Optimising suppliers, minimizing costs: SAS enhances SRM solution

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Latest version of SAS(r) SRM to include portfolio optimisation

SAS, the leader in business intelligence, has announced plans to enhance its supplier intelligence solution, SAS(r) Supplier Relationship Management (SRM). Release 2.3, available next quarter, will include powerful new optimisation technology to let companies fine-tune their supplier portfolio, as well as data-input technology to ease performance monitoring of suppliers. The new version will help businesses maximise supplier performance, quality and other key business goals while minimising supply chain costs and risks.

"Purchasing becomes a major source of cost savings when companies understand their suppliers," said Christine Kelly, SAS' global strategist for SRM. "With SRM Portfolio Optimisation, these companies will know which suppliers to work with in the future to ensure they meet strategic objectives. The new release of SAS SRM will deliver bigger returns than ever before."

These new components expand the SRM solution and deliver more flexibility in optimisation choices through its template-driven interface. Through SAS' award-winning data warehousing, companies can gather purchasing and procurement data from across the organisation and organise it in a procurement data warehouse. The solution can draw procurement data from multiple enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, purchasing card and other financial data, data on supplier quality and delivery, and external financial and supplier data from government and other sources.

By analysing the warehoused data, companies gain insights into key business issues. With advanced SAS analytics in the optimisation engine, companies can optimise their portfolio based on goals to decrease costs, reduce the number of suppliers, and maximise negotiation leverage, for example, while meeting constraints such as the need for balancing small business purchases and meeting quality levels.

Many companies store data about supplier performance in multiple locations. In some cases, it resides in ERP systems while in other cases, supplier performance or quality data for individual commodities or suppliers is in Excel spreadsheets, files of a regional purchasing group, or even in the memory of a commodity manager.

SRM Data Input enables collaboration and sharing of non-operational information that impacts the sourcing process, facilitating purchasing related forecasting and performance monitoring. The previously uncollected data can be consolidated in the SRM data warehouse for analysis. SAS' SRM Scorecard delivers the analytic results to commodity managers, purchasing analysts and chief procurement officers so they can monitor and understand supplier performance to improve planning and decision-making.

About SAS:
SAS is the market leader in providing a new generation of business intelligence software and services that create true enterprise intelligence. SAS solutions are used at more than 38,000 sites - including 99 of the top 100 businesses on the Fortune 500 - to develop more profitable relationships with customers and suppliers; to enable better, more accurate and informed decisions; and to drive organisations

forward. SAS is the only vendor that completely integrates leading data warehousing, analytics and traditional BI applications to create intelligence from massive amounts of data. For 25 years, SAS has been giving customers around the world The Power to Know(tm).

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