

# SONY

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### ACCELERATING AP INVOICE APPROVALS AT A REGIONAL SHARED SERVICE CENTER

#### BACKGROUND

Following its move to an internal centralized accounting shared service center (SSC), Sony Electronics Asia Pacific (Sony), was looking for an account payable (AP) automation solution to help its accounting teams improve their vendor invoicing process.

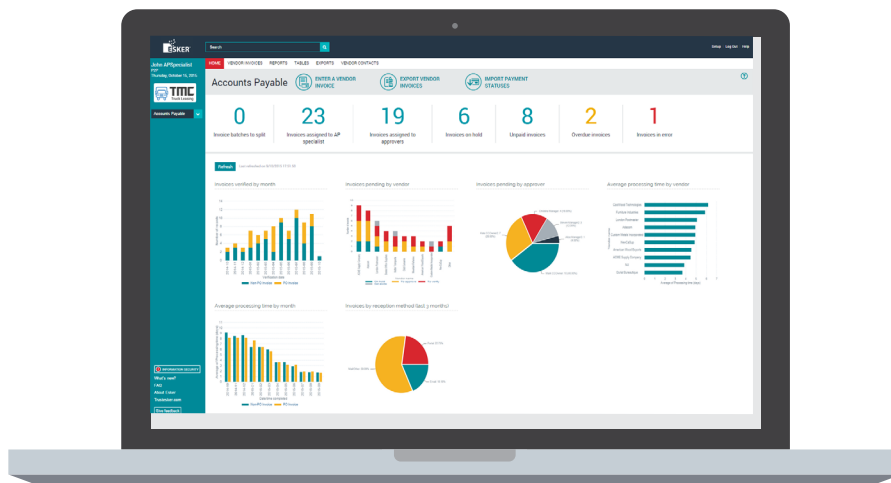
At the time, Sony was manually processing approximately 63,000 invoices per year from eight different countries, which proved extremely time-consuming and inefficient. In an effort to eliminate paper invoices, automate approval workflow and improve its organizational efficiency, Sony began its search for an AP automation solution.

#### SOLUTION

One of the most important criteria for Sony was finding a solution with an electronic workflow to facilitate AP processing in its SSC using a regional SAP® FI software system and Oracle® Financials system.

Esker's cloud-based Accounts Payable solution met Sony's requirements and was the most cost effective. Additionally, Esker had been used by Sony's BPO before the company decided to bring its accounting operations in-house, so adopting a proven and familiar solution would enable a seamless transition.

Using Esker, Sony's vendor invoicing process is streamlined. Received vendor invoices are automatically sent to Esker for processing and approval, all with full visibility and minimal risk for entry errors. Once invoices are approved, invoice details such as the corresponding account codes and cost centers are interfaced into Sony's two accounting systems: SAP and Oracle.



**"THANKS TO ESKER'S AUTOMATION SOLUTION, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO  
SAVE 40 DAYS OF PRODUCTIVITY PER MONTH."**

Tan Ai Ling | Deputy Director of Regional Accounting | Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.



*"A MAJOR FACTOR IN OUR DECISION TO GO WITH ESKER CENTERED ON THE FACT THEIR SOLUTION COULD BE LEVERAGED ON-DEMAND TO FACILITATE OUR AP PROCESSING IN OUR CENTRALIZED ACCOUNTING SSC."*

Tan Ai Ling | Deputy Director of Regional Accounting | Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd.

## BENEFITS

Since implementing Esker, Sony has seen a number of benefits, including:



**Improved visibility.** Invoice submission and approval status is tracked, providing visibility on accrual amount if invoices have not yet been approved.



**Increased efficiency.** Manual data entry has been eliminated as information in Esker is interfaced to Sony's accounting system.



**Easy invoice retrieval.** Electronic invoice format can be attached to the accounting booking entry, enabling quick retrieval of invoices for audit purposes.



**Convenient approval process.** On-the-road allows managers to review and approve supplier invoices anytime, anywhere.



**Always available service.** Cloud-based AP automation solution is delivered as a service wherever and whenever needed.



**External ERP workflow.** Web-based AP workflow outside the ERP system delivers simplified setup of SSC and ability to work with multiple ERP applications.



**Cross-border support.** Esker's multi-language capabilities enable the reading and processing of invoices in over 120 languages including full DBCS support.

### About Sony

Based in Singapore, Sony Electronics Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. is a subsidiary of Sony Corporation. It serves as the regional headquarters for Sony's electronics business in the Asia Pacific, Middle East and Africa regions.

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