



FINANCIAL SERVICES

CASE STUDY: PRIVATE INVESTMENT FIRM ORGANISES ITS OWN FINANCES

ACROPOLIS
CAPITAL GROUP

Dataflow provides Acropolis Capital Partners with a complete overview of their international investment portfolio.

Established in 1980, Acropolis Capital is a private, independent firm specialising in hedge fund investment management. It is affiliated with a family office which has been a dynamic investor in global alternative assets for over 25 years. Acropolis Capital and its affiliated family office manage assets of over \$300 million in total, a substantial portion of which is allocated to hedge funds.

Acropolis Capital has extensive expertise investing in hedge funds and exclusively manages the hedge fund investments of its affiliated family office, as well as a select group of other clients, via its two main funds of hedge fund offerings: Acropolis Multi-Strategy Fund and Acropolis Multi-Strategy Plus Fund.

In 2001, Acropolis was using an accounting system based entirely on Excel spreadsheets and cashbook packages. However, this made keeping track of financial records for the many different investments handled by the company unwieldy and time-consuming. Acropolis Capital needed one accounting system which would allow for clear and coherent control over all the varied financial transactions for their numerous business interests.

MANAGING MULTIPLE CURRENCIES IS MADE EASY WITH DATAFLOW FINANCIALS

Acropolis decided to upgrade to an accounting software system which would allow for better information sharing and which would easily handle the specific requirements of dealing in multiple currencies. Dataflow was chosen above the other systems looked at for several reasons, according to Acropolis Capital.

“DATAFLOW WAS ONE OF THE FEW SYSTEMS AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET WHICH WAS ABLE TO HANDLE ALL OUR TRANSACTIONS IN MULTIPLE CURRENCIES”

VINOD VAGHADIA, FINANCE DIRECTOR,
ACROPOLIS CAPITAL

Vinod continues: “We have a number of different types of businesses operating in different currencies, the system we chose needed to be able to cope with multi-currency accounting, as well as multiple-based accounting, easily and be able to generate free-format reporting.

Dataflow allows for companies to be assigned their own specific base currency, enabling the production of statutory and local information in the currency of choice. The application of additional base currencies can be further extended where the members of a group of companies operate in different national currencies. Assignment of a company to a specific base currency means the user interface is suited to each national operation.

Dataflow maintains parallel records of transactions and balances across all base currencies and all reports can be produced on demand in any number of base currencies.

Powerful revaluation options support the maintenance of currency books of account and automatically generate postings for exchange differences.

Implementation of Dataflow is straightforward, allowing the change-over from Excel spreadsheets and cashbooks to the integrated accounting system to progress with ease.

“WE WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED AT THE WAY DATAFLOW HANDLED OUR SPECIALISED COMPANY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. WE ALSO HAVE SOME BESPOKE ACCOUNTING PRACTICES THAT WERE BUILT INTO THE SYSTEM WITH EASE.”

SHARING INFORMATION IS NOW A SIMPLE PROCESS

All the company's accounting activity is now handled by dataflow Financials, including transactions relating to hedge funds and individual investment management companies. The system is also used extensively to perform consolidations for analysis, with the added benefit that dataflow allows for any combination of investment businesses to be combined for reporting purposes.

Acropolis also use Dataflow for final reporting, providing information to outside investors. Reports are distributed both internally in the London office and overseas, with London-based staff accessing dataflow through their internal network.

THE BENEFITS OF DATAFLOW FINANCIALS ARE CLEAR NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

Implementing Dataflow has helped Acropolis Capital Partners to increase efficiencies by bringing together their financial records in a single, accessible location.

“IMPLEMENTING DATAFLOW HAS MADE IT MUCH EASIER TO SHARE INFORMATION”.

Acropolis have also benefited from the added security and controls the dataflow system provides.

The dataflow system has adapted alongside the company, as the emphasis within the business has moved from property to become more involved in investments – the hedge fund investments were set up just four years ago, for example.

The company employs 12 staff based at one main office in London, five of whom are dataflow Financials users. Acropolis are particularly interested in the potential of web-based access for dataflow:

“It would be very useful for us to have web-based access to dataflow Financials, as we have staff who travel a lot, and it would be helpful for them to be able to access the system remotely”, notes Vinod.

Dataflow has provided Acropolis Capital partners with solid support throughout the many changes the company has experienced in the past five years. Vinod concludes: “We find the dataflow Financials system very robust, and

Dataflow are very helpful in dealing with any questions we might have about our use of the system.”

Darius Mogtader, Managing Director of Dataflow UK, comments, “Acropolis are a very forward thinking company and take a great interest in the enhancements that are available to our users free of charge. I am sure they will be one of the first companies to take up the web-based access when it becomes available”.

Dataflow's Management Systems are already helping many companies to realise their true growth potential through streamlining their business processes.

If you would like further information, please contact us on 0845 456 1020.

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