

Finlandia Cheese, Inc.

Producer/Importer of America's Favorite Swiss Cheese Uses Sage ERP Document Management

Integrated to Sage ERP X3 to Boost Employee Productivity and Eliminate Processing Costs Across

Multiple Organizational Departments



BUSINESS:
Finlandia
Cheese, Inc.

SOFTWARE:
Sage ERP X3

PARTNER:
Innovative IT
Consulting, LLC

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*Mike Restivo
CFO,
Finlandia*

Background

Founded in 1905, Valio Ltd. (Finlandia's corporate parent name) is the largest food company in Finland and one of the most dominant forces in the global dairy industry. A pioneer of functional food technology, including the development of probiotics, the company's technological innovations continue to revolutionize the dairy industry.

Valio's commitment to the highest farming ethics and production of the purest and most wholesome, flavorful products has won Finlandia the loyalty of consumers worldwide.

Challenge

The costs associated with managing and storing paper were mounting for Finlandia, which had recently installed a new Sage ERP X3 system and was looking for a more streamlined document management system. The firm was retaining eight years' worth of documents for tax purposes and shelling out monthly fees for three different offsite rental storage facilities.

"We were at the point where we needed to rethink our paper strategy," says Mike Restivo, Finlandia's CFO and COO, "and come up with a more cost-effective way to store our documents."

Finlandia's various departments also needed better and faster access to those paper files – not all of which were categorized or organized properly. Locating a two-year-old customer invoice, for example, required a trip to the storage facility and an extensive search through boxed-up files. "Half the time we couldn't find the files because they were misplaced," says Monique Chiarito, Finlandia's Controller, "or sitting on someone's desk."

Solution

By working closely with their Sage Partner, Innovative IT Consulting, LLC, of Dix Hills, NY, Finlandia sought out a document management solution that could not only solve its paper woes, but would also integrate seamlessly with its new Sage ERP X3 software. As a knowledgeable Sage ERP Document Management partner, Innovative IT Consulting introduced the document management solution, performed demonstrations of the integration, and walked Finlandia through the fine points of the system.

"As consultants to many small to mid-size companies we see a trend within those organizations towards implementing ERP supplemental technologies, such as document management," says John Pellegrino, Principal of Innovative IT Consulting. "Altec's Sage ERP Document Management is well suited for these companies as it is easy to get started, yet robust so as to keep expanding its use."



Initially rolled out in Finlandia's accounting department, Sage ERP Document Management is used to scan and index AP invoices when they arrive in the accounting department. The invoices are then automatically routed to the appropriate personnel for approval and matched up with the X3 purchase orders. Permanent documents and agreements from prior years have also been scanned and indexed by the system, "which makes the data available to certain users at the touch of a button," says Chiarito.

Using Sage ERP Document Management's retro index feature, Finlandia can retrieve invoices based on payment amounts rather than invoiced amounts. "Our system is set up to update the index – and record the check or wire transfer number, date paid, and amount – when a payment is made," says Restivo. "This gives us a lot of search flexibility and easy retrievability."

Finlandia's inventory, procurement, and sales departments also use Sage ERP Document Management. Purchase orders, pick tickets, sales documents, license bills and inventory documents are all scanned and indexed for easy retrieval, approval and other actions. "Most of our products are imported and there are always extra documents that go along with that process," says Restivo. "We use the Sage ERP Document Management platform across multiple departments to manage those tasks for us."

Benefits

Improved workflow, the elimination of rental storage costs, and the fact that all of its important documents are in one digital databank, are just a few of the benefits that Finlandia has reaped from its document management implementation. "Walking from desk to desk looking for documents – some of which just wound up lost and untraceable – can eat up a lot of time," says Restivo. "Thanks to Sage ERP Document Management we've all been freed up to focus on more important tasks."

Finlandia has also been able to implement an AP approval process that was previously unfeasible. "In the past the bills went right to AP for payment," says Chiarito. "Now the documents come in and are scanned and sent out for approval. That's been a great side benefit that we didn't even factor in at the outset."

Two years into a three-year technology payback cycle, Finlandia has already been able to significantly cut its outside storage and shredding costs. It has also taken back precious hours that were spent copying, finding, clipping, and filing – none of which are necessary with the Sage ERP Document Management platform.

"All we have to do now is index and scan, both of which take significantly less time than our prior processes," says Restivo, whose team is now looking to implement Sage ERP Document Management for AR. "That's the path we're going to start down this year."