

International Supplier uses Centreviews to stream line its payables process and augment its sophisticated supply chain systems to ensure uninterrupted deliveries of products to its customers.

## AT A GLANCE

For nearly three decades, The Sak Brand Group has provided top-quality designs to consumers worldwide. Inspired by their travels, two childhood friends, Mark Talucci and Todd Elliott began by importing their “found treasures” from overseas to San Francisco. The decision to focus on handbags was conceived when the pair fashioned a handbag out of an ordinary Balinese sleeping mat. The Sak Brand quickly grew to be a huge sensation and THE iconic handbag of the 1990’s.

As with many companies with a long history, The Sak began its operations using manual processes for its administrative functions. This included their accounting procedures, both in the way they paid their own bills and how they handled invoicing and client payments.

When the company moved its headquarters from San Francisco to New York, its leadership saw it as the perfect time to update its accounts payable (AP) processes. Recently, David Luftman, corporate controller, and Agnes Palmeri, senior accountant, described the switch to automated AP processes.

## FACING THE CHALLENGES

While relocating to New York, the leadership team knew they needed an experienced accountant to help make the switch to automated processes. Palmeri, who had experience with AP automation systems, was the perfect fit for the team. She joined Luftman, who also had previous experience with accounting software. However, being new to The Sak was a challenge for the duo, who had to learn the old processes in order to find the best way to transition to a new system.

*“We had a very old, and still do have a very old, ERP system,” Luftman says. “Technology has trumped our ‘tier one system’ from 1999. And it has advanced enough whereby newer ERP systems would have automated, or forced automated, a lot of our processes.”*



### COMPANY OVERVIEW

The Sak Brand Group was established in 1989 as a handbag company with a strong focus on unique textured fabrications and is now one of largest lifestyle accessory companies in the country. For more information, visit The Sak Brand Group online at <http://www.thesak.com/>.

## ▲ IMPROVED PRODUCTIVITY

The first step for Luftman and Palmeri was to find the perfect system to meet The Sak's unique AP environment. After conducting thorough research, they settled on Centreviews, based on recommendations from others and its easy integration with their existing software. Although Centreviews is relatively new for the company, Palmeri and Luftman have both noticed an improvement in productivity, particularly when it comes to emails. Instead of multiple emails on a particular invoice, everything can be handled within the system.

*"Also, on my side, I don't need to print invoices anymore, so they can do their approvals when we pay that invoice if you can just view their approvals in the system," Palmeri says. "We've definitely eliminated that process, so there's less paper, which is great."*

## ▲ HAPPIER EMPLOYEES

Another benefit of AP automation is that it reduces the number of employees necessary to handle daily tasks. However, in many instances, businesses find they have no need to lay off employees or eliminate positions. This has been the case with The Sak, which has found that employees can now spend more time on tasks that benefit the company rather than pushing papers. One perk of automation that is an employee favorite, though, is that it allows them to work remotely, rather than coming into the office every day.

As The Sak Brand Group looks forward to its next three decades, it does so with excitement, knowing that it has the best tools for the job. With the right research, Luftman and Palmeri were able to help their leadership team find the perfect tool to fit their business's needs.

*"We're all coming into the city not having to go through this approval the old way in which we would do the approval process and printing invoices," Luftman says. "You know, Agnes can be in the comfort of her own home office and would work through that process."*

### ABOUT CENTREVIEWS

Centreviews Business Intelligence Suite is a simple, scalable, and secure solution that automates accounts payables, accounts receivables, workflow and document management processes and reduces labor with Robotic Process Automation (RPA). It is a suite of solutions that helps companies identify, resolve and prevent problems with their accounts payables, accounts receivables or document management processes. It is a cloud-based, mobile optimized platform that can be integrated with existing processes and technologies that enables companies to implement and maintain best practices for accounts payable, accounts receivable and document management process to improve visibility, improve controls, improve efficiencies, and improve profits! For more information, please call +1.651.675.2600 or visit [www.centreviews.com](http://www.centreviews.com)