

Aberdeen Group Report Finds AP and AR Automation Supports Effective Operational Cash Management

Automating Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable processing helps companies achieve Best-in-Class performance, according to new research co-sponsored by Esker

Australia, Sydney – December 15, 2010 – Esker, the leader in document process automation solutions, has co-sponsored a new Aberdeen Group research report, *Operational Cash Management : Streamlining Processes to Unlock Liquidity*, by Cindy Jutras and William Jan, published November 30, 2010. Top findings demonstrate that companies achieve a high level of success in managing operational cash by implementing a strategic combination of process reengineering and software automation.

Intended to provide guidance on effective operational cash management, the report focuses on streamlining processes to identify areas of cost savings. The report discusses capabilities and enabling technologies with respect to how they are being leveraged by top-performing companies in support of best practices and current initiatives.

Criteria used by Aberdeen to distinguish Best-in-Class companies include :

- Days Sales Outstanding
- Accuracy in cash flow forecast
- Cash conversion cycle and discounts lost

Survey results in the report show common characteristics of Best-in-Class companies, with top performers being more likely to streamline and automate operational cash practices ; regularly monitor forecast accuracy and automate the reporting of cash held and forecasted. The report also recommends specific actions required to achieve Best-in-Class performance, including automation of Accounts Payable and Accounts Receivable processes.

“Although we see early signs of recovery, a survey of over 100 financial professionals finds that 84 percent of respondents have increased focus on cash management over the past year (2009),” said Cindy Jutras, Vice President and Research Fellow and Group Director at Aberdeen Group.

“Best-in-Class companies are nearly 36 percent more likely than their competitors to have a clear assessment of liquidity,” added William Jan, Senior Research Analyst at Aberdeen Group. “By combining good access to cash data with cash flow information across all departments in an organization, top-performing companies are able to effectively gauge the success of their cash management initiatives. In light of the slow market recovery, cash management remains a top priority among executives. Best-in-class organisations are leading their cash initiatives by focusing their resources on demand planning to maximize working capital. ”

“As cash is the lifeblood of businesses more than ever in times of economic turmoil, Esker is particularly happy to note that Aberdeen considers automation of business processes like AP and AR essential to achieve Best-in-Class status in cash management,” said Jean-Michel Bérard, CEO of Esker. “This new report reaffirms what we see in working with companies to automate processing of customer and supplier invoices – that end-to-end automation delivers real advantages over manual processes, including full visibility with a complete audit trail and real-time operational cost reductions, avoiding human errors and strengthening relationships with customers and suppliers, companies using Esker solutions get results that directly reflect Aberdeen’s Best-in-Class performance criteria in terms of lower DSO, fewer late payments, additional cash and more discounts. ”

About Esker

Esker is a recognised leader in helping organisations eliminate manual processes, gain process visibility and control, and reduce the use of paper by automating the flow of documents into, within and out of the organisation. With patented document delivery automation software and hosted document delivery services, Esker offers a total solution to automate every phase and every type of business information exchange. Customers achieve significant and immediate operational efficiencies, cost savings and measurable ROI in as little as three to six months. Founded in 1985, Esker operates globally with more than 80,000 customers and millions of licensed users worldwide. Esker has global headquarters in Lyon, France, U.S. headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin and ANZ headquarters in Sydney since 1997. For more information, visit www.esker.com.au.

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