CUSTOMER
Museum of Science and Industry

INDUSTRY
Science and technology-based museum

LOCATION
Tampa, Florida

Number of Locations
One

SYSTEM
Sage Abra HRMS

Sage Software Products in Operation:
- Abra Payroll

Abra Payroll Brings "Winds of Change" to Museum

Ever wondered what it's like to hear the roaring winds from a Category 1 hurricane? This is one of the many interactive experiences available to the public at Tampa, Florida's Museum of Science & Industry, nicknamed "MOSI." Open since 1982, MOSI is now one of the most popular educational destinations in the Southeast, with some of the most innovative and hands-on exhibits in the country. One permanent exhibit, Gulf Coast Hurricane, lets audiences experience the impact of 74 mph hurricane force winds, and teaches them how to "Get Smart, Get Ready" for a tropical storm.

Bringing It All Under One Umbrella

MOSI includes an IMAX Dome theater, a gift shop, and 25 separate support divisions, such as operations, food and beverage, finance, marketing, and janitorial, among others. The museum nearly faced a disaster of its own—because of its inability to accurately forecast budget and project payroll. Its online payroll system was unable to efficiently integrate with its general ledger. As a result, the accounting and payroll departments had to manually re-key

departmental salary, taxes, and benefits information into a centralized payroll and general ledger component.

Since each of these departments conceptually operates as an individual business, with their own P&L statements, benefits package, salaried workforces, and more, the museum had to be able to estimate costs by functional area in order to assess departmental profitability.

"We were definitely beginning to feel the rumbling of trouble," says CFO Jeanette Baker. "We needed a much more flexible and powerful budgeting and reporting tool."

"While MOSI's previous payroll system did enable online payroll processing, it was

CHALLENGE

Integrate payroll system within its corporate general ledger and gain ability to allocate salary, taxes, and benefits expenses from its 25 different departments.

SOLUTION

Abra Payroll, part of Sage Abra HRMS—the market leader in HR, payroll, benefits, and compliance solutions, targeting the needs of small to midsized companies.

RESULTS

More accurately forecast budgets and payroll by integrating projections from each of its various departments; decrease payroll process time by 50 percent.

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ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software has been responding to the needs, challenges, and dreams of small and midsized businesses for over 25 years. With a complete range of business management solutions and services, Sage Software helps companies improve customer relationships, reduce costs, and automate and integrate a variety of operational activities. Its solutions support the specialty needs of a broad scope of industry segments, including manufacturing, distribution, construction, real estate, nonprofit, and professional services.

delivered through an application service provider (ASP), which allowed for few customizations to enable functionalities like detailed or ad hoc reporting."

"Most of our reports couldn't be customized," explains Baker. "We needed a system that enabled department heads to manage their profitability and, at the same time, allowed corporate executives to see the holistic financial picture."

The museum employs a large number of temporary and seasonal workers, so it needed to process on-demand checks between pay cycles. In addition to integration and reporting flexibility, MOSI also needed to process payroll more quickly.

"It just became too frustrating, because we realized there had to be a better system— one that solved all of our needs," says Paula Borrer, payroll processor for MOSI.

Calming the Storm

After conducting due diligence and speaking with three different solution providers, Baker and her staff turned to Caisson Group, a Sage Software business partner. The museum selected Abra Payroll as its new payroll solution.

"The entire [implementation] process was so smooth," says Baker.

"Caisson Group knew their stuff. If there's one aspect to this process that I vividly remember, it's the time and effort that Caisson took to ensure [we] were fully [educated] on the Abra Payroll system," compliments Borrer.

Clear Skies Ahead

MOSI has realized significant returns on its Abra Payroll investment.

"Running a payroll cycle used to take nearly three days to complete," begins Borrer. "Abra Payroll's ability to integrate with our general ledger, and collect and

allocate budgeting and financial data from our various departments, has reduced this process to just one and a half days."

The payroll department formerly spent more than eight hours entering and manually verifying timecard information using a basic Internet connection and standard reports. Now the data can be entered, sorted, and verified in just three hours.

"Abra Payroll is the complete solution," explains Baker. "With the click of a button, my team can process payroll and generate the reports I need for our executive board. Now, I have the time to devote to other larger strategic issues, and [my team has] the reports and analysis to ensure MOSI remains profitable and successful."

"Abra Payroll really rescued us," adds Borrer.

Now, if Sage Software could only develop a system to better forecast hurricanes….