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Technology Enterprise Software

Prison service slashes accounts payable costs with automation

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Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) has adopted an automated invoice processing system to slash costs.

HMPS went to Brainware for its accounts payable A/P-distiller. The HMPS Shared Service Centre in Newport was created in 2005 to handle finance, HR, and procurement activities for the prison [system](#).

Shared Service managers will apply Brainware technology for [OCR \(optical character recognition\)](#) and extraction of line-item [data](#) from up to 3,000 invoices received daily from HMPS' diverse supplier base.

To achieve maximum [efficiency](#) in its accounts payable processes, HMPS is co-ordinating its implementation of A/P-distiller with improvements in its overall invoice handling, removing procedural obstacles to invoice approval and payment.

A/P-distiller will augment these improved processes through high-volume line-item extraction and verification, automating the matching of invoice data against purchase orders.

Scheduled for production use by year's end, the AP system is expected to generate per-annum savings of around £250,000 by December 2008, and double that amount as the system is applied to other [government](#) departments.

"To automate invoice payments throughout the HMPS system, we needed a product with an OCR capability to handle huge variations in paper-based invoices, and which could accurately extract and export needed data into our [Oracle ERP system](#)," said Steve Hodgson, HMPS head of shared services.



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