

Industry: Aeronautical
ERP System: BPCS
Solution: Document Distribution and Archiving

Document Management helps Ionix Systems save £18,000 annually on postage and stationary costs alone.

The Background –

Headquartered in Lancashire, UK and with offices in Germany and Eastern Europe, Ionix Systems is a specialist designer and manufacturer of wiring harness and woven systems, providing interconnection solutions for aerospace, defence, power generation and other high-performance engineering sectors. Their aim is “To be the leading value provider of global specialist cable assembly.”

The Challenge –

All businesses regardless of size are being tasked with reducing their carbon footprint and adhering to corporate social responsibility guidelines. A document management system can contribute in automating business processes; thus helping businesses to simultaneously become paper free (reducing their carbon footprint) and to reduce costs, especially those related to stationary and postage.

Three key reasons for doing so are that:

1. Early adoption can provide companies with a competitive advantage within their industry.
2. It is a short term investment with long term returns.
3. Staying ahead of UK/EU legislation means avoiding potential fines in the future.

Additionally, modern technology has made communication instantaneous, easy and cheap, and companies are expected to make sure that their business processes are as well. Traditionally documents have been printed and sent by post to recipients. However digital workflows are easier to manage and improve both productivity and efficiency in a business. It is this exact challenge that BPCS users Ionix Systems wanted to solve. Their vision of being “the leading **value provider** of global specialist cable assembly” necessitates streamlining even their back office processes. To this end they were looking to source and implement a solution that would create and distribute electronic documents from their ERP system. More specifically they needed to create electronic invoices and purchase orders, and then email said documents directly to their suppliers and customers. According to IT Manager Ian Bilisland,

“Lots of products seemed to offer this functionality separately, but only CPPD offered full functionality. Furthermore it was the compatibility with our existing platform/system that prompted us to choose CPPD.”

The Solution –

An integrated document management system was implemented, running natively on the System i platform, with both document reformatting and distribution capabilities; along with an integrated document archiving functionality that Ionix

electd to implement at a later date. Implementation and training took place over two days on site, with support being provided afterwards to ensure that there was a smooth learning curve for the Ionix users.

“The implementation and training went very well with no issues. A detailed training course was delivered and the consultant assisted me with any problems and left me with examples demonstrating the full functionality of the solution”

Ian Bilisland, IT Manager

Feedback from senior management has been positive as they were satisfied by the cost and end results of the implementation.

*“CPPD has allowed me to automate the process of electronic documentation creation and distribution, saving considerably on man-hours and other costs. **Cost saving on stationary and postage alone over 12 months was calculated at £18,000.**”*

“The key strengths have been that it’s a stable product, with an easy to use document production GUI, and excellent support!”

Ian Bilisland, IT Manager

Another benefit resulting from the solution has been improved communication with suppliers and customers due to the fact that document distribution is now instant and direct.

The next step –

Ionix are now looking to implement the archiving component for all their invoices and purchase orders. Furthermore they are exploring the options for leveraging their investment in CPPD to enable them to consolidate the production of their despatch paperwork, (replacing the two separate systems that are currently being used).

Archiving will occur at the point of creation with minimal user intervention, and documents will be stored centrally on the System i. Documents will be easily accessible via links from within the ERP system. The document search facility will greatly improve the speed of access to key documents and therefore further improve communication, as queries relating to those documents will be able to be resolved much faster than before.

Cobwebb Communications Ltd has been providing paperless process management solutions for the System i since 1985.

CPPD/Document management is a complete System i Document Management Solution, allowing you to capture, create, distribute and archive documents electronically and directly from your ERP system.