

CASE STUDY #1: INVOICE PROCESSING AUTOMATION

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Client: Sheffield-based precision engineering manufacturer

Industry: Metal fabrication & machining

Company Size: 52 employees, £9.2M annual turnover

Project Duration: 6 weeks

Investment: £18,500

THE CHALLENGE

A Sheffield precision engineering firm was processing 180-220 supplier invoices weekly through entirely manual methods. Two administrative staff members dedicated approximately 32 hours per week to:

- Extracting invoice data from PDF emails
- Manual entry into ERP system
- Cross-referencing delivery notes
- Chasing missing information from suppliers
- Processing payment approvals

Key Pain Points:

- 32 hours/week manual processing time
 - 18% error rate causing payment delays and supplier relationship issues
 - Late payment fees averaging £420/month
 - Staff overtime during month-end close
 - No visibility into outstanding invoices
 - Annual labor cost: £38,400
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THE SOLUTION

Arka Global implemented an intelligent automation solution combining robotic process automation and document intelligence:

Phase 1: Document Processing (Week 1-2)

- Email monitoring captures invoices from 45+ suppliers automatically
- Intelligent document processing extracts key data fields (invoice number, amount, date, line items)
- Auto-classification by supplier and invoice type

Phase 2: ERP Integration (Week 3-4)

- Automated matching against purchase orders
- Three-way match: PO, goods receipt, invoice
- Auto-posting of approved invoices
- Exception queue for manual review (non-standard items)

Phase 3: Workflow Automation (Week 5-6)

- Automated approval routing based on amount thresholds
- Email notifications to approvers
- Payment scheduling integration
- Real-time dashboard showing processing status

Technology Approach:

- Enterprise-grade automation platform
 - Custom ERP connectors
 - Cloud-based document processing
 - Secure data handling and encryption
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THE RESULTS

Time Savings:

- Manual processing: 32 hours/week → 3.5 hours/week
- 89% reduction in processing time
- Staff redeployed to supplier relationship management and strategic procurement

Accuracy Improvements:

- Error rate: 18% → 0.8%
- Late payment fees eliminated: £5,040/year saved
- Payment disputes reduced by 94%

Operational Benefits:

- Month-end close reduced from 4 days to 1.5 days
- Real-time invoice visibility for management
- Improved supplier relationships through prompt payment
- Staff morale improvement (elimination of repetitive work)

Client Testimonial: *"The automation has transformed our accounts payable process. What used to take our team days now happens automatically. We're paying suppliers faster and*

our staff are focused on value-added activities instead of data entry."

- Richard, Finance Director