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Woodland Opts For Global IT System With a Little Help From The Topaz Team

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Kevan Childs, Finance Director, Woodland International Transport

Woodland International Transport has enjoyed phenomenal growth since it was first established some 17 years ago and today has 20 offices world-wide.

Yet international success has brought with it its own specific set of problems in the form of communicating with far flung corners of its corporate empire operating in different time zones.

Now the company is poised to set up a global financial IT system based in London Docklands to underpin its future success - and the software partner it has chosen to undertake this is its existing supplier Topaz.

Woodland is calling on Topaz to initially bring in their five USA offices and nine global trading companies onto one Financial system which will then eventually evolve into the company's international IT infrastructure.

This global connectivity running through a central server and corporate intranet will eventually mean that all Woodland offices – no matter where they are located – will be able to access the company's central financial, administration and HR databases.

A technological breakthrough from Topaz – the Web Portal - is seen as a key element in the successful implementation of the global IT system. This effectively provides easier access to any Topaz system by any authorised user via the web.

The international platform venture is a major vote of confidence for the software author from Woodland for whom Topaz has already provided a complete financial management and human resource solution in conjunction with industry sector software.



Company

- Woodland International Transport

Business

- Logistics

Software solution

- Topaz EMS
- Topaz Financials
- Topaz Management Reporting
- Topaz Web Portal

Benefits

- Vastly increased staff utilisation
- Easier access via the web portal
- Seamless integration
- Faster management reports
- Superior third party integration

Woodland provide full supply chain logistics and the highest levels of supply chain optimisation includes:

- Global Freight Management
- Integrated IT Solutions
- Vendor Management/hubbing
- Purchase order managements
- Inventory management
- Kitting/Assembly
- Performance reporting

Topaz Financials was implemented in June 2004 to run in tandem with these services and provide integrated financial management combined with FCL's Forward Office software.

With full integration with the freight forwarding software, Topaz installed a system at Woodland's Brentwood offices, that produces dynamic functionality and will in the future ensure that all sales and purchase invoices are fed seamlessly into Topaz Financials. Any new accounts created are updated to the Financials system via the interface - with no dual keying or manual reconciliation.

Additionally the interface provides a direct link from the individual transaction to the source invoice document as produced by Forward Office.

"The introduction of Topaz has produced a vast improvement on our financial management structure," says Finance Director, Kevan Childs, who was appointed to Woodland's senior management team in 2000.

"Without doubt Topaz has made a big impact because it is far superior to our previous Unix-based Tetra system," he enthused.

"It has become very outdated, with a poor structure and when we made enquiries, we discovered that Topaz came highly recommended. The fact that the software could be seamlessly integrated with other software was also a major consideration that clinched it."

The Financials system, including Nominal Ledger, Sales Ledger, Purchase Ledger and Cash Book, has been such a success that Woodland are now expanding their Topaz relationship with extra software modules including:

- Topaz EMS – integrated seamlessly with Topaz Financials will be providing modern Payroll and HR functionality for Woodland's world wide offices
- New Management Reporting module capability
- Purchase Ordering module
- Fixed Assets module
- Web Portal

"After the way that Topaz ensured the smooth implementation of the Financials system, we have every confidence that the same support and attention to detail will be in place when we introduce these new additions."

"Topaz did everything for us during the installation and provided the necessary training plus excellent on site 'hand holding' support. We also performed a full restructuring update procedure for the entire Financials system a couple of months ago and Topaz again came in to our offices to help guide us through it.

"We were very impressed with the fact that this latest process took less than two days and all while we were running live. It has certainly given us confidence to expand our use of Topaz capabilities."

This confidence in Topaz has been clearly expressed in that Woodland has chosen the supplier to implement the all important global IT network – the first stage of which will require the Topaz technical team to Americanise the front end screens and terminology to ensure full compatibility.

"Our global connectivity will run through one central server that is going to be based at Docklands, where it can be backed up with full disaster recovery to safeguard the system, This global database will replace the existing four different databases that we are currently using and is set to fully utilise Topaz's capabilities." says Kevan Childs.