



AutoFORM LaserNet Invoice, Factura & Rechnung Elekta Save in Excess of £15,000 pa in Paper Alone

Overview

■ Industry

Advanced Medical Technology

■ Business Solution

Document creation and world wide distribution of all system generated output via print, email and fax.

■ Architecture & Software

IBM AS/400
Windows Server
Geac System21
Fourth Shift
Matrix 1
Lotus Notes
AutoFORM LaserNet
AutoFORM Fax and Email
HP and Zebra Printers

■ Key Business Benefits

£15,000pa saving on pre-printed stationery alone, plus added financial benefits from distributing documents via the network, email & fax.

Multiple language and variable content automatically assembled according to the reader.

All documentation given a company enhancing makeover. Incorporation of barcodes has enabled a number of operational efficiencies leading to new customer service initiatives such as overnight/same day delivery of replacement parts.



UK based company Elekta Oncology Systems Ltd, (once part of the Philips Group), is a world leader in the development, manufacture and marketing of radiation therapy equipment for the treatment of cancer. With divisions in Europe, USA and the Far East, Elekta's are using AutoFORM to reduce the cost while improving the presentation of multiple language business forms generated via their JBA (now Geac) System21 (AS/400 platform) software.

Graham Thompson, IT manager, commented that it was the previous 'highly satisfactory' performance of the AutoFORM software within the Philips Group that first prompted him to select AutoFORM for Elekta early in 1997. "The technology was already tried & tested and known to work. But just as important than the product itself is the efficiency and attitude of the people you will be dealing with. Throughout my dealings with AutoFORM's developers, EFS Technology, they have proved to be efficient, flexible, supportive and innovative. EFS have gone out of their way to ensure that we have the right tools to ensure that Elekta's documents not only reflect our attention to quality, but are produced & transmitted in the most cost effective way.

Rapid Application Development

Given the complexity of Elekta documentation and a tight timetable, Elekta decided to contract EFS to take care of the initial print and distribution set up, with Elekta's own team taking over at a later date. "The Beta development period proved to be a valuable training exercise: far more useful than a formal course," said Thompson. "EFS supplied a thorough grounding in the technology and any remaining queries have been quickly answered by using the support helpline."

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**Graham Thompson
IS Consultant Elekta**

Output & Document Management

Lower Costs. Productivity & Efficiency Gains

Armed with AutoFORM, Elekta have been able to tackle a number of major international output & document management projects with confidence, leading to a number of efficiency and productivity improvements:

Reduced Print Costs While Improving Document Appearance

- **£15,000pa cost reduction** with the elimination of pre-printed stationery, while enabling 150 document template variations for each of their European, USA and Far East offices. AutoFORM arranges for the logo, text box outlines and other design elements to be added to the System21 output, so documents can be printed onto inexpensive plain paper.
- Via AutoFORM we have been able to give all our documentation a complete makeover. Font variations, highlighting, shading, logos, print emphasis, illustrations, and even wholesale re-arrangements of data fields, can all be quickly and simply arranged using AutoFORM. System21 data is simply dragged & dropped into place, and AutoFORM enables us to design templates with ease.
- AutoFORM provides a single set of tools that enable Elekta to print barcodes via thermal label printers as well as incorporating them into laser printed picking lists and other warehouse documents. This has brought tremendous operational improvements and is one of the factors that enables Elekta to offer an overnight/same day delivery of replacement parts.
- The ability to print documents in different languages & currencies, with support for all European & Asian languages (double byte). Number separators can also be formatted to individual country standards.
- AutoFORM's powerful, but easy to use repagination facilities automatically calculates the position of the page breaks according to the volume of data. In this way output is automatically mapped into a front page, continuation pages and a final page. The result is a typical 50% reduction in the number of printed pages, with a corresponding reduction of print and paper costs.
- Using AutoFORM ODBC database links, Elekta translate short form product and personnel names into full text descriptions, helping the reader to interpret the information at a glance, which avoids operator errors and increases productivity.

Delivered to Where They are Needed by Email or Network

- Documents printed where they are needed via each offices existing printers. Label formats can also be sent direct to thermal printers. Laborious report bursting, document distribution on foot, photocopying and manual faxing tasks are dispensed with, leading to corresponding gains in efficiency and productivity.
- Documents are also automatically routed by email, totally eliminating in house handling and postal charges, while ensuring that they can be actioned immediately.

Document Appearance Invites Customer Confidence

According to Thompson: "Far outweighing the financial benefits is the way that AutoFORM improves our document image. Order acknowledgements, invoices and other business communications are our most frequently seen 'company representative' and as such perform an important sales roles for the company. Clean, clearly presented laser printed forms evokes confidence in the quality of our lifesaving products.

Automatically Assembles Content According to the Reader

The improvement of our document appearance and distribution has been achieved without the expense and business disruption normally associated with output programming. "AutoFORM's windows based, GUI interface document design, mapping and intelligent distribution tools are a joy to use. We can achieve great results in a fraction of the time and cost associated with traditional coded programming" Thompson added.

An impressive feature of the AutoFORM solution is the way it assembles the content of the document to suit the reader. When a print request is made from any of our worldwide System21 users, the output is directed using TCP/IP to the central AutoFORM Server for processing. AutoFORM interrogates the data stream, collecting triggers such as the customer name or geographical code to select the appropriate language template. Having taken care of the language, the data content can also be used to invoke other specific features. For example, customer specific discounts & payment terms, the full name of their account manager, product handling instructions, or simply the regional address. We also use it to incorporate a distributors own barcode formatting. Automatically inserting content, saves time but more importantly removes the potential for operator error.

EFS Technology are Efficient, Flexible and Supportive

Adding his final words Thompson concluded: "AutoFORM is an impressive product and should be considered for managing output from any system. It's a robust and flexible solution well designed for use in any LAN/WAN environment."

Maybe more important than the product itself is the efficiency and attitude of the people you will be dealing with. EFS have certainly proved to be efficient, flexible, supportive and innovative through this implementation and roll out process. I highly recommend them"

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**Graham Thompson
IS Consultant Elekta Oncology**

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