



R.B. Zack & Associates, Inc.

Case Study: A-Mark Creates State-of-the-Art Trading System

A-Mark is a full service precious metals trading company offering a wide array of products and services. Its products include gold, silver, platinum and palladium for storage and delivery in the form of coins, bars, wafers and grain. A-Mark's services include financing, leasing, consignment, hedging and a variety of customized financial programs. A-Mark is an official distributor for many mints throughout the world including The Royal Canadian Mint, The South African Mint, The Australian (Perth) Mint and is an Authorized Purchaser for the US Mint.

Challenge: Existing Trading System Could Not Adapt

A-Mark's trading system is core to its operations. A-Mark wanted the system to be state-of-the-art and new features and functionality were needed to improve customer service. Unfortunately, the existing system did not easily accommodate the needed changes. Rather than spending the time and money to force these new features into the existing system, a decision was made to redesign the application to make these and future enhancements easier to implement.

Solution: Rebuild System to Handle Functionality Upgrades

R.B. Zack & Associates was engaged to rebuild the system with up-to-date technology. It was also critical that the new system be easy for traders to learn and use. This required analyzing the existing code to understand how the system worked. Next, the database was redesigned to incorporate current best practices and the look and feel of the application was updated. All of these updates laid the foundation for A-Mark to begin to build its desired features and services.

RBZ&A created a user interface that is easy to navigate and enables rapid data entry. The reports are dynamic, provide in-depth analysis and will be easy to audit. The new MTS provides A-Mark Precious Metals with a platform that will grow with its business for years to come.

Results:

- Redesigned database to meet current software standards
- Updated user interface look and feel
- Laid foundation for new features and services

Technology Used:

- .NET Framework 2.0
- SQL Server 2005
- VB.NET
- WinForms
- Crystal Reports
- One-click deployment

**For more information,
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