



AGRESSO
Business World



AGRESSO Financials

You need an **advantage**
You need **AGRESSO**



Financials

Choose AGRESSO for effective financial management, planning, reporting and support for future growth. Capture, monitor and manipulate vast amounts of critical financial data with AGRESSO Business World

“Agresso has one of the most flexible General Ledgers in the business. Its Project Management software has set new standard in the industry.”

Dennis Keeling, Chairman of BASDA

Key areas of functionality:

- ▶ AGRESSO has all the features you would expect from a modern fully integrated financials application including general ledger, accounts payable, accounts receivable together with comprehensive budgeting, fixed asset and cash management features
- ▶ AGRESSO Financials offer users true multi-company, multi-currency and multi-lingual capabilities
- ▶ Powerful scheduling and automation features allow the user to define automatic cost allocation and distribution routines. These same features are used to facilitate accrual and prepayment processing and periodic and year-end routines
- ▶ Use of latest technology allows distribution of vital business information to users throughout the organisation on an as-needs basis

What it will do for your business:

- ▶ **Reduction in clerical time** through full integration, external transaction import routines and speedy keyboard entry of transactions across standardised entry screens, enabling staff to focus on more value added tasks
- ▶ **Dramatically reduced reporting time** to management and investors through automation of period-end tasks. The ability to have multiple open periods eliminates the need to force a close to continue transaction processing, ensuring that all accounts staff are working effectively
- ▶ **Speedy and effective answers to queries** enabled through quick and easy access to information on-line, complete with comprehensive drill down, allowing users to pinpoint variances
- ▶ **Managers can concentrate on running the business more effectively** as ease of reporting means less staff time is required in producing standard management reports

Financials

All organisations undergoing change, either of an entrepreneurial nature to exploit an opportunity, or as part of the natural evolution of a business strategy, need a thorough understanding of their current operations in order to identify areas for improvement. It is on the back of this that critical operational decisions can best be made. This is also the basis for communication with business partners, customers, authorities, legal bodies and shareholders.

Shaping the foundation of such an understanding is a broad span of financial data from a variable and wideranging number of sources. This has to be seamlessly integrated with other aspects of business information, such as human resources, project management and workflow, to form a complete picture for business management. Agresso provides this with an easytouse, highly flexible and comprehensive solution that helps its customers maximise their return on investment.



Why AGRESSO?

AGRESSO Business World (ABW) is a worldclass integrated business management and information system. It enables users in both the commercial and public sectors to take full advantage of the new technologies available and become highly competitive digital operations, ready to face the future. It has been developed in order to increase the competitive edge of Agresso customers in their respective markets and further builds on the Agresso strategy of delivering systems with specific features aimed at companies experiencing change and growth.

The key benefit of ABW is derived from the breadth and depth of its functionality. Few, if any, competitive offerings are able to capture such a wide range of data for analysis and reporting. A key to the power of AGRESSO is its structure, which allows for unlimited dimensions of analysis. This covers all areas relating to financial, operational and human resource management. It is a structure that can be altered to suit changes in market conditions, to support divisional restructuring or the setting up of a new organisational chart, for example. This ensures that your financial and business reporting needs can be met, not only now, but in an everchanging future. The wealth of functionality provided can help cut down administrative effort and maximise the potential of organisational resources while minimising running costs and overheads.



When selecting a business information system, two basic key requirements stand out: the range and quality of retrievable information and the integration of this for the purpose of interrogation and reporting. Additionally, as organisations evolve over time, the system needs to continue to support these needs. The attribute based architecture of AGRESSO Business World does this. An attribute is any aspect of your data or organisation that is required to be analysed, reported on or monitored. This could be, for example, a cost centre, division, project, company, customer or a product. An unlimited number of attributes is definable and new ones can be created at any time during the life of the system. Attributes are then linked together into groups and hierarchies for integrated analysis and reporting.

Not only does the coding structure allow maximum flexibility in terms of analysis, but also the structure can be changed at any time as business requirements change, for example, to accommodate new product ranges or a new organisational structure. These changes can be undertaken far more rapidly and at a much lower cost than with many competitive offerings, where often a complete reimplementation is required.

The AGRESSO approach makes the capture, presentation and manipulation of information much easier and the user interface is also common to the rest of the software. In addition, all enquiry, analysis and reporting tools are integral parts of the application. When it comes to changing AGRESSO, modification to the system's underlying structure will immediately be reflected in the analysis, reporting and enquiry facilities, thus eliminating time and resources spent on adapting these tools.



The backbone element of AGRESSO Business World is AGRESSO Office, a comprehensive software tool for administrative management, control and reporting. AGRESSO Office comprises a series of closely integrated and comprehensive modules Financials, Logistics, Human Resources, Project and Business Analysis and Reporting. Together they include vast amounts of critical information about both your business and that of your customers a vital business tool.

AGRESSO Office offers a complete range of functions for accounting, financial control, project management, logistics and payroll/personnel administration. It is possible to register, collect and distribute this information easily in an effective manner and present it simply and clearly for use, with real time, upto date access 24 hours a day.

The Financials suite is one of the core areas of AGRESSO Office. With integrated Financials at the foundation, the AGRESSO Office family supports international, multicompany, multilingual and multicurrency requirements, creating a solution that can move in step with changing business environments and maximise return on investment.

AGRESSO Financials

The modules in the AGRESSO Financials suite bring together the diverse array of information that constitute a financial system. They can be grouped into the following key areas, which contain not only modules of general interest, but additional specialised applications for particular types of customers:

General Ledger

The heart of the Business Information delivery capabilities of AGRESSO, the General Ledger provides the power and flexibility to store and manipulate large amounts of data to provide structured information. Typically, an organisation is required by law to meet certain requirements in order to satisfy shareholders, government authorities and other interested parties. The General Ledger is usually seen as an information store used for producing the related financial and management accounts and which also supports strategic and tactical decisionmaking. It is important that the gathering of such information involves minimal administrative effort. Not only does the General Ledger provide some of the keys to AGRESSO`s power as a provider of business information for dynamic organisations, it also provides features for simplifying and speeding up bookkeeping and periodic accounting tasks.

A wide range of features have been designed to satisfy the needs of even the most demanding and complex organisation and the system`s flexibility enables adaptable reporting structures and hierarchies to reflect the way specific organisations work.

Key features include:

- Flexible and powerful structure
- Excellent multicurrency capabilities
- Accounting triggers automate month end
- Full integration with all other AGRESSO modules
- Consolidation
- Allocations
- Multiple budgets

“We needed to replace a multitude of disparate accounting packages with one fully integrated system which we can use to analyse our business quickly and easily. AGRESSO will be one of the foundations to help us remain dominant in our market place.”

Warren Gemberling,
Project Manager, **RAC**

Benefits

“AGRESSO's flexibility enables powerful analysis, while allowing us to maintain a simpler Chart of Accounts. We produce many software titles on several platforms and in many languages and sell these products to customers all around the world. We need to be able to analyse flexibly by product, language or by game title, for example and AGRESSO allows us to answer complex questions quickly and easily.”

Chris Develin, Group Financial Systems Administrator, **Eidos Interactive**



- Unique coding infrastructure provides the ultimate in flexible analysis and reporting.
- Full integration with all relevant submodules, external transaction import routines and speedy keyboard entry of transactions reduce clerical time
- Automation of periodend tasks dramatically reduces reporting time to management and investors and requires less staff time
- Flexibility benefits, such as facility for multiple open periods, ensure maximum effectiveness
- Access to information is quick, easy and online and with comprehensive drill down, enabling speedy and effective response to queries
- Finger tip variance analysis leads to effective troubleshooting

Additional modules can be added to provide further functionality where additional specific requirements have to be met. Examples include:

Cash Accounting

For those organisations, notably those in the public sector, who are required to report in whole or part on a cash basis, this module enables accounts to be restated on a cash basis as opposed to the more common accruals basis.

Financial Interfaces

This allows data from external systems to be imported into AGRESSO ledgers in a controlled manner. This could include third party feeder systems such as payroll or spreadsheets.

Budgeting

Budgeting, a key element strategic in planning and financial control, is usually timeconsuming and iterative, taking a long time to finalise and often then with subsequent revisions being necessary. Budgeting requirements also vary in different types of organisation. Managers require assistance with the creation of budgets and simple ways to review and enquire on performance against budget, enabling appropriate action to be taken.

The AGRASSO solution can provide a variety of solutions according to individual customer requirements. To supplement the budgeting functionality incorporated in the General Ledger module, further functionality is offered through the additional modules, Budgeting, Financial Planning and AGRASSO Budget Manager. Functionality for specific projectrelated activities is also included in the Project modules.



“Agresso will enable us to develop a core business and accounting solution for the University, providing enhanced management information, reporting and budgeting facilities.”

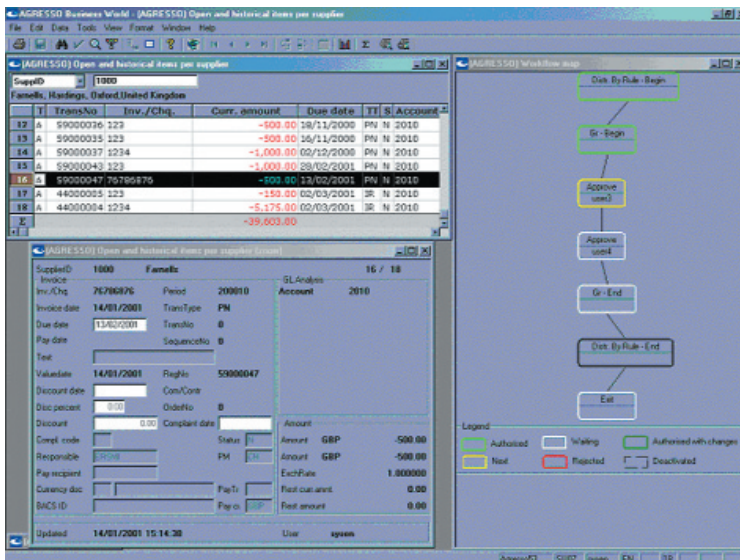
John Sandback, Director of Finance, **University of Liverpool**

Benefits

- Simple, integrated reporting facilitates easy budget tracking to help prevent overspending
- Related activities such as contract negotiations and price setting can be supported
- Automated budget checking is incorporated in the procurement process thus preventing overspend with minimal administrative effort
- Devolved budgeting responsibility is supported through the transaction based approach to budgeting and through security
- Support for long term investment decisions, particularly relevant for public sector customers (Financial Planning module)
- Minimum training time is necessary with AGRASSO Budget Manager as this tool takes advantage of users' familiarisation with Excel as a modelling tool, with the added benefit of integration with an accounting base

AGRASSO's budgeting solutions offer a lower cost alternative to some of the more complex competitive budgeting offerings (full details of AGRASSO Budget Manager are available on www.agresso.com).

Accounts Payable



Through the processing of purchase invoices and payments to suppliers, one of the key roles of the accounts payable function is to provide interested parties with information and analysis on expenditure. This is necessary in order to meet objectives relating to the optimisation of cash flow, managing creditors, maintaining trading partner relationships and securing maximum discounts. The AGRESSO solution is a broadscope, fully functional offering that is easy to use and integrates fully with other key functions such as General Ledger, Purchasing, and the Project modules.

Supplementary functionality can be provided by the addition of the separate module, Invoice Manager. Here the

workflow process is automated and optimised, thereby helping reduce circulation times of invoices requiring approval, reducing costs and improving internal capacity, whilst at the same time giving accounts staff and authorisers full visibility of bookkeeping information and scanned, electronically archived document images (See Invoice Manager brochure for more information on www.aggesso.com).

Benefits

- Integration of modules eliminates the need for rekeying data, saving time and eliminating errors
- Standardisation of transaction entry screens reduces the training requirement
- Wealth of functionality beyond the basic utilities expected of an Accounts Payable system provides support for a variety of business practices and legal requirements in different countries, improving accuracy, saving time and increasing productivity
- Enables visibility over creditors for planning and optimised cash flow and liquidity, as well as maintaining good relationships with suppliers
- Centralisation of functionality leads to decreased document circulation time and enables responsibility to be devolved from head office to relevant personnel, irrespective of location
- Process automation and easy access to shared documents simplify approval decisionmaking
- Improved archive management permits better use of space and storage cost savings
- Tight financial control as invoices and other documents are distributed according to sophisticated yet comprehensive rules

“ AGRESSO will enable us to streamline our order processing and invoicing control and make them more efficient. Later on, AGRESSO Business World will transform the way our staff interface with the finance function, giving 200 plus users very easy access to the order entry system and allowing them to collect and report on order data. ”

Alan How, Finance Director,
The Consumers' Association
(Which)

Accounts Receivable

The key roles of the accounts receivable function are threefold: initially, to process payments from customers; secondly, to manage cash collection and outstanding debtors while meeting the organisation`s objectives in terms of optimised cash flow and maintaining customer relationships and finally, to support the auditing of debtors. The AGRESSO solution is fully functional and supports these business issues in a userfriendly manner. Additional modules can provide further functionality relevant to the area of credit management. The solution is a broad scope, comprehensive offering that integrates fully with other key functions such as General Ledger, Invoicing, Sales Order Processing and Project Management.



Benefits

- A variety of credit control tools enable effective monitoring and recovery of debts
- Visibility over debtors in order to plan and optimise cash flow and liquidity
- Integration of modules eliminates the need for rekeying data
- Standardisation of transaction entry screens reduces the training requirement
- Unrivalled sales analysis capability
- Wealth of functionality beyond the basic utilities expected of an Accounts Receivable system provides support for a variety of business practices and legal requirements in different countries, improving accuracy, saving time and increasing productivity

Additional functionality can be provided by the addition of separate modules such as Free Text Invoicing, a simple tool for the production of invoices; Notes Portfolio, which supports payment by promissory notes as preferred in some countries; Debt Collection, which gives electronic integration with external debt collection agencies and Remittance, which supports automated repayment to customers of deposits and overpayments.

Cashbook

Companies often have a separate cashbook/treasury function, which brings together all cashrelated processes. These processes include: bank reconciliation; status tracking for notes and cheques; handling the commissions associated with currency payments and forward purchasing of currencies; managing cash balances in various accounts to optimise interest earned and the distribution of this to cost centres and projects, and the management of loans.

The AGRESSO solution is not a separate module. Instead, the integrated nature of AGRESSO means that cashbook functionality is provided through various other system modules.

Benefits

- The option to manage cash through a single bank account enables the interest earned to be maximised and charges minimised, whilst at the same time giving full visibility of the cash position of each branch
- Departmental performance can be monitored, concerning, for example, the time taken to cash cheques, or the rate of dishonoured payments
- Remittance processes maximise settlement discount and optimise cash flow
- Multicurrency features allow trading in preferred currencies, whether local currency, trading partner's currency, or euro
- Loans functionality provides a clear picture of finances and supports refinancing decisions in order to improve cash flow, interest earned/paid and net asset position
- Automated nature of the cashrelated modules minimises the administrative time taken, thereby freeing time for more value added activities

The Bank Reconciliation module supports the automatic reconciliation of cash and bank balances with bank statements. This again eliminates the need for much manual processing and frees up time while ensuring full control is maintained

Fixed Assets

The management of the fixed assets of an organisation throughout their complete lifecycle, from purchase, through their use, maintenance and disposal, involves establishing their value (and maybe revaluing them), so they can be written off over time in line with relevant accounting rules. A fixed asset system must be able to support the auditing of assets, both in terms of the value and also their physical existence. The information is required for planning and applies to all assets, whether they are plant items, computer equipment, buildings or anything else.

The AGRESSO solution includes an integrated Fixed Assets module.

Benefits

- Ability to track the location of physical assets reduces the likelihood of losses
- Automated depreciation eliminates the need for manual journals and spreadsheet calculations
- Support for capital projects gives improved control even before the asset is capitalised
- Unlimited analysis and user definable data fields, together with linked external documents, give a complete asset record
- Powerful, flexible enquiries highlight key information for asset management, such as a schedule of vehicles requiring servicing

Loans and savings



“ Not only did AGRASSO offer us the flexible management information tools we required at the point of implementation, but it provides a system which we can adapt to our changing requirements whether internal reorganisation, handling the euro, or providing web-based access to our project data.”

John Bennett, Implementation Project Manager, **Eutech Engineering Solutions Ltd.**

An organisation with loans and reserves needs the ability to anticipate effects on liquidity and to support refinancing decisions. This requirement is usually met through the use of spreadsheets, which may be complex, and any resulting transactions are typically carried out with manual processing.

The AGRASSO solution provides two modules that support the management of both loans and savings of investments. The first, a human resources module, is called Employee Loans and Savings. This supports loans made to employees or employee savings schemes where deductions are made from the employee`s pay. The second module, from the Financials suite, called Loan Management, is designed for commercial loans and investments to third parties. Both modules are integrated with other relevant AGRASSO Office modules, including Payroll, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable and General Ledger.

Benefits

- Provides a clear picture of the finances of an organisation
- Simulation facilities provide flexibility and support liquidity and refinancing decisions, for example, anticipating the effect of interest rate changes or changes to the term of the loan
- The automated nature of the modules, including payment of instalments, accrual of interest and generation of invoices to third parties, minimises administrative time required
- The predefined nature of the modules eliminates the need to define complex formulae in spreadsheets

Achieving your business goals

To ensure successful implementation Agresso has developed AIM, the AGRESSO Implementation Methodology. This is based on current implementation models applied across all the AGRESSO sites to produce a worldwide standard. AIM is designed to improve the smooth running of every stage from system selection to sign off, bringing a structured set of processes to the implementation of AGRESSO. The customer is provided with a framework to plan, monitor and manage their part in the process and to improve communication between the AGRESSO implementation team and the customer. All Agresso value added services, including consulting, training and support are an integral part of this methodology. This structured approach has proved successful in ensuring that Agresso's customer business goals are achieved on time and within budget.