CPA Practice **Advisor**

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Dec. 01, 2009

From the December 2009 Review of Fixed Asset Management Systems

The

Fixed Assets Manager (FAM) system from Red Moon Solutions is a comprehensive asset depreciation and management application that offers broad financial and tax reporting capabilities, extensive tracking options and strong reporting in a flexible and scalable package that is available both as a traditionally installed program or as a hosted solution. The system can support any number of business entities, providing multiple asset schedules and automated calculation of all depreciation methods and conventions, while an audit trail helps maintain the integrity of asset data.

Fixed Assets Manager starts at \$1,000 for a single-user stand-alone system that can support up to 1,500 assets with other options available. Red Moon also offers a specialized version of the program that directly integrates with the SAP Business One solution for small and medium enterprise clients, as well as a tool for matching like-kind exchanges and a business intelligence analysis tool.

NAVIGATION/EASE-OF-USE:

The program opens into a crisp and intuitive interface that resembles Microsoft Office products and provides a Windows Explorer navigation menu on the left of the screen, offering expandable selections for asset types, accounting information and directories for each entity whose assets are being managed with the program, with additional access to grouped assets, such as those in a location, division or cost center. An asset selection screen appears in the main window, with items initially

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During company and asset setup, FAM offers several wizards that guide users through these processes, using well-designed data-entry screens that offer intelligent entry features such as selection lists and calendars. Wizards are also available for more advanced tasks, such as asset disposals, data import and reporting. Existing assets can be copied for use as templates, allowing users to quickly enter multiple similar items. The program's menus and many of its windows can be customized by the user, and an unlimited number of custom fields can be added to asset records for grouping of reports, performing tasks and tracking miscellaneous data. Detailed asset information screens use a tabbed interface that allows users to quickly move between data-entry functions, accounting information

and transactions, or bring up a side-by-side comparison of all of an asset's books. Associated documents and files, such as invoices, maintenance records, spreadsheets and images, can be attached to asset records.

MANAGEMENT FEATURES:

Fixed Assets Manager maintains a record of all asset life and transactional histories that can be easily viewed on asset detail screens, and advanced search capabilities, combined with the ability to add custom data fields, make finding specific assets and running reports across those items easy. FAM supports GAAP, IFRS and Federal depreciation standards, with automatic calculation of depreciation for MACRS, ACRS, straight-line, declining balance, sum of the year's digits, amortization, zero depreciation and all other typical and historical methods. More than 100 asset types are already built into the program and updated for tax law changes, and users can create additional custom types if desired.

In another show of the program's flexibility, it can support any number of user customizable books per asset, with pre-built schedules already included for Federal tax, AMT, ACE and Accounting. All calculations are performed in real-time as data is entered, with users able to instantly see the effects of

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INTEGRATION:

Fixed Assets Manager offers multiple options for exporting asset data and depreciation

journal entries, including to Excel, CSV and text formats, enabling import of the data into trial balance, tax and GL systems. The system is also certified to integrate with the Vertex corporate tax solution, and a version of FAM is available that offers full certified integration with SAP Business One.

REPORTING:

Fixed Assets Manager offers comprehensive tax and financial reporting, with more than 40 standard reports that include depreciation summaries, adjusted basis, period reporting and other options, with the ability to save reports as sets, customize them using the built-in report writer, and perform advanced analysis of data. The system also offers IRS Forms 4562, 4684, 4797 and 6252. Output options include Excel and PDF.

HELP/SUPPORT:

Built-in assistance features include a traditional Help utility that offers task-specific guidance, as well as numerous wizards and guides for performing setup functions and other tasks. The Red Moon Solutions support website offers FAQs, program updates and access to training options. Technical support is included with system pricing and renewals.

2009 OVERALL RATING:

(NASRA) as a snonsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPF

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