

eBPCS and the euro

eBPCS™ and the euro

euro issue

The new single European currency – the euro – became a reality on January 1, 1999. Over the next three years, the euro will replace the national currencies of all 11 member states participating in the Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). With the arrival of a single unifying currency across the continent, a new era of economic opportunity, efficiency and creativity is descending upon Europe. The euro has started to increase market competition and is encouraging the manufacturing industry to reduce operating costs. Europe already is witnessing the start of a drive toward promotional creativity in the advertising world.

With SSA's euro solutions, our clients will be ready. Companies with European operations that are participating in the first-wave entry into the EMU have the option to trade in both the euro and their country's currency from January 1, 1999. Although the euro is currently being used alongside the national currency, it will not be the sole European currency until January, 2002. The process of replacing national currencies with the euro is called the "transition period." This transition phase creates new requirements for business applications and brings about a challenge to software vendors as the method of managing currency changes.

During this dual-currency period, companies should be able to operate and report in both "trading currencies" as dictated by their local legislation, accounting practices, and business directives.

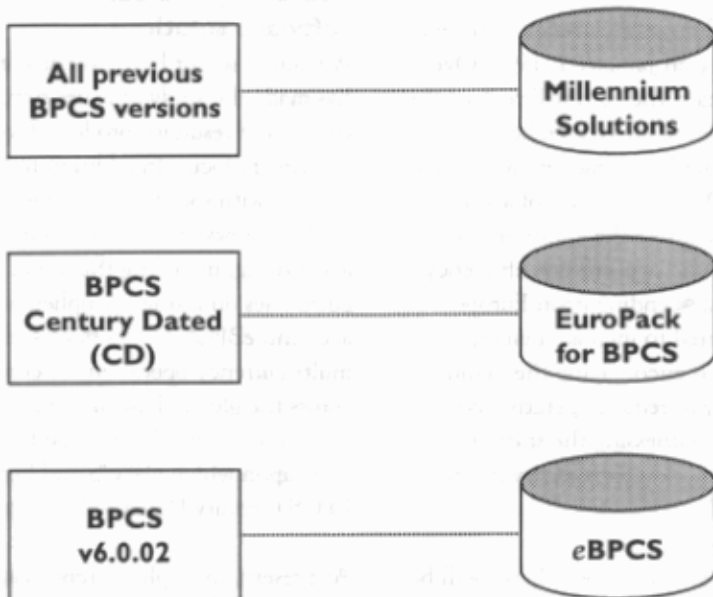
addressing the euro issue through software solutions

A team of senior business consultants at SSA has made the study of issues surrounding the euro – and resultant product development – its primary focus. In addition to being euro-enabled with specific euro currency capabilities, eBPCS allows for true multi-currency accounting, including the use of multiple currencies on a single supplier/customer account. eBPCS also performs advanced multi-currency operations to convert data across the global, base and transaction currency levels, and these capabilities form the basis upon which eBPCS and EuroPack for BPCS Century Dated (CD) have been built.

At present, multiple currency capabilities do not resolve all the requirements generated by the currency conversion routines introduced by the euro, but eBPCS contains the functionality needed to meet these new requirements. It introduces enhancements to the existing multi-currency capability by adding new currency conversion logic, a euro data conversion pack, and facilities for ease of use. Statutory reports, to meet the requirements of European businesses, can now be generated in either national or euro currency using our statutory report writer (REP).

In addition to SSA's own product offerings, a strategic alliance has been formed with Millennium Solutions, a leading provider of both millennium and euro-enabling tools for users of BPCS v5.2 and below. SSA's entire user base is covered for both millennium- and euro-compliance – no matter how heavily modified their systems are. These tools are being utilized at an increasing number of SSA's client sites.

SSA Euro Compliance Strategy



eBPCS and EuroPack for BPCS CD both were launched on October 30, 1998, on a controlled release program to a number of selected European clients, each supported by an SSA Account and Professional Services team, International HelpLine and Education Services. By the end of November, the number of clients working with the products had increased by 300 percent, and by the start of EMU on January 1, 1999, this number had grown to include clients outside of Europe, as the controlled release program was rolled out in North America and Asia Pacific.

eBPCS, delivering new functionality and capabilities on multiple levels, is the core product offering on which all future releases

will be based. It is a platform facilitating SSA's strategy as a solution portfolio-driven, component assembly company. eBPCS becomes generally available on March 27, 1999, for all supported platforms and available in all primary languages supported by a full set of euro data conversion utilities to enable the final movement of your financial records to the euro currency.

eBPCS from SSA delivers the complete solution, taking your enterprise into the future. Today, a single European currency. Tomorrow – who knows? – perhaps a single global currency.

Will your business be ready?

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