

News Release

Johnson Electric automates accounts payable with Arcplace

The Arcplace solution enables the international enterprise to realize faster processing times, increased control and reduced costs through automated and centralized invoice workflow

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Work-intensive, paper-based processing of invoices has kept accountants busy for decades. Today companies are faced with the challenge to process and archive invoices quickly and accurately in spite of growing numbers and decentralised organisational structures. Aiming for faster processing times, increased accuracy and reduced costs through automated invoice processing, Johnson Electric decided to work with Arcplace AG to set up a centralized Pan-European invoice workflow solution.

Johnson Electric is a global leader in motion products, control systems and flexible interconnects serving a broad range of industries. Established in 1959, Johnson Electric ships its products to more than 30 countries. With innovation and product design centers in Hong Kong, China, Switzerland, Germany, Italy, Israel, Japan, UK and USA the company employs more than 38,000 employees and subcontract workers in over 23 countries.

With this international set-up the formally decentralized invoice processing, with many manually intensive touch points, has become increasingly challenging facing volumes of circa 300'000 invoices per year just for the Johnson Electric International AG. The company therefore decided to implement a Pan-European workflow to eliminate the cost intensive manual entry of invoices and dangers of human error, assure regulated approval processes and a controlled AP environment.

“After an intensive evaluation process the Arcplace solution was selected as it convinced us with both functionality and scalability”, said Pietro Iallonardo, Finance Director Europe of Johnson Electric. “The Arcplace team also demonstrated a high experience building invoice automation solutions tailored to specific requirements. In our case this includes local scanning of invoices, attaching several invoice parts to one order and central handling in our Shared Service Centre in Hungary as well as a special order matching process with automated approval.”

The Implementation foresees a progressive approach on a Country by Country basis, this is also in line with our approach of implementation we followed at the Shared Service center in Hungary. Ultimately all invoices will flow under the same process and under this automated solution.

Arcplace's automatic invoice processing solution at a glance:

- Data acquisition – using state-of-the-art image processing and recognition technologies (OCR) to identify all the important invoice information.
- Check and approval – invoices are automatically passed on to be checked and approved via multilevel workflows.
- Automatic reporting by email – the users receive reports by email at all steps in the approval process and can finalise these by clicking the corresponding link. The user interface is browser-based, simple to use and does not need to be installed.
- Forwarding for payment – after approval, the invoices are forwarded to the ERP system for payment. After they have been paid, the information on the invoice (e.g. imaging, audit log, transaction data) can be viewed directly in the ERP by means of a link with the archive.
- Archiving of invoice data – invoices can be archived according to the company or legal requirements. In addition, the invoices can be filed in the personal archives of the relevant employee.

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Arcplace's strategy is to use components from leading suppliers to implement solutions tailored to the specific needs of customers. The Arcplace solution for Johnson Electric is based on the following key components: AnyDoc Software for scanning, data extraction (OCR), data validation, creation of PDF/A and committing of invoices to the Basware workflow; Basware for coding of invoices, approval workflows and the transfer of invoice data to Movex; the Lawson Movex ERP system to import and process invoice data and to handle the payment process; and last but not least Infostore to archive documents and to import invoice PDF with index values.

"We are delighted to work with Johnson Electric on the implementation of this Pan-European solution. We think Johnson Electric has clearly recognized the challenge many internationally organized companies are facing today and together we have found an effective way to realize a fast, accurate, controlled and cost effective way to streamline the processing of supplier invoices", explains Robbert Spierings, Managing Director of Arcplace AG.

About Johnson Electric

Johnson Electric is the leader in motion subsystems, including motors, solenoids, switches, flex circuits and microelectronics. We serve many industries, including Automotive, Building Automation and Security, Business Machines, Defense and Aerospace, Food and Beverage, Home Technologies, HVAC, Industrial Equipment, Medical Devices, Personal Care, Power Equipment and Power Tools. Our technology leadership, application expertise and global footprint make Johnson Electric the ideal partner for custom product development projects. Johnson Electric is an international company that is committed to making our customers successful by providing product differentiation and supply chain excellence. For product designers who demand performance leadership and assurance of supply, Johnson Electric is the safe choice.

About Arcplace AG

Arcplace AG is a Swiss provider of Scanning, Archiving and Backup solutions for the enterprise market. By combining state-of-the-art technology with innovative delivery models, such as Online, Cloud and Managed Services, Arcplace is able to offer companies of all sizes high-end solutions. Arcplace's goal is to build solutions that improve efficiency, minimize risks and reduce overall IT costs. Alongside its solutions, Arcplace offers specialized consulting services to help organizations in all the phases of a project.

Arcplace AG is a privately held company with a share capital of 1 million Swiss Francs and a team highly experienced in developing, implementing and operating IT solutions and services in Switzerland and abroad. Since the company's foundation in 2006, Arcplace has successfully deployed Archiving and Backup solutions for over 700 companies across Switzerland and has developed a unique portfolio of Scanning, Archiving and Backup Services.

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