

THE CHALLENGE:

■ INEFFICIENT, ERROR-PRONE PURCHASING APPLICATION

An outdated MS Access application used for this nearly half-a-billion-dollar construction client's company-wide purchasing effort was virtually crippling operations. The application, used for all Purchase Orders, Change Orders, and Contracts associated with every job throughout the company was accessible only to the Purchasing group. This meant that every time a Project Manager or Contract Manager wanted to initiate or change any type of order, they had to contact someone in Purchasing to do it. Then the order would be created, and sent back to the PM or CM for approval. If changes were required, it meant another round of phone calls and faxes. In addition, this purchasing system, the Accounting, and the equipment application each had separate and disconnected databases which required 300% more effort to maintain and created inevitable data inconsistencies.

THE SOLUTION:

■ A WEB BROWSER-BASED ENTERPRISE LEVEL PURCHASING APPLICATION TO MANAGE AND REPORT CONTRACTS

Aspect designed and implemented an enterprise level purchasing application to create and manage contracts. This system is now the common data warehouse for all jobs, vendors, contacts and contracts throughout the company. Accessible by both purchasing agents and project managers, it also includes a powerful contract search feature based on predefined criteria. Instant and remote access for PM's eliminates much of the calling and faxing required with the outdated solution. This application also supports a complex status hierarchy with defined dollar thresholds for each level of user (PM, CM, VP). Additional features include a Materials Log and Quote Master. The Materials Log enables PM's to define the release schedule of all required materials for each job, and track the delivery process while the Quote Master facilitates vendor comparison – line items from which can then be directly imported into the final Purchase Order.

THE BENEFIT:

■ COST SAVINGS, ACCURATE AND EFFICIENT DATA FLOW, ENTERPRISE LEVEL USAGE THROUGHOUT THE COMPANY

This client experienced an instant and dramatic improvement in their ability to process, and manage, contracts. Not only does this save employee hours, it has also increased their rate of on-time job completion. In addition to offering greater speed of delivery, this system also ensures accuracy. The superior reporting capabilities provide project managers immediate, real time status checks on all jobs assigned to them. Just as important, Finance now has an accurate view of purchasing data. Armed with this knowledge, they can now increase company profitability by improving their ability to manage expenses.