time for a Change

When the time came to add efficiencies in the accounts payable process, skepticism from those involved in the approval process ran high. But it took an average 18 days to turn around an invoice at Stillwater. With 250 paper invoices coming in every day (about 60,000 a year), costs were too high.

The arduous approval routing process required that a paper invoice be pushed, for example, from Corporate to mine, smelter or refinery to be coded and signed by site accountants, then routed to approvers in different areas of the mine, smelter or refinery before it was routed back to the corporate office where a check was finally processed. The long approval process was eating up AP staff time, limiting the ability of the AP team to capture early payments and even, with some high dollar amount invoices requiring added approvals, to make the payment by the due date.

Before the approval process ever started, AP staffers were besieged. They were using two systems to enter invoice data — one for JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and one to scan in the invoice for archiving. With an AP Supervisor and two staffers logging overtime every week, it was time to make a change in the process.

Stillwater's AP and IS managers came together to choose a solution to automate their process. For both, the most important factor when choosing an invoice automation solution was its integration to JD Edwards, along with ease of use. After attending a JD Edwards conference to assess the solutions and compare demos, the Stillwater team determined that Transform AP from Bottomline was the best solution.

Objectives

- Automate a cumbersome approval routing matrix
- Reduce the costs incurred and time lost during the invoice approval process
- Eliminate the need for dual data entry by AP staffers

Solution

- Implemented Transform AP, Bottomline's invoice processing solution for JD Edwards
- Conducted training sessions to ensure a smooth transition for the almost 100 Stillwater end users
- No more dual data entry: Scanned invoices are now routed electronically for validation, approval and entry

Platinum-level Results with Transform AP

From start to finish, the invoice approval process has improved dramatically at Stillwater Mining Company. According to AP Supervisor Ruth Michel, the company CFO and VP and General Manager of the East Boulder Mine are "very pleased" with improvements resulting from the implementation of Transform AP.

A Streamlined Process

With Transform AP, Stillwater has no need to sort invoices by non-PO, 2- and 3-way matches. Double-duty on data entry is a thing of the past for the AP staff. Invoices are automatically entered into JD Edwards after scanning. With automatic routing, approval turnaround time has dropped from an average of 18 days to sometimes just a few hours. Coders and site accountants at different locations are now using Transform AP over the Web to approve invoices without the need for paper to travel from site to site.

Increased Discounts

Stillwater Mining Company has already increased early payment discounts by six percent.

“We’ve taken more discounts in the first two months this year than we took in the whole first quarter of the year prior to adoption of Transform AP,” said Ruth Michel, Stillwater’s AP supervisor.”

Productive Employees

AP employees have gone from working overtime to having free time, requesting more work from the company’s Corporate Controller. They are now pleased to take on tasks that fully utilize their accounting education.

End users of Transform AP’s Web-based approval overcame their resistance to change, commenting “it’s easy.” They were accustomed to JD Edwards and worried that they would be re-learning the process. But soon they learned Transform AP integrates so closely with JD Edwards, the screens look exactly the same. They also appreciated the lack of paper and ease of automation — they no longer have to chase down approvals and shuttle paper invoices back and forth over miles of Montana road.

Excellent Customer Support

Without any need for customization, the Bottomline support team was able to configure Transform AP so that Stillwater could experience all of its benefits.

“When we came across something that Stillwater does differently, Bottomline found a way for us to make it work and even made modifications to enhance the product,” said Anne Grant, who managed the implementation on the IS side.”

About Transform AP for EnterpriseOne

Transform AP is a software application that captures incoming supplier invoices, links these to EnterpriseOne for purchase order matching and/or exception processing, and enables online review and approval of the invoices for payment. Transform AP has been uniquely designed for use both with and within JD Edwards, providing seamless integration and visibility for everyday accounts payable users, while providing the same view of relevant invoice data to non-finance approvers within the organization via a convenient Web interface.

This processing flexibility supports a company’s existing infrastructure investment and helps to maintain a lower cost of ownership by eliminating the need to purchase incremental ERP licenses for each approver. Organizations can also realize improved invoice visibility and accelerated processing cycles, as well as greater enforcement of financial and legal compliance regulations with a fully auditable record of each invoice and payment transaction, both inside and outside JD Edwards.

About Bottomline

Bottomline Technologies (NASDAQ: EPAY) provides collaborative payment, invoice and document automation solutions to corporations, financial institutions and banks around the world. The company’s solutions are used to streamline, automate and manage processes involving payments, invoicing, global cash management, supply chain finance and transactional documents. Organizations trust these solutions to meet their needs for cost reduction, competitive differentiation and optimization of working capital. Headquartered in the United States, Bottomline also maintains offices in Europe and Asia-Pacific. For more information, visit www.bottomline.com.



Corporate Headquarters
325 Corporate Drive
Portsmouth, NH 03801 USA
tel 1.800.472.1321, +1.603.436.0700
fax +1.603.436.0300
email info@bottomline.com

Europe, Middle East, Africa
115 Chatham Street
Reading, Berkshire RG17JX UK
tel +44.118.925.8250
fax +44.118.956.9990
email info@bottomline.co.uk

Asia-Pacific
12-14 Cato Street, Suite 214
Hawthorn East, VIC, 3123 Australia
tel +61.3.9824.6888
fax +61.3.9824.6866
email ap_info@bottomline.com.au