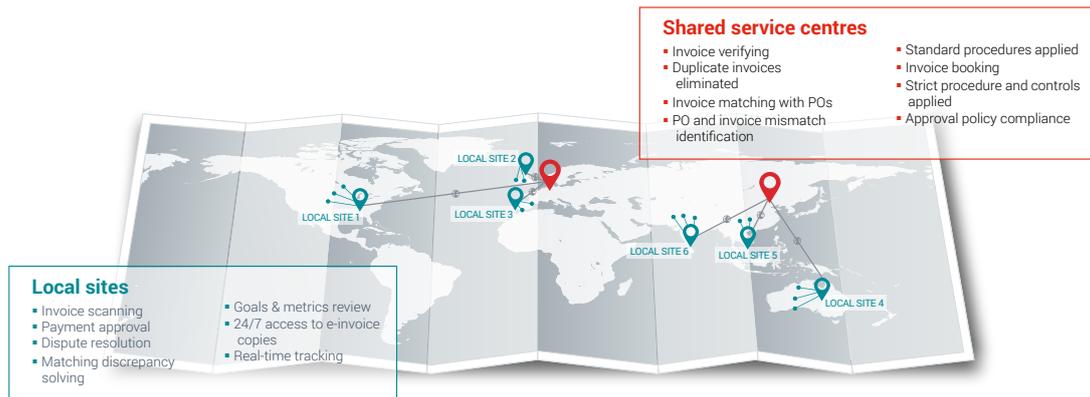


AP INVOICE AUTOMATION FOR SHARED SERVICES CENTRES

In today's extremely competitive business environment, companies are required to continuously provide better services, improve cost control and management, and leverage information more effectively. In a shared services model (SSC), processes are centralised and standardised, systems are consolidated, and everything is automated. Managing back-end, non-core functions like accounting – specifically accounts payable (AP) – are increasingly present in SSCs, and implementing the right vendor for an AP invoice automation solution is a priority for boosting efficiency and maintaining a competitive edge.



More and more AP functions are being centralised through SSCs – not only to cut costs and improve efficiency, but to improve vendor relations (e.g., consistency in vendor payment, single point of contact, etc.).

Companies that put a SSCs in place to manage their AP invoice processing often lack control or visibility on the purchase-to-pay process and would benefit greatly from an automated AP invoice solution. Today's technology makes this a reality.

Esker's Accounts Payable Solution

How does it work?

Esker's on-demand Accounts Payable solution completely automates AP with intelligent capture, electronic workflow and touchless processing capabilities. Deployed centrally or locally, the solution supports companies with SSC initiatives.

Here's how it works: Scans or electronic vendor invoices are entered into an automated workflow for approval upon receipt. Invoices are then dispatched to the appropriate business units where authorised personnel receive timely alerts that prompt them to sign off on invoices to meet payment deadlines. The workflow is entirely automated and online; invoices are processed with no human intervention, and complete visibility throughout AP invoicing is achieved.

SSC Benefits

Electronic workflow

Esker's electronic workflow improves the overall speed, efficiency, control and visibility of vendor invoice processing. Coupled with fewer payment errors and reduced invoice processing costs, an automated solution delivers a more competent and effective answer for SSCs.

Real-time tracking

Real-time tracking and reporting capabilities enable the system to display views of invoices along the workflow steps, which means any particular invoice can be tracked, as well as the amount of outstanding invoices evaluated. This invaluable level of reporting is particularly important for company financial managers who require constant visibility of vendor invoices. The productivity and efficiency of a SSC can also be easily be measured by company finance managers – an essential requirement to efficiently drive the outsourced activity of the SSC.

ERP independent

The Esker workflow functions are completely independent of the ERP/business application and can therefore be connected to independent systems used by different subsidiaries or departments within the company. This is essential for SSCs, as they often deal with different applications within the different company offices and groups, and are required to process invoices across a range of separate systems.

Country code management

Esker provides the flexibility to rapidly and easily set up new country codes, as well as capture and analyse information on the invoice – enriching it with existing data from the ERP/business application. The correct country code can then be recognised in an automated way; and for a SSC that manages invoices from numerous countries, quick country code identification is a significant time saver.

Cross border support

Processing invoices from a multitude of global offices with different languages and invoice layouts can be challenging for SSCs. Esker removes this headache with its multi-language capabilities (reading and processing over 120 languages including full DBCS support such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese and Taiwanese), and its template-

free technology which works with any invoice format (no need to create recognition templates for each vendor or variations of vendor invoice layouts). Esker delivers one solution to simplify and meet all multinational needs.

Automation across multiple business processes

Esker is the ideal solution provider for SSCs who currently manage AP processing and are looking to extend automation to other accounting functions or centres who already centralise all accounting functions.

Esker’s on-demand technology is flexible enough to extend beyond AP invoice processing, spanning multiple business processes in the order-to-cash and procure-to-pay cycles. While AP remains the predominant accounting focus for many SSCs, increasingly, accounts receivable and order processing are being centralised. With a single integrated platform, Esker can help companies quit paper in any or all business document processes. From automating and capturing inbound documents (e.g., sales orders, vendor invoices, etc.) to electronically delivering outbound documents (e.g., customer invoices, purchase orders, etc.), it’s all controlled by a single set of business rules to enable seamless, end-to-end automation company-wide.

Successful AP Solution Implementation at an International SSC

The European-based SSC of a leading international chemical company uses Esker’s on-demand Accounts Payable solution to process and automate over 100,000 multi-language invoices per month. Capable of reading and supporting over 120 languages, including the company’s Asian character languages, Esker delivers a huge advantage to the SSC as it is able to process over 50 subsidiaries’ invoices with one solution.

Linked to the infrastructure of the whole company, the SSC uses the numerous ERP applications present in the different subsidiary offices, including SAP®. Capable of addressing multiple ERP applications and different SAP systems, as well as easily handling numerous company codes, Esker provides a solution that functions as a stand-alone module outside the ERP/business application (with external flexible workflow) and can therefore easily connect to the independent systems used by the SSC.

Esker’s flexible task scheduling feature brought a unique functionality to the SSC by enabling it to redistribute invoice loads to different users, handle specific requirements, and reassign or change policies. This is particularly important for a SSC because it provides high throughput of daily processed invoices by quickly adjusting the workload over teams and team members in the event of absences (e.g., holidays or illness).

Faced with high AP staff turnover, the SSC appreciates the solution’s cloud-based model which supports their constant internal changes (e.g., new hires, new office and room locations, employee departures, etc.).

With no logistical or organisational hardware/software problems to address, the SSC is able to easily deploy Esker’s Accounts Payable solution from any computer connected to the Internet – from any office around the world, even a home office.



Thanks to Esker, one team member is able to process up to 500 invoices daily and quickly set up new company codes in the event other companies within the Group use our SSC as well. We don’t have to worry about running and maintaining the solution because it’s done directly by Esker. We reap the benefits without the headaches of managing an IT infrastructure.

Shared Services Centre Manager
– International Chemical Co.

Another important condition/criteria for the SSC was to enable its solution provider to efficiently handle its high invoice volumes. Thanks to its robust and powerful technology, Esker not only met the centre’s expectations, but exceeded them.

Technical Specifications	
Video Card	16 MB RAM recommended for optimal performance
Monitor	22" with a 1680x1050 or more resolution for optimal usage of the document splitting and document validation features
Web Browser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Microsoft Internet Explorer 8, 9, 10 and 11 ■ Mozilla Firefox 10.0 and higher ■ Google Chrome 9.0 and higher

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