

SYSTEMS FOR DATA
CAPTURE COMPUTER
ACCOUNTS FOR A LOT
AT

— THE —
ACCOUNTING
— CENTRE —



Davies... "Flexibility opens up many more marketing opportunities."

All businesses may occasionally feel the need to call upon outside assistance to augment their inhouse accounting, payroll and data preparation abilities. Data capture particularly needs specialised equipment. The Accounting Centre in north London offers a unique range of financial and data services on a regular, or occasional, basis.

The Accounting Centre is a division of Inspectorate UK plc, a Swiss-owned multinational organisation which is one of the worlds's largest Quality Assurance inspectorates. The Accounting Centre has an annual turnover of about £1m and employs 50 full and part-time staff, serving about 500 clients.

Amongst its client base, The Accounting Centre lists London Boroughs, Regional Health Authorities, Major Finance Houses and Oil Companies.

It became evident from an increasing workload that the centre was outgrowing its ROCC 1800 and 870 computers, so general manager Ivor Davies and data services manager Jeff Lewis investigated a number of different computer systems.

Davies described just one example of its recent tasks: "Just before last Christmas a well-known oil company approached us later than usual with its bi-annual task of capturing all data from its North Sea oil and gas exploration well-heads. However, unfortunately it underestimated the work involved by a factor of two!

"We completed the job in time by compressing four weeks' work into two right through the Christmas holidays. This finally convinced us that we needed a faster data capture facility and more flexible equipment.

A network of minis was dismissed as not offering sufficient data capture or processing speed. The centre's 10 data capture operators often approach a total of four million key depressions per week, excluding those for payroll work."

After evaluating a number of systems, The Accounting Centre took delivery in February this year of a ROCC 2865 multiuser computer with 17 workstations and the ROCC Workstation Management System software. This represents an investment of about £120,000.

"With our new ROCC 2865 we can now accomplish more work

with the same number of staff on 17 workstations than we could before on our previous two machines and 19 workstations," Davies said. "We have gained extra capacity enabling us for the first time to expand our payroll services, for example, into new market areas.

"Before the new ROCC system arrived, we processed payrolls on a weekly, fortnightly or monthly basis for companies with up to about 200 employees. Now we can go after larger companies with payroll needs for up to 1000 employees. The new computer is enabling us to markedly expand our business potential.

"With the previous system, a workstation could become tied up whilst processing data. The new system enables us to do the processing 'in background mode' which frees the workstation for further work, say, more data capture," Davies explained.

"We are using this multi-task processing ability to free more workstation time within accounting and payroll services, as well as data capture.

"We carried out benchmark tests before we installed the new ROCC system which indicated that we could reduce the time taken for various accounting, payroll and data capture time by about 50 percent."

Davies also explained that The Accounting Centre is processing a total of 14,000 payslips per month, but that with the new ROCC 2865, its new potential is now double that number. The centre's payroll services business has increased 25 percent in the last two years, but is scheduled to increase substantially more this year with the enabling technology offered by the ROCC system.

Currently the system at The Accounting Centre handles all the data capture work and all the payroll data processing and printing (including all payslips and management reports). For the accounting service, it also handles all data capture, validation and batching prior to transmission via modem to an IBM mainframe for processing.

"ROCC Computers' staff were more than helpful during the system installation," he added. "They even allowed us to begin upgrading our own custom-written payroll software prior to taking delivery of the 2865.

"The speed of data capture on our new ROCC system enables us to be more flexible, and flexibility opens up many more marketing



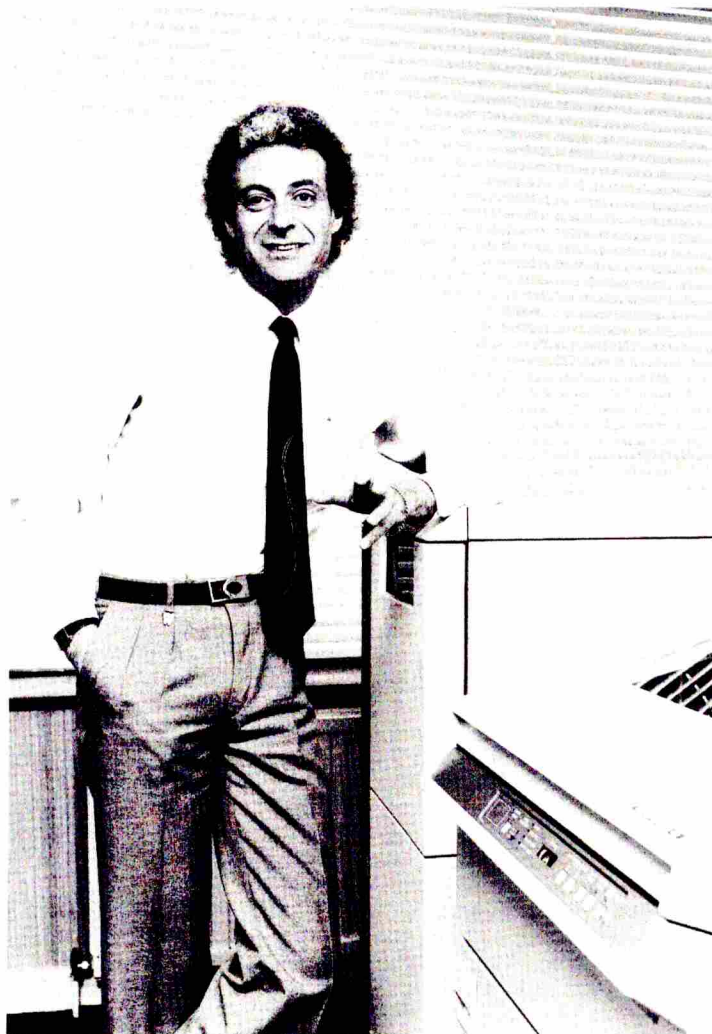
With the ROCC 2865, The Accounting Centre can now accomplish more work.

opportunities to enable our company to grow," Davies added.

"Currently all our accounting clients provide data on manually-written forms, but the ROCC system enables us to experiment with ways to accept data directly from clients' own computer systems, process it and return it

directly to them."

And for payroll clients, The Accounting Centre can transmit data directly to BACS (Banker's Automated Clearing Services), thus avoiding the necessity for clients to write cheques or to prepare bank giro credits – thus saving both time and expense. ■



Lewis... "The Accounting Centre offers a unique range of financial and data services."