



EASE OF USE DRIVES BUDGETING SOFTWARE ADOPTION AT CORONATION



Coronation Fund Managers, one of South Africa’s most successful third party asset management companies, reports that it has seen a dramatic improvement to its budgeting process after it implemented the budgeting solution idu-Concept.

Understanding our unique needs

Coronation investigated several different budgeting packages when the limitations of spreadsheet-based budgeting became too severe, says Sylvia Peter, Accountant at Coronation. “We were consolidating spreadsheets from managers across all of our cost centres, in 3 different currencies. It was becoming very difficult to keep track of multiple versions and errors crept in. It was not a fun process.”

Other solutions offered larger numbers of reports, says Sylvia, “but idu-Concept’s were the most useful. We could see that accountants had a strong role in developing the software – it addresses our real needs very well. And above all, idu-Concept really stood out for its ease of use.”

The Coronation user experience

The software has been particularly valuable because it has engaged line managers, says Sylvia. “It’s hard enough to get departmental managers, some of whom are non-financial people to do budgets accurately, on time and worse still, make them work through this using a complex tool,” she says. “With idu-Concept some managers have become more fervent about budgeting and the regular checking of their performance against defined budgets.”

As well as making it easier to compile annual budgets, Sylvia reports that idu-Concept has helped both financial and line managers to keep a far more accurate and informed eye on their spending. “Checking a department’s actual spending against their budget is a matter of a couple of clicks, instead of hours spent wrestling with spreadsheets. Some of our line managers even produce their own reports now, and for the others it’s easy for us to export a report from idu-Concept and email it to them. We’re able to keep a near real-time eye on spending instead of only getting figures once a quarter.”

Sylvia says line managers particularly appreciate idu-Concept’s ease of use, as well as the ability to comment on budget line items. “Managers are able to use the comments facility to provide rationale for their budgets and further be able to explain spending that deviates from approved budgets,” she says. “The comments are visible to the executive as well as the finance department, which has made financial management much easier and more transparent.





Better control month to month

More accurate budgeting is another benefit, reports Sylvia. “The previous process produced a lot of errors that had to be manually fixed. Now it is easier to have effective budget control as the budgets are set out annually but accounted for on a monthly basis which gives us better control and transparency on our expenditures. For example, previously, if we were budgeting for a large event in Month 10, that budget would end up spread over 12 months and it was easy to lose sight of what the money was actually for.”

The cost factor

Best of all, says Sylvia, Coronation has realised all these benefits for a fraction of the cost of solutions from larger vendors. “The initial cost was lower than we had expected and on the very rare occasions when we’ve had to ask for custom reports to be developed, we have been impressed with the low costs.”

“idu-Concept is one of the best things that ever happened to us,” concludes Sylvia. “We’d definitely recommend it to other institutions that may have the same need for a budgeting process as user friendly as idu-Concept.”

About IDU

IDU delivers top of class packaged budgeting, forecasting, performance management and reporting tools to simplify financial management. Our flagship product, idu-Concept, provides easy, effective budgeting and financial reporting for medium-sized to large businesses. idu-Concept integrates easily with ERP software, but unlike more cumbersome offerings, idu-Concept can be implemented quickly, requires little or no ongoing consulting fees and reduces budgeting cycles from months to weeks.

About Coronation

Coronation was founded in Cape Town, South Africa in 1993. They are an investment-led, owner-managed business with staff owning 25% of the company. They are solely focused on asset management and have a track record of delivering superior long-term returns to clients over the past two decades. An active investment manager with a long-term valuation-driven investment approach, Coronation currently manages R606 billion in client assets (as at end-March 2016).

Coronation have an integrated global investment team that is headquartered in Cape Town, South Africa. They also have offices in London, Dublin, Johannesburg, Durban, Pretoria, and Namibia.