

25/17

Case story

Barrus is into high speed and the highest quality


Company:

E. P. Barrus Ltd.

Industry:

Distribution

Countries:

United Kingdom

Applications:

Electronic business archive
 Document scanning
 Supplier invoice handling

Business Application:

System21 from INFOR

IT Platform:

IBM Power System with IBM i

Objectives:

Cost reduction in purchase handling
 Improved quality in internal business processes

Special Factors:

In wholesale distribution margins are tight, and business success is closely linked to operational efficiency.

Every year Barrus receives more than 40,000 purchase ledger invoices and credit notes. Manual handling of these documents has for long been a tedious and time consuming task. Implementing an electronic archive and workflow solution put an end to this, improving efficiency and cutting cost.

“We have used the Multi-Support solution for over a year for our purchase ledger invoices and have found significant benefit in terms of efficiency and ease of information retrieval. In fact, the time saved allows us to manage with one purchase ledger clerk instead of two”, points out Mike Westbury, Management Accountant of Barrus.



Barrus

Barrus is the exclusive importer and distributor of leading brands across a diverse range of markets including marine, garden machinery, vehicle and industrial sectors.

Barrus has 7 divisions that operate through a network of almost 1,500 approved, specialist dealers, and supplies numerous prestigious organizations and manufacturers.

Barrus has achieved the highest quality standard in the commercial world, ISO 9001-2000.

The company has approximately 180 employees.

www.barrus.co.uk

Speed and quality

Providing the world renowned MerCruiser engines for fast powerboats is only one area where Barrus is accustomed with both high speed and the highest quality. The same applies for their business processes.

Speed and efficiency

In the distribution industry where Barrus operates margins are tight, and operational efficiency is an absolute must if you aim at success - and for sure Barrus does. For long it has been both expensive and troublesome to handle the growing amount of paper manually - which led Mike Westbury to search the market for intelligent document management in order to increase operational efficiency.

Quality and customer service

Besides operational efficiency, Barrus sees quality and customer service as key competitive areas. For that reason Barrus invests in quality, and the company has achieved the highest quality standard in the commercial world, ISO 9001-2000. This dedication to quality ensures that their customers benefit from the highest levels of service and technical support.

Integrated with System21

In order to obtain maximum operational efficiency, Barrus decided to implement a complete document management infrastructure around a shared corporate MultiArchive, totally integrated with their existing ERP solution; System21 from INFOR. The integration between this product and MultiArchive was done by business partner Campbell Lee (part of the Onyx Group), Scotland's only distributor of System21. "The transition from the green screen version of System21 to the Aurora Version has been relatively painless and was completed in a matter of days," states Mike Westbury.

About Multi-Support Group

Multi-Support has more than twenty years of experience in optimizing document centric business processes based on our concept for „intelligent document management“ (IDM). The objective is to make organizations more flexible, scalable, and efficient, and thereby save them valuable time and money. In short we are a provider of "time and money" – 24 hours a day, seven days a week – in fact so efficient you could say 25/7.

The IDM concept is now implemented by more than 3,000 organizations throughout the world in any line of business and any size of company. Multi-Support Group has own implementation organizations in Denmark, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and UK together with certified business partners throughout the world.

Multi-Support is IBM Advanced Business Partner.



"With MultiArchive there are no lost documents to chase, plus benefits to other staff needing to refer to purchase ledger documents."

- Mike Westbury, Management Accountant of Barrus

Instead of continuously handling an ever increasing amount of paperwork manually, all purchase invoices are now filed in a centralized business archive from where they are easily retrieved by means of a unique reference code.

The solution has enabled Barrus to obtain lightning fast access to up-to-date documents that helps them continuously improve the professional service they render to their growing network of dealers. Mike Westbury is extremely satisfied with the implementation outcome.

Barrus saves both time and money

"We have been able to increase efficiency while saving time and money, and Multi-Support has given us superb assistance and backup in terms of practical help from the implementation of the product onwards. The system has not required support since the implementation and works so well that we are looking to develop this approach across other areas of the business in the near future," concludes Mike Westbury.