

Shining Results for Rising Sun With Sage BusinessWorks

Light is like magic. It can brighten a dark area, lift moods, and transform a workspace from dull to exciting and vibrant. It can stimulate us and provide a sense of health and well-being, causing us to be more productive. When well conceived and implemented, it can also give us complete control over our visual environment, whether we want a stimulating, cozy, or creative ambiance.

Rising Sun Enterprises helps clients achieve the exact setting they desire through full-service lighting design, consultation services, and product sales. It is an industry leader in energy sensitive lighting design and new technology assessment and is one of the few firms nationwide that offers turnkey lighting implementation. Rising Sun provides lighting solutions for commercial, industrial, residential, and landscape settings. Clients include many Fortune 500 companies, with projects ranging from the CNN Center in Atlanta to the corporate headquarters of Esprit de Corp in San Francisco.

Old System Dim on Financials

Rising Sun needed to shine more light on its financials. The basic bookkeeping package it had used for years was unable to keep up with the firm's growth, and could not provide sufficiently detailed reports. Management needed a clearer look at profit margins and sales numbers. After a thorough comparison of available business applications, they could see that Sage BusinessWorks Accounting was a brilliant answer.

A Bright Solution

"Switching over to Sage BusinessWorks was definitely a smart thing to do," says Megan Twitchell, bookkeeper at Rising Sun. "Making the change was surprisingly easy, thanks to the excellent support we received from our business partner. I was able to export all of our 2,000 inventory items into an Excel® file and then transfer them directly to Sage BusinessWorks without retyping a single entry. This saved me an entire week of work."

Customer

Rising Sun Enterprises, Inc.

Industry

Technical Services—Lighting Design

Location

Basalt, Colorado

Number of Locations

Two

Number of Employees

Ten

System

Sage BusinessWorks

Accounts Payable
Accounts Receivable
General Ledger
Inventory Control and Purchasing
Order Entry
Payroll
System Manager
Cash Management

Challenge

Replace inadequate bookkeeping package with a business management solution that provides financial analysis capabilities and can keep up with company growth.

Solution

Sage BusinessWorks financial, Inventory Control, and Purchasing modules.

Results

Robust financial management; precise inventory control; superb reporting capabilities; complete financial analysis; 10–15 percent cut in bookkeeping tasks; more strategic operations.

Sage BusinessWorks now performs all the basics of financial management at Rising Sun, plus much more. Besides payables, receivables, and general ledger functions, it is used to track current and projected cash flow, calculate profit margins, and keep tabs on overall corporate operations.

Inventory management tools within the new system have been especially important for Rising Sun. "Our former accounting package could only calculate reorder points," says Twitchell. "But now with the stock turnaround reports in Sage BusinessWorks, I know exact quantities on hand. I can prevent over- or under-purchasing inventory based on the turnover rate and the average stock on hand. And I can easily compare the best price and last price paid for any given item, and determine whether buying in volume will get us a lower cost and higher profit margin."

The new system produces detailed reports on the performance of each of the company's seven sales representatives. This ensures consistency among sales practices, encourages greater productivity, and, in addition, quantifies which producers have earned incentives.

Learning how to use Sage BusinessWorks was simple for Twitchell, due to her familiarity with other Windows-based applications. "After only a few months spent mastering the system," comments Twitchell, "I'm now ready to start training others within the company."

Twitchell plans to add the solution's Job Cost module soon. This will allow Rising Sun to monitor labor and material expenditures by individual project and achieve even greater profitability.

"Sage BusinessWorks has made me much more efficient," comments Twitchell. "It has trimmed about 10 to 15 percent off my workload and allows us to run our business in a more strategic manner."

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— Megan Twitchell
Bookkeeper
Rising Sun

About Sage North America

Sage North America is part of The Sage Group plc, a leading global supplier of business management software and services. Sage North America employs more than 4,100 people and supports nearly 2.9 million small and medium-size business customers. The Sage Group plc, formed in 1981, was floated on the London Stock Exchange in 1989 and now employs 14,500 people and supports 5.8 million customers worldwide. For more information, please visit the Web site at www.sagenorthamerica.com.