



Committed to Our Customers

Ultimus Case Study

- **Increased** ease of use helps ensure compliance with regulatory requirements such as Sarbanes-Oxley
- **Dynamic** forms with data validation ensure completeness and quality of data
- **Process** structure ensures consistency in Accounts Payable
- **Web-based** forms improves communication with employees and helps answer payment questions quickly

SemCAMS



Process Description & Background/Need

Oil and gas companies are competing in the race to produce more output, reaping the benefits of sky high prices. A barrel of oil that cost a mere \$10 back in the 1990s is now \$70. Crude oil and natural gas can be found in many regions across Canada. Canada is now one of the world's largest producers and exporters of energy. Since 1980, Canada's total energy production has increased by 81 percent, while its total energy consumption has increased only by 40 percent.

The majority of Canadian oil and gas production occurs in Alberta, accounting for 80 percent of total Canadian production. SemCAMS is helping to contribute to the nation's energy increase as the largest licensed sour gas processor in Alberta, Canada. Formed in 2000, SemCAMS was created to align and optimize the operation and business development activities relating to gathering and processing assets located in the west-central area of Alberta. Its assets include four gas processing plants and more than 600 miles of natural gas gathering pipeline.

SemCAMS was seeking to streamline its accounts payable system to ensure prompt invoice payment. In addition, SemCAMS sought means to simplify its payment procedures and management. Previously, some invoices were received manually and others were submitted through an electronic system. The sheer volume of invoices, however, necessitated a more automated system.

Points of Pain Addressed

The company hired Concerta Consulting Incorporated of Vancouver, British Columbia to find the appropriate solution. This business and systems consulting firm has developed numerous process templates for accounting processes on behalf of oil and gas industry clients. Concerta advised SemCAMS to replace the outmoded A/P system with a new solution that includes the Ultimus BPM Suite and Kofax software. As the leading human-centric BPM platform, the Ultimus BPM Suite provides oil and gas and other energy-oriented organizations with the ability to automate key processes, and integrate information silos and disparate functional groups into seamless process-driven entities. Automation with Ultimus improves on the manual process, addressing the following points of pain.

- Streamline its accounts payable system to ensure prompt invoice payment
- Simplify its payment procedures and management

Solution Overview

For SemCAMS, the new solution features:

- An intuitive web-based interface, customized for SemCAMS environment
- Invoices are scanned to Kofax, which then initiates a workflow within Ultimus
- An authorized SemCAMS employee is automatically notified via email that an invoice is received



Instead of having to memorize numerous accounting codes, SemCAMS employees simply use a pull-down menu to identify which code should be associated with the new invoice. The employee views the invoice and automatically connects to the purchase order system for invoice verification. Next, the employee can approve the invoice, or if the invoice is over a certain dollar value it is automatically routed to the supervisor for approval. Once the manager approves the invoice, it's sent directly to the company accountant and entered into their Q/Byte software for payment. Invoices are stored online so they can be easily retrieved in PDF format if needed in the future.

Recap of key benefits and summary

Managers can easily monitor the status of invoices at any step along the way, and can even identify trends such as cycle time for payment. This also helps SemCAMS take advantage of early pay discounts offered by many of its vendors. This streamlined process should also speed up the company's procurement of critical goods for operations and new asset development. SemCAM's deployment of Ultimus-based processes has yielded a number of significant benefits, including:

- **Quality**
 - “For public companies, there are huge benefits to having controls over financial transactions because this helps ensure compliance with regulatory requirements such as Sarbanes-Oxley,” said Peter Collins, Manager of Business Applications at SemCAMS.
- **Productivity**
 - Collins also noted, “We can now easily see what financial obligations are still open.”
 - “Today, we can instantaneously route invoices to numerous individuals at once within minutes.”
 - “If there's a question about payment, we can quickly see whose virtual desk it's sitting on. This is a powerful control mechanism for us.”
- **Satisfaction/Loyalty**
 - The new workflow has been well received. “It's so easy for our users,” Collins said.
 - “They appreciate the automated coding and lookup. And the interface with other internal applications has been seamless.”

Based on the success of the Ultimus-based solution in Accounts Payable, the company is planning to expand its use elsewhere in the organization. It may be used to automate new cost centers, generate new forms, manage timesheets, and possibly streamline the company's incident tracking workflow processes.

BPM is critical for financial services organizations. Financial services organizations that deploy Ultimus BPM can increase revenue, lower operating expenses and improve customer satisfaction. BPM accelerates speed to market and helps the enterprise achieve greater ROI in less time. For more information on the Ultimus BPM Suite and how it can help your company become an agile enterprise, please visit www.ultimus.com.