

EZ Banking for BPCS fits PURAC biochem perfectly



PURAC biochem, headquartered in the Netherlands, is the world's largest producer of natural lactic acid, lactates and related products. PURAC ingredients are widely used in food, cosmetics, medical and many other industrial applications. PURAC biochem achieved significant savings by implementing EZ Banking Enterprise (EZBe), a LANSAS Web-based banking solution for BPCS users from LANSAS Business Partner and BPCS specialist SOLAR-IT in Belgium.

international banks, processing of cheques and bills, automatic entry of bank transactions, handling of reports and much more. Because EZBe has been designed modularly, customers only need to purchase the functionality that they really need.

Ton Gorter, Project Manager EZBe Implementation at PURAC biochem, says, "We have improved the promptness and accuracy of our administration, and we have done so without having to hire extra resources. With EZBe we can process receipts and payments in one easy step, a feature not offered by standard BPCS, but now available to us as an integrated Web extension to BPCS."

"EZBe meets our needs perfectly, both from a business and technical point of view."

An Administrative Burden

"In our old procedures we used to manually instruct our bank to pay a certain vendor's invoice," Gorter explains. "In a second step we needed to mark that invoice as being paid in our BPCS system. Then a few days later, when the bank statement arrived, we would enter that same payment for a third time. In case of multiple currency transactions or payment discounts, the administrative hassle was even greater."

"Even though our bank offers electronic banking facilities, it would be a development effort to integrate these with BPCS."

Piet van Hemert, General Manager at SOLAR-IT, explains that several BPCS customers indicated similar inefficiencies in their administration and that this led to the creation of EZBe.

"Our customers were strongly in favor of LANSAS and iSeries. The iSeries offers a proven reliable environment and LANSAS is a powerful integrated Web solution."

EZ Banking for BPCS

EZBe carries out banking actions including entry of bank statements, execution of electronic payments to national and

"Because we think globally, we offer EZBe in English, German, French, Italian and Spanish. It will be easy to add another language if required, because we use LANSAS's multilingual facilities."

"A standard feature of the product is the ability to communicate with many international and local banks. We also allow for local customizations, because every country has its own standards and rules. For example, our South European and Scandinavian customers have to deal with remittances, reconciliation and pro-forma invoices," says van Hemert.

"Rule number one is to listen to your customers," continues van Hemert. "They are the experts in their business and should decide on the functionality and look-and-feel of a solution. As we encounter new requests and regulations, we adopt these in the standard version in a flexible parameterized way, so that all customers can benefit. This means EZBe is, in most cases, ready-to-use out of the box, without the need for our customers to make modifications. This approach also ensures that EZBe keeps evolving and improving."

"We are the experts in our business, and therefore rule number two is to build and keep product expertise in our own team of developers. LANSAS proved to be an easy-to-learn development environment. This made it possible to deliver the entire solution with our own development staff, without having to rely on any third-party experts." →

The screenshot shows the PURAC website interface. On the left is a navigation menu with links: HOME PAGE, ABOUT PURAC, PRODUCTS, APPLICATIONS, LITERATURE, NEWSLETTER, EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, VISITE, SITEMAP, and CONTACT US. The main content area features the heading "PURAC offers natural ingredients for cosmetic products" and several paragraphs of text describing the benefits and uses of lactic acid and lactates in cosmetics. Below the text is a diagram showing various cosmetic products like Soap bar, Shampoo, Deodorant, and Anti-microbial, each associated with specific ingredients like Humectant, Moisturizer, pH-Buffer, and AHA. The PURAC logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the screenshot.

PURAC biochem offers natural ingredients for cosmetic products.

Focus on Core Business

"In an ever changing environment, activities that are not related to the core business of a company, such as administration and banking, should be dealt with in a fast and standardized way. It is for exactly this reason that EZBe has been so successful," says Gorter.

"EZBe offered an easy to use and fast to implement solution. Now, almost one year after implementing EZBe, we are still very happy with our decision."

"We have improved the promptness and accuracy of our administration without having to hire extra resources."

"With EZBe we can process receipts and payments in a single easy step. Our users experience significantly higher productivity thanks to EZBe. We save time because there are less erroneous transactions we need to follow up, also we can inquire very efficiently into accounts and invoices. Moreover we find the browser interface easy to work with."

"EZBe doesn't require any configuration or installation effort on the PC client. Installing and upgrading Windows software on user PCs was quite a burden before, because we have multiple branch offices. With this LANSA-based Web solution our computing environment is much easier to manage and allows for more flexible staff locations and PC allocation to staff."

"Another advantage of this fat-server/thin-client solution is minimal data traffic volume over the network and therefore faster performance."

"EZBe meets our needs perfectly, both from a business and technical point of view," concludes Gorter.

Arthur Faulhaber, Service Manager at BPCS distributor SSA Benelux, comments, "EZBe is the best product currently available, because it is easy to use, seamlessly integrates with BPCS and offers very good value. We expect a long lasting partnership with SOLAR-IT."



PURAC is the world's largest producer of natural lactic acid and related products.

CRM for BPCS

"The robustness of the iSeries, the productivity of LANSA and the openness of BPCS fits our strategy. These qualities have attracted a huge number of users all over the world. The open structure of BPCS offers us the chance to build extensions, and the customer the choice of selecting the best product to run their business," says van Hemert.

"For example, EZ-CRM, a new product in the Easy Software Suite, now offers Customer Relationship Management for BPCS users."

"EZBe and EZ-CRM are developed and maintained by our own staff, so we know the solution thoroughly. LANSA's ease-of-use and productivity allowed us to develop sophisticated and integrated Web solutions for BPCS with our existing staff."

"LANSA let us deliver the entire solution with our own development staff."

"To build the Easy Software Suite with LANSA is a choice that we never doubted and that our customers fully support," concludes van Hemert.

"EZ-CRM will result in a single online source of customer and sales information," says **Josë Roseboom**, PURAC's Project Leader for CRM.

"We expect that this tool will optimize the communication with customers and internally. Furthermore, it will improve the analysis of sales and marketing activities." ■



Company and System Information:

- PURAC biochem, headquartered in the Netherlands, is the world's largest producer of natural lactic acid, lactates, lactitol, lactides and polylactides. PURAC biochem has offices in the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia, Poland, Spain and Hungary. PURAC also has offices in North America, Brazil, Singapore, China and Japan. PURAC uses an iSeries model 820 and four HSL integrated X-series model 350s with Windows 2000 Server Edition. For more information visit: www.PURAC.com
- SOLAR-IT is a LANSA Business partner specializing in BPCS and iSeries, located in Antwerp, Belgium. For more information visit: www.solar-it.com
- BPCS (Business Planning and Control System), from SSA Global Technologies, is a set of applications that addresses the core system needs of industrial sector companies. For more information visit: www.ssagt.com