

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Helios

TRANSFORMING THE WAY FINANCE TEAMS WORK BY AUTOMATING SUPPLIER & PROMOTIONAL INVOICES

By implementing a digital invoice management solution, Helios Group has achieved great visibility and spends less time processing invoices.

AT A GLANCE

Helios Group



Food processing



600 employees



4 countries



Over €180m in sales revenue



SAP® ERP

CHALLENGES

Improving the efficiency of invoice processing

Founded over 100 years ago in Valladolid, Spain, Helios Group is specialised in the manufacturing of jam, tomato-based condiments and preserved fruit.

Today, Helios Group comprises multiple companies with eight production centres and sales offices in Spain, France, the United Kingdom and Germany, as it continues to expand into new markets.

In 2018, Helios Group's financial department wanted to improve the visibility of certain financial processes in order to streamline accounting, shorten invoice processing times and speed up searches for digital files.

Digitising invoices was easy, however creating a process for managing the workflow through integration into their SAP system required more time and effort. The primary objective was to reduce process complexity by analysing the documents to be processed. Several workflows were identified: 15,000 invoices from Helios suppliers and another 22,000 from its production subsidiary Iberfruta. The promotional retail invoice workflow was automated as well, comprising 9,000 promotional invoices for Helios and 250 for Iberfruta.

OBJECTIVES



Free up time so teams can focus on higher-value tasks



Reduce process complexity & achieve rapid user adoption



Implement a flexible solution that provides customised approval workflows & allows invoices to be approved from anywhere



Ensure solution compatibility with SAP





Our finance teams are happier because they are now able to spend more time on higher-value tasks and have greater control over what is happening in real time.

Mercedes Soto
CFO, Helios Group

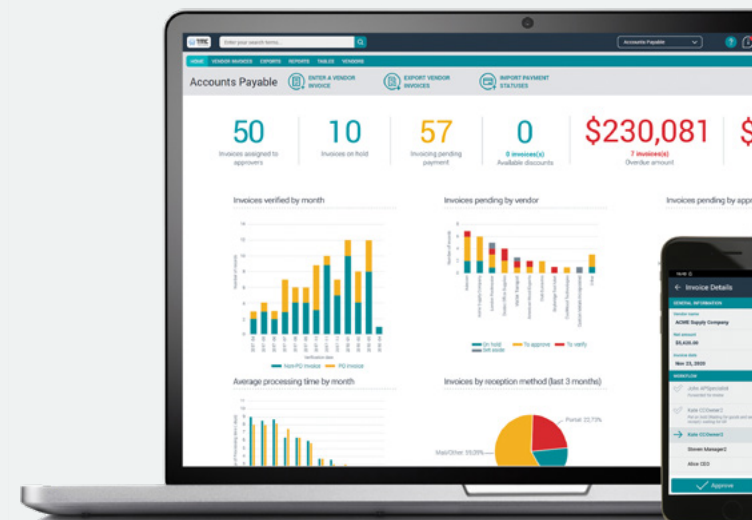
SOLUTION

Choosing technology that offers flexibility & enhances visibility

When selecting an accounts payable (AP) automation solution, Helios identified key criteria such as: the ability to function independently of its SAP ERP, cloud-based operation to support remote access, an approval workflow specially tailored to the company's activities and a mobile application enabling invoice approvals from anywhere. Process visibility through customisable dashboards with real-time indicators was also extremely important to enable fast and accurate accounting.

Esker's Accounts Payable solution met all their conditions and was implemented quickly. Thanks to the solution's user friendly interface and ease of use, user adoption was immediate and the learning curve extremely short.

"Esker gets high marks for its project implementation and launch," said Mercedes Soto, CFO at Helios Group. "Their CX team was extremely useful and provided a lot of functional support."



Esker gives us the visibility we need into the supplier and promotional invoices we must account for each day, and this allows us to close accounts faster and provision them correctly and in a timely manner.

Mercedes Soto
CFO, Helios Group

RESULTS

Increasing team & customer satisfaction

Since implementing Esker's solution, Helios' finance and accounting teams have had a much better day-to-day work experience that includes significant time savings. Everyone can now focus on tasks that bring more value to the company. Staff value the experience of agile accounting, greater control and higher process visibility.

With numerous approvers in both Helios and Iberfruta plants throughout Spain, the validation process was lengthy and complicated. Electronic approvals reduced the invoice processing time by up to 20%. The benefits won't stop there, since additional approval processes are currently being automated and will deliver further advantages to the company.

Because financial management operations are governed by strict payment and reporting deadlines and by mandatory settlement and audit processes, the pandemic could have easily created havoc at Helios. However, Esker's solution allowed those that were not able to come to the office to easily connect to the AP solution remotely and approve invoices anytime, anywhere!

BENEFITS



Greater visibility into outstanding supplier & promotional invoices, streamlining account closing & provisioning



Greater agility in accounting



Faster approvals, controls & accounting



Budgetary control, plus quick & easy approvals



Remote work facilitated due to easy access to digital files



Esker helps us make the best use of our time, control our budget better and perform approvals quickly and easily.

Mercedes Soto
CFO, Helios Group

Make Esker a key ingredient in your success!

GET IN TOUCH TODAY

ABOUT ESKER

Esker is a global cloud platform built to unlock strategic value for finance and customer service professionals, and strengthen collaboration between companies by automating the cash conversion cycle. Founded in 1985, Esker operates in North America, Latin America, Europe and Asia Pacific with global headquarters in Lyon, France, and U.S. headquarters in Madison, Wisconsin.

Our customers use our cloud solutions to increase the efficiency, productivity and visibility of their Procure-to-Pay (P2P) and Order-to-Cash (O2C) processes.

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