

Version One Advises the Importance of Document Management Following Findings that Late Payments to SMEs is up 40%

Submitted by: V1 Ltd
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Document management (<http://www.versionone.co.uk>) and imaging company, Version One (www.versionone.co.uk), is stressing the importance of document management technology in helping to prevent overdue payments from customers. Research by Bacs Payment Schemes Limited (Bacs) has found that small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) are now owed £25.9 billion after overdue payments rocked by 40% in 2008, up from £18.6 billion in 2007.

With overdue payments to SMEs increasing so significantly, Version One (<http://www.versionone.co.uk>) highlights the importance of the electronic delivery (<http://www.versionone.co.uk/solutions/automated-electronic-document-delivery.php>), storage and retrieval of financial documents, especially invoices, statements and proof of deliveries (PODs), in order to receive customer payments in a timelier manner.

Lynne Munns, General Manager of Version One says, "It is hardly surprising that during tough economic times, organisations are delaying payments to suppliers for as long as possible. However, some suppliers are not doing themselves any favours by having inefficient, manually-intensive credit control processes in place. If organisations and especially SMEs are going to survive the downturn, getting cash in as quickly as possible with the help of the latest document management systems (<http://www.versionone.co.uk>) is crucial."

A frequent reason given by customers for not paying invoices on time is that they haven't received the POD and/or the invoice. In fact, it can sometimes take weeks before a mislaid POD is finally located and a sales invoice can be raised. By scanning PODs (<http://www.versionone.co.uk/solutions/pod-scanning-retrieval.php>) and electronically delivering (<http://www.versionone.co.uk/solutions/automated-electronic-document-delivery.php>) them to the customer with the corresponding sales invoice, not only are they received a day or two sooner than if they'd been posted, the customer cannot use the excuse that they haven't received the invoice to delay payment.

With electronic document management (<http://www.versionone.us>), the time credit controllers spend pushing paperwork is also eliminated. By electronically delivering invoices, statements and PODs and having instant desktop access to all these documents, credit controllers no longer spend time posting documents, making copies of sales invoices and digging out customers' original orders and PODs, allowing them to focus on actively chasing payments.

Munns adds, "With the Bacs research identifying that UK SMEs are currently disappearing at a rate of 86 each day, urgent action is needed. SMEs need to carry-out a healthcheck of their credit control processes to ensure that they are operating as efficiently as possible, are electronically invoicing customers and are not writing off bad-debts due to lost PODs. Although organisations cannot control the effects of the economic downturn, improving cash collection processes is certainly within their power. If this area of the business is running inefficiently, it could result in their collapse."

-ENDS-

For further information about the Bacs research, see:

<http://www.bacs.co.uk/BACS/Press/Press+releases/2009/Late+payments+to+SMEs+leap+40+per+cent+to+£26+billion+03-03>

About Version One www.versionone.co.uk

Version One Ltd is the author of electronic document management and imaging software. These solutions enable the automated electronic storage, retrieval, management, authorisation and delivery of business documents such as invoices, purchase orders and statements. This 'paperless office' technology is seamlessly integrated into all major ERP and accounting systems and with a typical ROI of less than six months, Version One's solutions are enabling thousands of organisations to save dramatic amounts of time and money.

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