

## Multi-Company Services

Traditional business models are continuing to adapt to meet the new approaches and needs of diverse marketplaces. To compete with the heavyweight conglomerates, we are seeing small and mid-sized companies make increased use of vertical integration within their industry. Similarly, the banding together of separate companies to minimise common costs, maximise buying power and reach more customers with a proven formula for success increases the ability of a small business to compete in the mass-market world we live in today.

Buying group and shared services models are therefore becoming a more and more attractive approach to enable survival and growth. Such a model can be made viable, and indeed deliver its true potential, through the application of the right technology. This provides the maximum benefit and efficiencies in the existing business and flexibility for future expansion.

### MCS Suite: Automating Shared Services and Buying

Inter Store Manager (MCS suite) from Precise Business Solutions is a comprehensive suite of .NET developed, web based applications and services that enables seamless, automated transaction generation and data synchronisation in a multi-company Epicor Enterprise environment.

MCS suite components provide the processes and interfaces for managing the integration and synchronisation across multi-company structures employed by groups that actually consist of multiple separate but related legal entities represented as multiple Epicor company databases. The solution is designed to automate the distribution of common data elements used by the companies in the group, and creation of financial transactions across company boundaries resulting from inter-company trading and centralised administration service fees.

Being a completely web-based application, MCS suite provides both corporate services/head office staff and the management of each individual company with a range of services and information without requiring extensive IT management overhead.

### Automated Configuration Management and Data Synchronisation

MCS suite automatically synchronises common financial and inventory/distribution settings and data elements across all the companies in your shared services/centralised management structure. This allows a corporate office to maintain this data once from a single point of entry, and then have it automatically replicated to the associated company databases and, where appropriate, then automatically out to your retail network.

Pricing and cost data across your supply chain and inventory information is maintained centrally. As a first step, MCS suite provides an interface for electronically uploading recommended sell prices provided by your suppliers into the Purchasing 'Vendor Quotes' area. Furthermore, changes to *your* sell prices — as a result of you configuring Epicor to auto-maintain margins, or perhaps related to a catalogue or promotion your group is running— are distributed from that central point. Local store owners/managers can then be given the option to review, accept, amend or ignore your pricing suggestions.

### Inter-Store/Inter-Company Transaction Processing

In a multi-store group or franchise, or corporate structure with integrated supply chains, there are often a myriad of different transactions that occur across company boundaries. MCS suite supplements the existing Epicor inter-co journal capabilities by providing a series of cross-company transaction automation processes for sales orders, purchasing, payables and receivables, inventory movements and administration services. This can save hundreds of hours a year for managers and admin staff across your group, and markedly improve the accuracy and timeliness of such transactions.

### Multi-Location/Company Replenishment Functionality

Epicor's Inventory module provides an ability to perform detailed stock replenishment capabilities within a given company's warehouses and store locations. MCS suite extends this concept to take in a true multi-company perspective—calculating required stock purchases across all or selected companies in your group to maximise the benefits of your discounts and service offered by your suppliers. Purchases can be grouped into a central buying location/warehouse, on a regional basis or even store by store. MCS suite creates the PO's you authorise directly back into each Epicor company database as required.

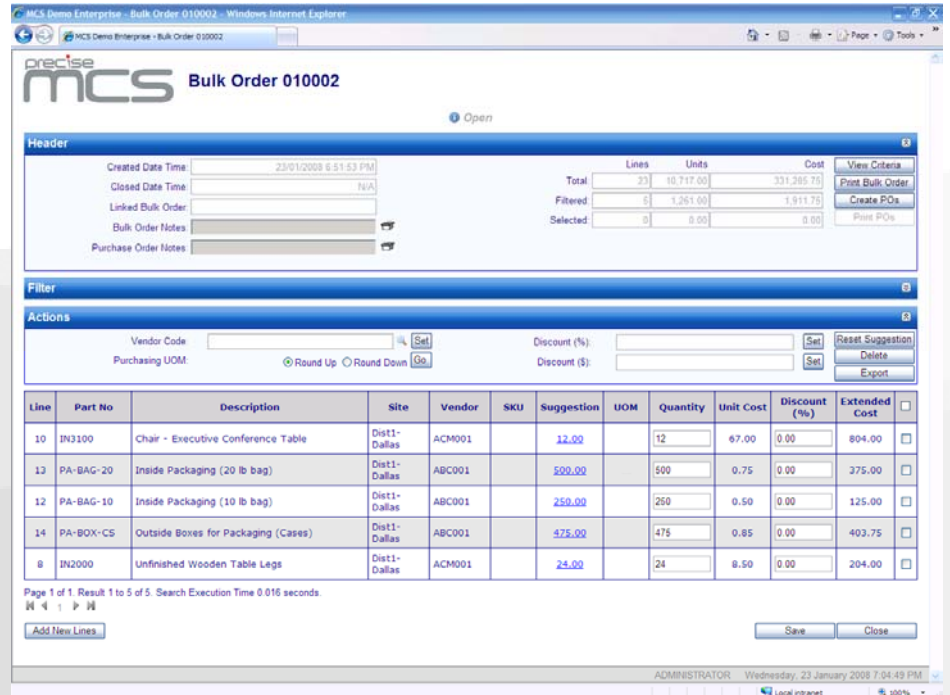
For regional purchases, where it may be convenient to have a delivery dispatched to a single location in your group and from there you distribute the order to the surrounding stores/locations, MCS suite automatically generates inter-store transfer orders (and the resulting inter-company sales orders/purchase orders).

### Stock Locator

Epicor's POS and Distribution suite already allows you to easily enquire on stock availability within a company. MCS suite provides a new service for searching out available inventory right across your group's network of stores/locations—in other words, across company boundaries and physical databases.

### Label Printing

As a further extension of Epicor's Inventory module, MCS suite provides an easy to use interface for remotely located users to rapidly produce new or updated labels (based on user-defined templates). This could be done from a mobile PDA device for example from a shop floor, to produce say item or shelf labels on demand. Used in conjunction with the eReq requisition and purchasing management module, labels can also be configured to print automatically on receipt of nominated items.



### EDI Interfaces to Suppliers

MCS suite introduces a native EDI communications capability that can be configured for your major suppliers. The EDI interface supports sending of PO's to and monitoring for PO confirmations back from the supplier.

### Simplify Period End Close Across Companies

As well as providing a centralised data management and multi-company processing platform, MCS suite includes a simple Period End Close form to allow you to selectively close the different modules and periods across the group of company databases you control.

## DETAILED FEATURES

## Comprehensive Integration with Epicor Enterprise

- On-line, direct creation of transactions and editing of centralised data in the Financials and Distribution database, incorporating the business rules and settings of your Enterprise system
- When used with Epicor Point of Sale, new and updated inventory, pricing and customer data is automatically distributed to remote stores/locations
- Validation of GL accounts, customers, vendors, inventory items, posting codes, etc
- Creates Sales Orders, Purchase Orders, AP Vouchers and Payments, AR Invoices and Receipts to represent all the inter-company balancing, trading and recharging that otherwise would require extensive manual data entry, with huge potential benefits in increased efficiency and accuracy
- “Store” and “Central” services oriented respectively to remotely located and head office staff

## Latest Technology, Low Impact on IT Resources

- Internet browser-based interface
- Zero client footprint—no installation
- Optimised for performance over the internet or LAN/WAN links

## Built for Multi-company and Shared Services Models

- Automate synchronisation of common master data elements (GL Chart, Customers, Vendors, Items, Vendor Quotes, Posting Codes, etc.) from Epicor Financials and Distribution across multiple entities
- Generate transactions for purchases, orders, stock shipments, invoices, payments and recharges across company boundaries
- Balancing transactions created automatically for inter-company invoices/vouchers and payments/receipts

## User Friendly

- Simple, web browser-based user interface
- Comprehensive searches with multiple criteria and wildcards
- Fast on-line validation of data and transaction creation

## Manage Group Purchasing

- Run inventory replenishment calculations over all or selected company databases, generating PO's in the individual companies as required
- Take advantage of supplier discounts and/or centralised deliveries
- Determine if stock can be sourced internally from excess stock available at other stores/companies, or if some or all needs to be procured from external suppliers
- Generate transfers and demand on central (real or virtual) warehouses automatically

## Simplified System Administration

- Manage settings and codes from a 'Master' Company and MCS suite will distribute your changes across all the nominated companies in your group
- Define “inter-company” debtor and creditor codes for each of the companies
- Manage open periods for financial modules across all companies from a single interface
- MCS suite Central for Head Office admin staff, MCS suite Branch for remote company/store admin

## Locate Stock With Ease

- Powerful enquiry screens searching out across the inventory balance data in each company or in a particular company
- Search for excess stock only, or where there are already inbound replenishment orders

## Manage Pricing Centrally, Decide Locally

- Import vendor price lists and updated recommended sell prices
- Distribute new pricing and allow each company/store to review, accept, edit or ignore selectively
- Calculate and maintain pricing based on preset margins/GP's

## Utilise EDI Links to Strategic Suppliers

- MCS suite incorporates the ability to send finalised PO's to your major suppliers via their EDI interfaces, and monitor for confirmation of the order to be returned
- Use our professional services to configure for the specifics of each different vendor's requirements

## Technology for Today and Tomorrow

- Built using the very latest generation Microsoft .NET Framework development tools
- 100% thin, browser-based client requires no installation or on-going maintenance for remote sites and local users
- BackOffice Integration Layer of .NET services with NO customisation to your existing Epicor Financials and Distribution solution

## Streamline Your Operations—Add Directly to the Bottom Line

- Drastically reduce manual processing and admin overhead for your Head Office team, and admin staff at remote companies/stores
- Improve accuracy and the speed with which financial and inventory updates are made across the group—you don't have to wait until after all the month end dust settles!
- Use better information to therefore make better decisions

Epicor Inter Store Manager can help make a significant positive impact on your operating performance and the service levels you offer the companies in your group. Put MCS suite to work today!!!