

eCMS Connect for Comdata



“Outdated manual processes used to cost our organization precious time and money. We knew we could save with a virtual payment system, but had no idea the benefits of our partnership with Comdata and Computer Guidance Corporation could be so plentiful with so little effort on our part.”

—Jeff Moryn, CIO at Parsons Electric

Company: Parsons Electric

Industry: Specialty Contractor

Construction Services: Parsons Electric delivers electrical services, electrical construction, technical services, technology solutions, engineered solutions and more from design, installation, and service and maintenance.

Corporate Headquarters: Minneapolis, MN

Client Information: Parsons Electric has grown to become one of North America’s premier electrical and technology providers. Since 1927, the organization has established a reputation of providing quality design, construction, service, and maintenance to customers. Parsons offers an extensive range of services through three dedicated divisions – Electrical Construction, Electrical Service, and Technologies – to ensure customers are met with expertise and care.

Software Applications:

eCMS, Account Payable, Accounts Receivable, General Ledger, Payroll, Job Cost, Order Processing, Purchasing, Time & Material Billing, Content Management, Workflows, Cognos and IDI Business Intelligence, Human Resources, HRSS, Equipment Accounting, Service Management, Project Collaborator, Archival, Mobile eCMS, and Mobile Forms

Technology Environment:

Enterprise / On-Premise

Challenges: Parsons Electric had historically fulfilled all of their vendor payments with checks and ACH. However, this check payment process demanded manual reconciliation, incremental printing and mailing expenses, as well as the potential to experience lost checks, late payments and check fraud. As part of an internal study, Parsons calculated they were spending an estimated \$4-5 per check, including the cost of the employee and the expenses associated production and postage.

In addition, there was no security against double charging or incorrect charges by the vendor, and Parsons had no bank or payment processing solution integrated with their ERP. And, although their existing ACH component was instant, trackable and easily reconcilable, there were still benefits that Parsons Electric knew they were leaving on the table.

Parsons Electric looked into a number of credit card payment solutions over the years, but never got the enrollment or participation they hoped. When the company’s desire to implement a truly successful automated expense management solution led them to Comdata, that’s when the potential benefits of a virtual payment system finally met their expectations.

Solutions: Comdata’s virtual payment system offered out-of-the-box integration with eCMS, Parsons Electric’s existing ERP from Computer Guidance Corporation. Beyond that, Comdata would lead the implementation process and maintain the program over time through extensive collaboration with Parsons’ vendors from enrollment to solution selection and delivery. *(continued on the next page)*

Results: Parsons Electric has experienced tremendous benefits since implementing their virtual payment system through Comdata and Computer Guidance Corporation eCMS.

- Automated reconciliation between Parsons Electric and their bank
- Seamless reconciliation between Parsons and Comdata
- Real-time data exchange between eCMS ERP and Comdata
- Decreased processing time for Parsons AP employees
- Eliminated the need to hire additional overhead for manual check processes
- Incremental rebates and rewards for similar AP work
- Reduced manual data entry and processing
- Heightened auditing processes
- Improved data accuracy and financial controls



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Solutions:

Today, eCMS Connect for Comdata provides Parsons Electric with a virtual payment system where vendors are paid by contractors with a Comdata payment card. These transactions are automatically recorded in eCMS, and tracked and reconciled on the company's financial statements. Payment terms for vendors are flexible and can be made more favorable as directed by Parsons.

Payment selection is the same for ACH or live checks, and any invoices to Comdata vendors generate an electronic file that is pushed to Comdata through an automatic FTP process. Invoices are marked as paid in eCMS open payables. As an added bonus, an invoice payable to Comdata for the amount of the check run is automatically posted to open payables, and reconciliation of Comdata vendor payments is completed without manual intervention during the send/receive process.

Through the integrated Comdata / eCMS system, Parsons Electric can analyze spending patterns for more informed business decisions. Vendors can be evaluated based on levels of payments and total spend per time range for transactions can be analyzed. The program offers unlimited business intelligence for Parsons, including categorizing spending and much more.

Comdata Multi-Card also offers Parsons Electric customizable controls and real-time management, including more than 180 business rules to adhere to corporate policies. Examples of these variables are:

- Restrict cards to fuel-only or fuel and maintenance
- Block locations, days and times
- Set daily, cycle and transactions limits
- Assign cards by driver or vehicle
- One-time overrides
- Instant notification on activity at merchants over a defined amount
- Report on attempts at prohibited merchants
- Cost to jobs, equipment and general ledger



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