Reed Elsevier: Driving a Procure-to-Pay Transformation with Collaborative Invoice Processes

A leading global provider of information solutions for professionals, RELX Group, or Reed Elsevier, is dedicated to helping scientists make new discoveries, lawyers win cases, doctors save lives, corporations build commercial relationships, insurance companies assess risk, and government and financial institutions detect fraud. And to do this requires lean internal operations.

Scanning paper was a first step toward invoice automation, but Reed Elsevier needed to further streamline invoice approvals, including eliminating exception management and invoice rework. With electronic invoicing over the Ariba® Network, the company is driving high levels of straight-through processing while laying the foundation for contract compliance and the expansion of early-payment discounts. That means happier suppliers and, ultimately, greater client success.
Invoicing in real time with the Ariba® Network

Company (Buyer)
RELX Group, owned by Reed Elsevier PLC and Reed Elsevier NV

Headquarters
London and Amsterdam

Industry
Media – publishing and information

Products and Services
Information and research solutions for science, technical, medical, and legal markets; data services; business information and marketing solutions; and events business

Employees
Approximately 28,000

Revenue
>£6 billion (€8.4 billion) (2013)

Web Site
www.reedelsevier.com

Objectives
• Eliminate the manual scanning of invoices.
• Automate invoice processing to reduce outsourced headcount
• Consolidate the processing of four invoice streams involving indirect spend, services, book production, and journal production
• Align global procurement and finance organizations
• Lay the foundation for contract compliance and expansion of early-payment discounts

Why Ariba, an SAP company
World-class sourcing and procurement solutions with proven industry success

Resolution
• Joined the Ariba® Network and deployed the Ariba Procure-to-Order and Ariba Invoice Automation solutions at the Elsevier division
• Made plans to expand the usage of Ariba solutions to other divisions

Benefits
• Real-time invoice status for suppliers, eliminating calls to accounts payable
• More purchases tied to purchase orders, improving compliance
• New opportunities to increase cash earnings from early-payment discounts

>99%
On-time payment performance, thanks to touchless invoice processing

>89%
Of addressable invoices to be processed electronically

>5
Fewer staff members needed in accounts payable to process invoices

"With Ariba solutions, we no longer have to chase invoices and print duplicates. And our suppliers love the new process. Once they get faster visibility into invoice status and receive payments, they are strong advocates."

Ed Aderman, Financial Program Manager, Global Procurement, Reed Elsevier PLC