

Customer Success Story

We not only successfully consolidated our AP departments but we improved efficiencies in terms of reduced resources, increased performance and improved quality of service. The quality of Cogent's SAP consultancy and product knowledge was second to none.

Kevin Thomas Lafarge Roofing



Source: <http://www.lafarge-roofing.com>
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Customer Name

Lafarge Roofing

www.lafarge-roofing.com

Industry

Building & Construction

Starting Environment

Clerical document handling and paper based query resolution

Implementation Highlights

Completed over a 6 week period.
With only 16 days consultancy
Lafarge are processing 36,000 documents per annum with 2 clerks

Solution Scope

Lafarge Roofing implemented an automated invoice processing system, integrated with SAP and with archiving to SAP Content Server

Key Benefits

- Reduced clerical time and effort
- Workflows to business users control query resolution.
- Increased management controls and visibility across the entire AP process
- Consolidation of AP operations
- Improved controls of goods receipting
- Improved management reporting

Background

Lafarge Roofing's AP processes were paper based, clerically intensive (6 clerks) with peak periods of activity. At the time of implementation the AP department was to be consolidated at Dorking. Lafarge Roofing used the opportunity to establish new processes and procedures in a new environment with different resources. Cogent Consulting assisted, not only by implementing the new system, but by providing broader SAP consultancy to deliver additional benefits in processes and performance.

The initial implementation did not include workflow. Subsequently the business benefits were identified and Cogent Consulting were contracted to install and configure these processes

The Business Drivers

- To remove paper handling in order to improve traceability during query resolution.
- To reduce management and clerical time
- To provide a more professional service to vendors and achieve prompt payment discounts
- To improve management controls through improved reporting
- To improve goods receipting processes
- To relocate Accounts Payable and achieve benefits of synergy

Business process issues:

- AP time spent fire-fighting supplier queries and chasing business users. Management of resolution was time consuming and error prone.
- The use of paper invoices required significant clerical resources for data entry and process control.
- Too much time was spent obtaining approvals.
- Requirement to move AP processing from Shephed to Dorking

Project Requirements:

- Process invoices onto SAP earlier.
- Reduce manual keying to allow AP to cope with peak volumes.
- Improve relationship with suppliers by punctual payments
- Improve relationship with suppliers by better traceability through the payment process
- Auto-posting of invoices within tolerance to reduce error handling time
- Electronic storage of image avoiding paper loss and improved response time
- Improved auditability and rapid access to archived document
- AP visibility of all docs on workflow making chasing easier
- Identification/proof of progress by business users and of supplier invoices failing to match



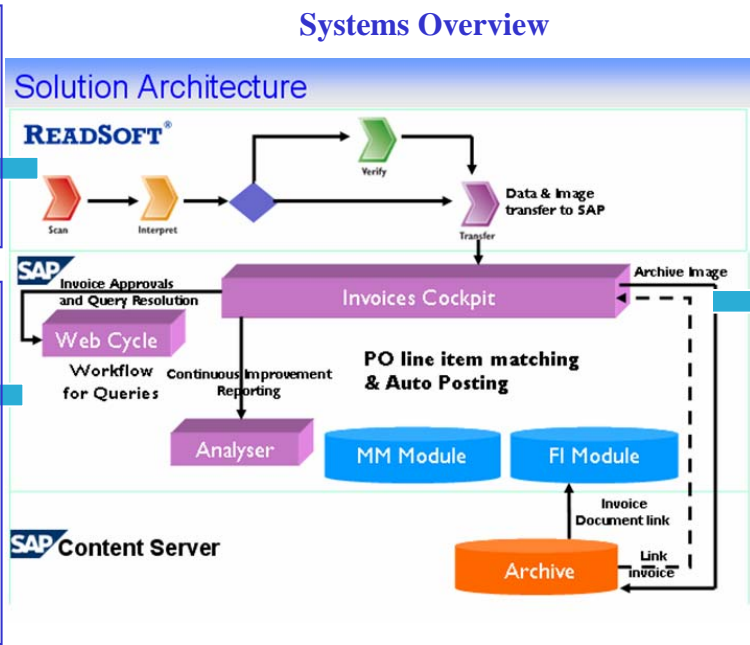
Source: <http://www.lafarge-roofing.com> © lafarge-roofing.com

Why Cogent: Cogent Consulting took the time to understand our business requirements and to identify solutions that were appropriate to our business needs. They freely offered advice and guidance that went beyond the scope of the immediate project. The implementation was a simple process with quality and speed assisted by Cogent's intellectual capital, the excellent SAP knowledge of their consultants and their willingness to be flexible to our timescales and requirements.

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- READSOFT®**
- Scanning and OCR for date capture
 - Data and image sent to SAP
 - Automates invoice entry

- ebydos AG web cycle**
- Configurable workflow with flexible functionality
 - Workflow, with images, accessed via web pages or SAP
 - Automatic reminders and escalation
 - Use of substitutes
 - Log of all actions



- invoice cockpit**
- Data and image retrieved and Archived
 - Automatically run validations to: Map field values, determine tax codes, check for duplicates
 - Automatically check and verify the invoice data against SAP data
 - Automatic invoice postings
 - Keeps a complete history and protocol of all processes
 - Allow Accounts Payable to manage the non-posted documents
 - Auto-checking and posting of completed documents (in background)

Lafarge Roofing

No.1 in roofing solutions worldwide **Our goal is to deliver high-quality roofing solutions that perfectly meet our customers' expectations.**

We pursue this target in all our markets, and have become the leading supplier of roofing systems worldwide. We provide a unique integrated offering of concrete, clay and metal tiles, roofing components and chimneys.

Every year, more than 1.5 million houses are covered with roofing solutions supplied by Lafarge Roofing. We sell 3.8 million metres of chimneys per year - enough for more than 200,000 houses.

Our business units are among the market leaders in roofing in most European countries. In addition, we have leading positions in the good-quality market segments in the United States, Eastern Europe, Asia, Brazil and South Africa, where we see promising opportunities for growth.

ReadSoft

We take pride in being the innovators of our business. Our Research & Development team is the biggest in the industry and we spend a substantial part of our revenue on inventing and improving new technology, according to our customers' needs. With offices in 12 countries and partners in an additional 70, ReadSoft can truly be said to be the worldwide business leader
www.readsoft.co.uk

Cogent Consulting:

Cogent Consulting is a SAP consultancy that specialises in improving processes in finance for users of SAP only. To improve SAP process in finance we have extensively researched the marketplace and found the best third party products available to compliment and improve SAP processes. Every product we recommend or we have developed has been certified by SAP – www.cogentconsulting.co.uk

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