

Avatar400 Supports Vintage Petroleum Goals Now and in the Future

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It was with the vision of becoming a significant independent oil and gas company that Vintage Petroleum purchased Avatar400 more than fifteen years ago. That vision has since become a reality and the Avatar accounting system has supported the company's growth and goals, just as expected. Vintage acquisitions have taken it beyond U.S. borders to South America, Canada and Yemen. Exploration efforts are also expanding, as the company sharpens its focus on finding new reserves and opportunities.

The Avatar400 Advantage

Vintage Petroleum Manager of Information Systems, Stephen Phelps, explains why Avatar400 has remained the accounting system of choice for the independent exploration and production company all these years. "Integration, ease of handling and minimal resources to run the packages are unique to Avatar," he says. Integration means, for instance, that when an owner or lease is established, the setup is propagated throughout the Avatar400 system. No third party is required to run it on a day-to-day basis. Likewise, the system's reporting structure is thorough enough that no outside programmers are needed to write new reports. Phelps relates, "At the time we installed the Avatar system, it was up and running and fully functional." Phelps' experience with a competitor

"By far, Avatar400 requires the least amount of intervention from outside sources to process accounting. For the most part, all functions can be run from the accounting department without the need for a fairly significant IT presence to run the product." – Stephen Phelps, Manager of Information Systems, Vintage Petroleum, Inc.

accounting solution, however, was quite different. The product operated on a batch system and was therefore not as interactive as Avatar400, he says. This other system had to be down at night so the accounting department could run reports, perform month-end close and other functions. Phelps, therefore, previously required up to 6 programmers and analysts to support the accounting system.

In contrast, Vintage Petroleum has only one IT technician to run Avatar400 and other network systems. Jobs are controlled by individual users of the system. "By far," says Phelps, "Avatar400

Company Profile

Name:

Vintage Petroleum, Inc.

Public Company:

NYSE: VPI

Address:

110 West Seventh Street
Tulsa, OK 74119

Telephone:

(918) 592-0101

Web site:

www.vintagepetroleum.com

Function:

Independent Exploration and
Production Company

Founded: 1983

Locations: 23

Wells Operated: 2500-3000

Employees: 700 worldwide

**Manager of Information
Systems:**

Stephen Phelps

Accounting Software: Avatar400

Avatar400 System Users: 70-80

Invoices Keyed: 6000 per month

**Accounts Payable Checks
Generated:**
3500 per month

Revenue Checks Generated:
8000-10,000 per month

(Case Study Cont.)

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Inventory Module

A recent enhancement to the Avatar400 system is proving to be an efficiency enhancing benefit for Vintage Petroleum. Avatar’s Inventory Module integrates into Avatar400 to provide a warehouse inventory package. The automated system replaces the manual journal entry function, giving Vintage better control of material transfers. Now, when inventory moves off a lease and back into the warehouse, for example, entries are automatically made into the accounting system. Users can run reports or make system inquiries to locate items and determine such factors as the value, condition, availability and description of inventory.

Solid Support

Because Vintage Petroleum does not retain an information systems group, the company relies on Avatar for any support issues that may arise. “A vendor retains its customer base with good support,” notes Phelps. The longevity of the Avatar-Vintage relationship speaks to the quality of Avatar support.

In addition to solving technology-related problems, Avatar stays abreast of new laws and governmental changes that might affect taxes, for instance. These changes are immediately implemented into the Avatar400 system. “We have always been pleased with the Avatar product, support staff and help desk,” says Phelps. “At the end of the day, you expect any software vendor to treat you like you’re the only customer they’ve got. Avatar does that.”

A Solution for the Future

A key advantage of Avatar400, according to Phelps, is the fact that it was developed for oil and gas accountants, by oil and gas accountants, and can be run on a day-to-day basis by accountants. “Avatar400 performs the function that this company needs to be able to operate today,” he says. “As we grow tomorrow, it can handle a larger

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amount of transactions with the same hardware. The fact that Avatar400 doesn’t require incremental support mechanisms around it to support growth, means we don’t have to incrementally spend money on the product to keep up with the corporation.” That’s critical to the acquisition-based company and gives Vintage Petroleum the assurance that it’s made the right accounting system decision for years to come.

