A woman with long brown hair, wearing a blue hooded jacket and dark sunglasses, is the central focus of the image. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. Her hands are raised near her face, with fingers slightly curled. The background is a light gray with a large, dark gray, curved shape that frames the text.

# Medius fashions an **AP Automation** tool for Karl Lagerfeld



Case study



# The company

The House of KARL LAGERFELD shares the iconic vision and design aesthetic of its founder, Karl Lagerfeld, fused with a contemporary, forward-looking spirit. The brand celebrates his colossal legacy and breathes his passion, intuition, and inexhaustible creativity into the core of its DNA.

Featuring Parisian-inspired classics with a rock-chic attitude, the KARL LAGERFELD portfolio includes ready-to-wear for women, men and kids, plus KARL LAGERFELD JEANS, bags, small leather goods, footwear, fragrances, eyewear and more. The Maison's creative vision is led by Design Director Hun Kim; additional members of the KARL family include Brand Ambassador and Product Consultant Sebastien Jondeau, and Sustainability Ambassador Amber Valletta, amongst others.

KARL LAGERFELD connects with consumers at more than 200 stores worldwide – including premium wholesale and franchise partners – with key locations in Paris, London, Munich, Dubai and Shanghai. The brand has a robust digital presence across Europe, the Middle East, Asia, and its KARL.COM flagship.

In 2019, KARL LAGERFELD joined the Fashion Pact, a global sustainability initiative seeking to transform the fashion industry through objectives in three areas: climate, biodiversity and ocean protection.

# The challenges

By 2020, Accounts Payable was handling thousands of suppliers and more than \$100 million in purchase order value. Despite the massive volume, however, the department was still using a manual system to process its invoices. Invoices were printed out, entered by hand, and then physically routed for approval. Some invoices required multiple approvers, causing further complications. It was a time-consuming process that lacked visibility for auditor and vendor follow up. Plus, it was difficult to track invoices that were lost or delayed on an approver's desk. With fewer than 10 employees the system was becoming unsustainable.



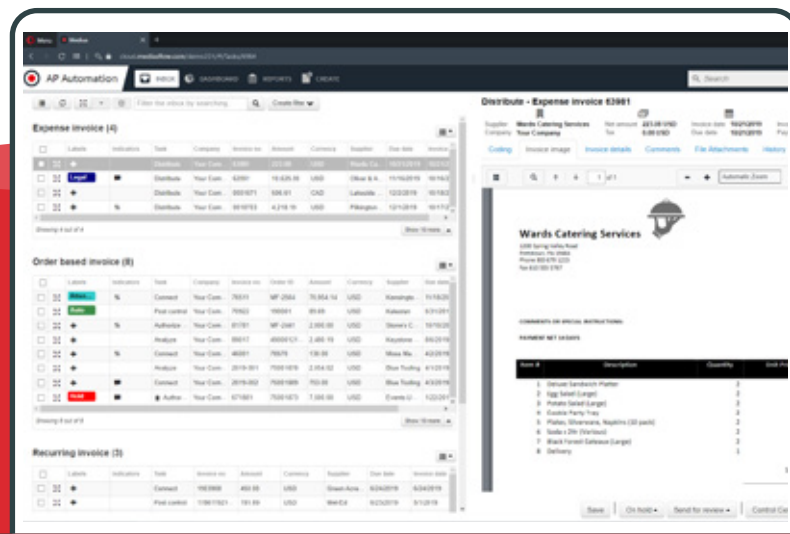
We had 20 entities across Europe, as well as plans for continued expansion. We needed proper workflows and procedures where our corporate policies could be applied.

**We needed automation.**

Eva Miguel Banos, Finance Director

# The product

Medius Accounts Payable Automation transforms manual, paper-based invoices into digital workflows, ensuring that invoices are paid on time, while reducing the risk of fraud, and improving compliance. It links invoice capture, processing, and payment with a state-of-the-art solution that expertly pinpoints and extracts invoice data automatically. Original invoices are automatically archived in Medius' automated AP software for auditing whenever needed and automatic three-way matching helps resolve discrepancies. So, assets are protected, fraud is avoided, and invoices are paid correctly.



# The solution

Recognizing the need for intelligent technology and automation, the team evaluated various solutions.

According to Eva, there were several reasons for selecting Medius.

The Number One selling point was Medius' standard integration to Karl Lagerfeld's ERP, Infor M3. "Medius asked just a few questions and we could tell immediately they had a clear, in-depth knowledge of our ERP," says Eva. "They pinpointed the issues, identified the solutions and demonstrated superior insight."

Next, the team was working within a tight time frame. A solution was needed before the start of the new fiscal year, and Medius was confident they could implement it within less than three months.

Finally, Medius provided an in-house consultant to support the go live. As a result, the process was seamless, and the system was up and running within just 7 weeks - far sooner than the time frame they had hoped for.



In addition to the standard ERP integration, Medius clearly had the experience, knowledge and support we needed. **With Medius working with us on-site, we were able to establish workflows, testing, and PO matching** so we needed hardly any involvement from IT personnel.

Eva Miguel Banos, Finance Director

# The results

Medius has proven to be a welcome tool with numerous benefits.

First, it offers far better visibility than before. The team simply types in a vendor name to discover the location of an invoice. This helps provide an audit trail for both auditors as well as vendors who may be seeking payment.

The team is more efficient and spends less time chasing down approvers. Medius reduces errors and can detect potential fraud. If a vendor's bank account has changed for example, the system catches it in the earliest stages and staff can follow up for verification.

Eva also appreciates that Medius forces the company to use better processes. For example, if a PO is processed in one currency and the invoice is received in a different currency, Medius forces consistency in order to complete two-way matching. So Medius actually encourages other departments to be more aware of processes and follow better business practices.

# The conclusion

"Medius required very little input from IT staff ... which was greatly appreciated," comments Arnold Ruijter, Director of IT Transformation. "Now the solution is doing exactly what we want and need."

"I don't know where we would be without Medius," comments Eva. "I was physically signing invoices only a year ago. That would be impossible now."

When asked if Medius has exceeded expectations, the answer is an unequivocal yes.

"Absolutely," says Eva "I wish we had done it earlier!"



# About **Medius**

Medius AP management software replaces the work and worry of invoices with AI and automation. Medius goes far beyond basic automation by using artificial intelligence to do the work - so invoices get coded, approved and paid, and your business can trust your budgets and forecasts without the fear of potential fraud. And you won't have to worry about implementation and ongoing administration costs, because you'll start seeing the value immediately and the innovation won't stop. To learn more, visit [medius.com](https://medius.com).





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