

## **proALPHA® - The Complete Solution for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

In today's global economy, timing is everything, and speed to market is essential. Only companies that can innovate and react swiftly to change will be able to fully exploit opportunities and compete successfully. proALPHA software provides you with the competitive edge and the agility you need to meet that demand.

### **A Secure Investment for the Future**

Investment in systems should be based on efficient and reliable business platforms that deliver the highest quality tools for development, deployment, integration and management; and, that is why proALPHA software uses the award winning products from Progress Software. The Progress environment delivers unparalleled flexibility and scalability so that you get the best out of existing technology, quickly adapt to new technology, easily connect with customers, suppliers and partners and rapidly adjust as market and business requirements change.

Progress delivers to proALPHA and its clients a fully integrated application development environment and framework, Internet-ready capabilities and robust application management. Progress supports major industry standards and a wide variety of user interfaces. Offering a complete solution and guaranteeing maximum interoperability, you are able to focus on your business not the technology.

proALPHA's modular architecture integrates all applications and data in your system in a single enterprise wide system. Managers have the critical, real-time data they need for making tactical and strategic decisions- right on their desktop.

### **The Benefits of Integrated Functions**

Since its formation in 1992, proALPHA's primary focus has been to address the specific needs of mid-sized manufacturing companies. This single-mindedness has resulted in proALPHA developing a standards based product, proALPHA, that can meet the requirements of every aspect of your business, from order-entry to production and accounting.

In developing the product, proALPHA placed equal importance on the two principal functions in a manufacturing environment: logistics and finance. The result is a fully integrated system that allows you to identify enterprise-wide flows of materials and costs. A change in your inventory, for example, results in a simultaneous change in both the Materials Management and Accounting modules. Customised programs can be seamlessly integrated, quickly released to users and retained during upgrades by the use of built-in User Exits.

proALPHA is committed to continuous development and improvement to maintain our position as a technology leader. Whilst we constantly review the newest trends and breakthroughs in software technology, as well as changes in the business and economic environments, our most important source for the application's development is the feedback we get from our customers through implementation projects and workshops.

## **Speed to Market: proALPHA<sup>®</sup> WorkflowAutomation**

As delivery schedules become increasingly tighter, business processes should be continuously rationalised and where possible automated. With WorkflowAutomation, proALPHA software can dramatically reduce your time to market by accelerating the completion of all contributing processes. The facility can automate a complete order processing cycle, from product sale through engineering, manufacture and assembly, to shipment.

WorkflowAutomation is based on event-driven process chains. This means that each operation, with its associated data, is automatically processed as it appears in its process chain and controlled by the occurrence of specific events. These events need not be internal; process chains can be controlled externally via enterprise-wide communications such as EDI or the Internet.

Each member of staff deals only with those events that relate directly to their area of responsibility and can fully concentrate on the tasks in hand, for example, by dealing with outstanding data requirements, planning changes or delayed or pending activities. Activities needed to complete tasks are started directly from his/her action monitor. The object-oriented approach of proALPHA software allows you to customise Workflow Automation to meet the specific requirements of your business.

## **Time Saving Tools for Managers**

Decision makers need real-time information that crosses all departmental boundaries and functions in an organisation; and, they need a way to get it at any time. The collection and collation of such data defines the classic Management Information System (MIS).

The proALPHA Information and Control System is arguably the most advanced MIS currently available to mid-sized manufacturing companies. Each user, through assigned privileges designed to prevent unauthorised access to data, can create and modify a wide variety of displays, lists, and reports and control precisely the level of detail and consolidation they require.

Extensive drill-down options allow a user to trace the progress or status of data, upwards and downwards through processing hierarchies. Higher-level rollups can easily be reconstructed and then validated down through subsequent reporting levels to original documents. For example, when a shipping document is displayed, a user can determine which order is being filled, if and when the customer was invoiced, check on charges included in the invoice and analyse each line item detail on the original invoice.

## **Production Planning and Control - CAD Online Coupling with CA-Link**

proALPHA CA-Link sets a new standard for business process integration. CA-Link integrates all major CAD systems online in proALPHA. This means that no matter which CAD environment the designer uses, he has complete access to data stored in the proALPHA database. Whenever a new drawing or engineering bill of material is filed, the company database is instantaneously updated. CA-Link eliminates data redundancy and the need for a service-intensive interface.

Significant additional benefits are achieved when CA-Link is deployed in conjunction with proALPHA's Workflow Automation. This ensures that every essential link in the process chain, such as the procurement manager, receives the information he needs as soon as an engineer releases a new BOM. Accurate product data along with the up to date drawings produced by the design engineer concerning current and future projects can be called up and displayed at **every** proALPHA workstation. This is why proALPHA is so much more capable than most Engineering Data Management (EDM) systems.

## **proALPHA<sup>®</sup> Document Management**

The proALPHA Document Management System provides extensive facilities over and above orthodox archiving functions. It is immaterial whether a paper record is scanned - such as supplier invoices, hand drawn sketches, or test certificates - or imported in digital form from MS Word or Excel. All documents are easily linked and administered together in proALPHA. As an example, sales support staff can "paperclip" the notes from a customer telephone call to a corresponding customer order. These notes are archived together with the order and both can be reviewed at any time.

## **proALPHA<sup>®</sup> and the Internet**

Commercial use of the Internet has experienced explosive growth over the recent past. Business-to Business (B2B) applications now make up the fastest growing sector of the Internet. We now know that a growing percentage of global business will be transacted over the World Wide Web. Any new enterprise software must support this shift to a Web platform. The interactive processing capability of proALPHA goes beyond simple search functions to support order entry and comprehensive e-commerce solutions. In selecting PROGRESS WebSpeed, part of the Progress product set, for these features proALPHA has used a proven, standards based tool and developed a high-performance Internet application with built in security features that guarantee the integrity of the data.

## **The winner is proALPHA<sup>®</sup>**

The highly regarded German journal IS Report recently conducted a comparative study of over 100 internationally available software applications containing functions critical to manufacturing, distribution, financial and cost accounting. The products were ranked not just on their overall performance and technical capabilities, but also on user-friendliness, upgrade potential and reporting options. The result, proALPHA beat the competition in all categories, and was the clear winner.