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TECHNOLOGY

Real Asset Management International (RAMI) — Asset4000

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From the December 2005 [Review Fixed Asset Management Software](#)

Asset4000 is a customizable high-end asset management application that is capable of managing any number of books for unlimited assets, entities and entity divisions. The system can manage all aspects of an asset's life, and supports multiple languages, currencies and accounting standards for the United States, the UK and EU. It is part of a larger portfolio of products from the vendor that includes inventory control, advanced asset budgeting, lessee asset management, capital project control, maintenance management and document management. The system's licensing policy is available for stand-alone single users and can be incremented up to one hundred user plus networked licenses. To obtain license and service costs, it is necessary to contact Real Asset Management to discuss the current situation and requirements. Single-user licenses start from \$3,275.

NAVIGATION/EASE-OF-USE – 5 Stars

The primary interface for Asset4000 provides a very modern, well-designed workspace with intuitive icons across the top along with traditional pull-down menus for

accessing primary program utilities and functions. By default, this screen divides the main work area into two panels with one containing the Asset Browser and the other offering navigation functions. The Asset Browser provides two tabbed views: a list of all assets for the client currently being accessed and the Ranges tab, which offers exceptional filtering, search and sorting options. Queries and searches can be saved for future use and reference, and many of the system's interface components can be customized per user.

Also among the customization features, all of the detail and description fields on the program's asset information data screens can be changed or fields added to reflect the needs of the user or the client company. These screens provide smart selection lists and generally streamline the data-entry process, while offering asset financial information across the bottom of the window, including the ability to quickly set currency to dollar, pound or Euro. Multiple books can be easily viewed in a side-by-side format on one screen.

Entry of new assets is guided, as is the creation of client companies and other general setup tasks, including selection of depreciation methods, which default to traditional treatments based upon type of asset and location. The system also offers visual hierarchies of asset relationships to assist users.

MANAGEMENT FEATURES – 5 Stars

As noted above, Asset4000 allows an unlimited number of assets and companies, including the ability to track assets by location, division, cost center, groups or other categories. The system includes pre-configured books for standard depreciation strategies, depletion and amortization methods, with the ability to create and manage an unlimited number of user-defined books. Accounting periods can be defined by the user.

Virtually any event an asset may encounter can be accommodated by the program, including splits, revaluations, transfers, re-lives, disposals, parent-child relationships, and like-kind exchanges. Images can be stored with asset records. Asset events can be applied individually or across multiple assets, with an audit trail maintaining details of every action applied to an asset throughout its life. For companies with non-U.S. assets held in other currencies, the program can be set to accommodate exchange rate fluctuations.

Depreciation forecasts can be calculated through the program, with reporting and on-screen access to period asset costs and other data. Drill-down capability

enables users to get to specific transaction histories. Support for barcoding technology is available through integration with the vendor's tracking module. The application is available in English, Italian, Spanish, French and German. A web-based version of the application called Asset4000i is also available.

INTEGRATION – 4 Stars

Asset4000 can be configured to share data with many GL systems, and can export to various file types including *.CSV and *.XLS. Asset data can be acquired from many systems through a *.CSV spreadsheet import utility. The system does not directly link to any tax preparation systems.

REPORTING – 5 Stars

Asset4000's reporting and analysis functions are impressive, with dozens of available pre-built reports and the ability to customize and save report templates using the system's report writer. Standard reporting includes asset depreciation details and summaries, book value, comparison, gain/loss reports, divisional activity and a variety of projection reports, in addition to worksheet versions of many governmental forms.

HELP/SUPPORT – 4 Stars

The program's Help utility provides right-click menus and content-specific assistance, along with user guides and the Help index. Online self-support is minimal, although the company includes technical assistance with its software through a multi-lingual helpdesk, and offers live and virtual training options and data conversion services.

SUMMARY

Asset4000 is a strong system geared toward in-house use by larger entities. With its support for multiple currencies, languages and accounting standards, it can be especially valuable to those with multinational asset bases. The program's customizable interface enhances user interaction with the system, while its audit trail provides comprehensive tracking of asset activity, and its reporting functions allow management, planning and analysis of asset depreciation strategies.

2005 Overall Rating – 4.5 Stars

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