



MAS 200

CUSTOMER

University of California
at Los Angeles (UCLA)
Distribution Center

CORPORATE PROFILE

Headquarters

Los Angeles, California

Type of Business

Distribution operations for multi-campus
university

Number of Locations

One

SYSTEM PROFILE

Computer System

- IBM PC Compatibles
HP NetServer
- Microsoft NT Server

MAS 200 Modules in Operation

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Crystal Reports
- Custom Office
- General Ledger
- Import Master
- Inventory Management
- Purchase Order
- Sales Order

Master Developer

Enhancements in Use

- Custom EDI Processing
- FAU Billing & Tracking

MAS 200 Earns Straight A's at UCLA for Data Management

As one of the nation's top 10 research universities, UCLA prides itself on attracting the best and the brightest students and faculty. Graduates have included renowned astronauts, healers, creators, scientists, statesmen, Olympians, Oscar winners and Nobel Laureates.

Such a mammoth organization has a complicated procurement process. So UCLA maintains a dedicated Distribution Center for acquiring goods and services. The Distribution Center is a service unit for more than 10,000 university departments and handles up to \$10 million in commodities and services per year from campus-related forms to chemicals for research.

Outdated System Failing

The Distribution Center was running its operations with an outdated mid-range IBM system. It was not Y2K compliant, demanded three full-time programmer/analysts, and was very costly to maintain. When the group was restructured and plans were made to relocate to smaller quarters, a key action item was migrating



to a new system — hopefully one that would take up less space, handle all management and accounting functions, and require little or no staffing.

Ismael Haro, programmer/analyst, took on the task of finding a new accounting system. He wanted it all: an off-the-shelf application that had a cleaner user interface and push-button efficiency, was fast and easy to install, and could be easily customized. MAS 200 was the clear winner.

Graduating to a Smarter System

After selecting MAS 200, Haro had his new system up in less than a month. "With

CHALLENGE

Replace failing, high-maintenance system with a smarter system that can handle the complex business management and accounting functions of a multi-million dollar distribution center.

SOLUTION

MAS 200 financial and distribution modules.

RESULTS

Annual savings of over \$100,000; Streamlined efficiency from-end to-end; A "system that practically runs itself"; Extensive customization and reporting capabilities.

“We’ve saved more than \$100,000 a year. That’s a lot for a non-profit group like ours, whose goal is not revenue but service — so our customers can continue their world-class teaching and research.”

*Ismael Haro
Programmer/Analyst
UCLA Distribution Center*

the help of my reseller, we tailored the package to UCLA’s environment,” he said.

The new MAS 200 system interfaces with UCLA’s mainframe to receive and input financial information. It imports and exports data files, recharges individual customer units, handles recurring orders for rentals, and bills for express package deliveries. Best of all, according to Haro, is how the system practically runs itself.

Customization was essential given UCLA’s diverse departmental needs. For instance, research groups receive specialized funding, and purchases against grants must be tracked carefully. If a lab orders a cylinder of oxygen, the Distribution Center must not only sell the gas contained in the tank, but also rent the tank itself and record its location until returned. A rental might be for days or years, depending on the department involved, and tracking had previously been a huge headache for the group. Now MAS 200 manages the entire cylinder tracking process.

Another tricky component involved working with express delivery vendors like Federal Express and UPS. Using electronic data interchange (EDI), the Distribution Center receives data from its service providers, inputs it to MAS 200, and bills the appropriate department, all without having to re-key information. The center’s customers like this feature, as it streamlines package delivery, and also gives them

accurate information for bookkeeping.

“I can sleep at night now,” says Haro. “Before, I’d worry about whether the system would work. And we didn’t have the resources to go in and check every line of code.

MAS 200 brought us into the new millennium with flying colors and everything’s going smoothly. What a relief!”

Haro’s group is now producing many more reports than before, thanks to MAS 200’s Crystal Reports. “We can give monthly summary statements to our customers, and put pertinent data online for them,” he explains. “This eliminates a lot of customer calls. Now they can just go to the intranet and get the account info they need.”

He praises his reseller for all his support. “I really have to tip my hat to him,” Haro said. “Every time I needed him, he was there. We pulled this whole migration off together. That’s really something, given the complexity and size of our operation.”

Bottom-line savings have been a dramatic benefit of the move to MAS 200. “We’ve saved more than \$100,000 a year,” Haro says. “That’s a lot of money for a non-profit group like ours, where our goal is not to bring in revenue but rather to be of service — so our customers can continue their world-class teaching and research.”



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