



Acuity – Accounting and Document Management Solutions

COMPANY: Spar (UK) Limited

LOCATION: Harrow, London

SECTOR: Food Retailing, Financial Head Office

Acuity provides its Customers with development and integration solutions, by matching 'Best of Breed' products from established major players such as Sage and Microsoft with our established skills of understanding their requirements and issues. We achieve this by delivering a Bespoke solution against pre-agreed specifications utilising a variety of Programming Languages such as Microsoft's .NET family or Sage's 4GL languages. This gives our Customers control of their internal systems, as opposed to working around 'Off the Shelf' products and can, as in the case below, allow Customers to avoid the enormous cost of high level ERP systems with a cost effective solution combining 'Best of Breed' and our own internal skill sets to redirect saved investment for other areas of their Business.

THE BRIEF:

To provide an on-going complete, outsourced IT Development service for their Back End Accounting systems. To integrate with the internal Front Office Systems and permit external Suppliers to interact with Spar's central systems via technologies such as EDI. To provide a Bespoke Fixed Assets System to cover Spar's Accounting Policies. To provide a Document Management system and processes to give seamless interaction with the Purchase Ledger and authorization process's of Spar with easy retrieval of these Documents on screen. To develop a system to handle the complex recharging of all costs to the 6 Wholesalers that own Spar and the redistribution of these costs for Promotional Schemes. To provide a 'Landed Cost' wholesaling system for their Wines and Spirits Business operating out of a third party Warehouse in Liverpool.

THE SOLUTION:

Acuity has, over a number of years, provided the above mention systems in a Sage Line 100 Accounting environment utilising various Development Solutions. Spar have continued to Develop their system due to the ever changing Trading environment of Food Retailing and it's various Promotion Schemes with Suppliers of Food Products. The Document Management requirement was delivered using Invu's S250 system and MS .NET developments for the seamless integration with Sage Backend Accounting software

THE OUTCOME:

Spar has without doubt saved tens of thousands of pounds by avoiding the implementation of expensive ERP software to replace their original AS400 UNIX environment. Acuity have now become Spar's first port of call for internal IT systems for the Accounting and Trading Divisions for any new IT Software systems required, as we can specify and deploy solutions at a very rapid pace due to our understanding of their Business and IT issues.

“The Solutions Acuity have provided for Spar, have not only impressed us but also saved the Business many thousands of pounds by way of a more cost effective solution than the alternatives considered at the time but also the ability to almost double our transaction count whilst maintaining the same head count as five years ago.”

Richard Hill (Financial Director, Spar (UK) Ltd