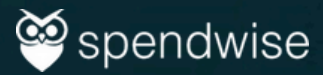# Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute saves hundreds of hours a month with Spendwise

Overview

Hubbs-SeaWorld Research Institute (HSWRI) is a non-profit scientific research organization committed to conserving and renewing marine life to ensure a healthier planet.

HSWRI was using desktop purchase order software, PDFs and email to manage its purchasing processes. The software didn't work well and was hard to access since it was only installed on a single computer at each location. Knowing there had to be a better way, the organization's CFO, Bethany Smith, searched and found Spendwise.

Since implementing Spendwise, HSWRI has been able to save hundreds of hours a month in administrative activities, strengthen internal controls and better protect itself against the risk of fraud.

Industry
Non-profit

Company Size
25-50 employees

Location
San Diego, CA

Website
www.hswri.org

The Challenges

Prior to using Spendwise, HSWRI used desktop purchase order software that was installed on a single computer at each of its three locations. The software was cumbersome, buggy and hard to maintain. Since the software was on-premise and offline, it meant employees had to be on-site at a specific computer to generate purchase orders and staff in the field had to depend on office colleagues to complete this task. After purchase orders were created, they were saved as PDFs and then emailed to supervisors for approval. Supervisors would then email them to accounting for further processing. This method of working was time consuming, caused delays and was prone to error.

Why HSWRI Chose Spendwise

Bethany knew there had to be a better way and began searching for a new system. She started her search online looking for a solution that was easy-to-use, affordable and accessible from anywhere in the world. After evaluating different systems, it became clear that Spendwise was the best choice.

"I looked at a number of different products and Spendwise was the one that really came to the top. It had all of the features we needed at a good price."
— Bethany Smith, Chief Financial Officer

The Results

After choosing Spendwise, the organization was able to quickly get it up and running and soon saw the benefits of using it.

Key Outcomes

Time Saved

Stronger Controls

Increased Compliance

Time Saved

By using Spendwise, HSWRI has been able to save hundreds of hours a month in time spent on administrative tasks, which has allowed its people to spend more time on its core mission. When employees need goods or services, they no longer have to be on-site or rely on someone else to create a purchase order but can now create them on their own from anywhere. After creating a purchase order, they can easily route them for approval through Spendwise where they can monitor them through the approval process in real-time. Since everything is in Spendwise, accounting is able to access all purchase orders at any time, regardless of status.

Stronger Controls

Like any organization, HSWRI is the target of fraud and often receives fake invoices. With Spendwise, protecting against these scams has been much easier as the organization is able to check invoices received against purchase orders and receiving records to ensure they are legitimate. The organization is also able to better understand what has been received but not billed and what remains on order. This information helps the organization determine what needs to be accrued at the end of the period and avoid ordering things that have already been ordered but not yet delivered.

Increased Compliance

Because of how easy it is to access and use, Spendwise has eliminated reasons for why anyone would not use a purchase order as required by the organizations purchasing policies.

> "Spendwise took away excuses for not doing purchase orders. Our staff can now order from anywhere in the world and approvals are much easier which they really appreciate."
> — Bethany Smith, Chief Financial Officer

[Discover how Spendwise can help you save time so you can focus on what you do best!](#)

Request a Demo