

option systems



option systems



WHO ARE OPTION SYSTEMS...?

We are one of the leading global specialist systems providers dedicated to the apparel and footwear industries. Our product suite, **STYLEman**, was designed from inception exclusively for these industries and has established a reputation as one of the most advanced, versatile and innovative products available worldwide.

...AND HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

If you are taking the trouble to read this brochure, it is likely that you are considering a change to your business systems. Our industry and application consultants can guide you, advising on all aspects of the process from system selection through implementation and on-going operation.

Our global, multi-lingual team of professionals has more than 850 man-years expertise in the international apparel and footwear arena. We work with companies of all sizes and can use our experience to advise and provide your company with the right solution.

option
systems

partnerships



IN BED WITH THE BEST IN THE BUSINESS

Unlike marriage where monogamy is usual, in business relationships you are better off with a partner who has successful liaisons with a number of the best performers in your field. That's why we at OSL are justly proud of the partnerships we have established with some of the leading players in the apparel and footwear industries, such as **Levi Strauss, Ben Sherman, Pepe Jeans, WD&T, IC Companys** and **Hi-Tec Sports**.

These high flyers have put their confidence in OSL and the systems that we provide. Indeed, we have built up strong relationships not only with successful multi-nationals, but also with niche manufacturers and distributors such as **Crowthers, Farah, Gurteen, Dewhirst** and **Wynnster Outdoor Leisure**.

IN TUNE WITH YOUR INDUSTRY

From the very first contact, our aim is to provide whatever help you need to ensure that our system, **STYLEman**, is exactly right for your business and, more importantly, is a system that has the flexibility and capacity to handle your future growth.

In OSL you will have a partner that understands your industry and that has developed systems specifically for that industry. More significantly, you will have a partner who has a track record of successfully implementing systems in companies similar to yours.

"Of all the companies we approached (and we talked to more than 10), OSL's team clearly understood our issues and STYLEman had obvious functionality. It is good, honest software that does what it says it can do."

LEE HOWES, IT MANAGER, WD&T LIMITED



communications



MANAGING YOUR SUPPLY CHAIN

Integrated supply chain management and Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) have become buzzwords in boardrooms and offices around the globe as companies fight to gain a significant edge over their competitors. However, with the shift towards global sourcing & production another dimension has been added. More than ever before companies need to simplify their business processes, modify and streamline their business cycle and be cost efficient.

A SHRINKING WORLD

Although the world appears to have shrunk with the arrival of global communications via the Internet, the challenges to your business have, in some cases, become more complex. Establishing and maintaining sourcing relationships used to be a local issue with most of the suppliers 'around the corner'. Now the requirement to manage demand through the efficient sourcing of raw materials and finished goods from around the world has added a new dimension.

Globally enabled supply chain management applications provide information about which products are where, how quickly they will arrive and at what cost. With the impact of the Internet and other communication channels, both customers and suppliers - as well as your own personnel - can access and update real time information. They have the capability, under your control, to order, change or cancel products, schedule and amend production and delivery information and be aware of issues - as they happen not after they happen. What's more they will be able to do this from wherever they are in the world 24 hours a day.

ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE

ERP places the emphasis on examining the performance, management and results of a company on an enterprise-wide basis, rather than considering each business function piecemeal. Global Resource Planning (GRP) adds this extra dimension. STYLEman has been designed to incorporate and address the needs of all major business functions carried out globally on a consistent and integrated basis, providing your company with the vital intelligence it needs to be competitive.

COMMUNICATIONS

Solutions



YOUR BUSINESS IS OUR BUSINESS

At Option Systems, the apparel and footwear industries are in our blood - it is our mission to be the most complete supplier of business systems to these specific industries worldwide.

This philosophy was adopted by OSL in 1991 when we launched the **STYLEman** suite. From the outset, our aim was to develop the most comprehensive supply chain and ERP system specifically designed for apparel and footwear companies globally.

The system had to work in large multinationals as well as small independent companies. It had to be easy to use, whether or not operators were computer literate. It had to work across different hardware, networks and databases whilst supporting multiple companies, languages, currencies and business models. And, it had to be available from wherever you are in the world as well as being future-proof to protect the investment made by our clients and our partners.

*“In searching for a company to provide us with software to control our complex international operation more effectively and accurately, our priority was to find a company that would be more akin to a partner than a supplier. For our peace of mind, the company had to have **proven experience** in the clothing industry on an international stage, whilst also **guaranteeing the level of service and support** our business demands. From day one, Option Systems has given us all this and more with their **STYLEman** package. Working together, our respective teams have implemented the system so that it does exactly what we need it to do.”*

JOHNNY CHODA, OPERATIONS DIRECTOR, SHERMAN COOPER LIMITED

Ben Sherman[®]

SOLUTIONS



future proof

STYLEMAN - SECURITY FOR THE FUTURE

It is our mandate to provide solutions that arm our customers with not only the most advanced systems available, but also systems that do not tie them to one particular technology. Given the rate of change in computer hardware and software, this is absolutely essential to avoid obsolescence.

FUTURE PROOFED FOR A COMPETITIVE EDGE

As the business logic is the key to any business application, by divorcing this from the user interface and database, we have given **STYLEman** a major competitive edge, as well as future-proofing the system from any technological changes. This architecture is fully scaleable from a single user to many hundreds of users, automatically balancing workloads across multiple processors on the same site or around the world. Thus we provide our customers with complete peace of mind. No matter what your set-up, **STYLEman** provides a convenient, easy to use, flexible solution that will grow with, and not inhibit, your business.

A TRANSPARENT SOLUTION FOR TOTAL FLEXIBILITY

Because **STYLEman** is written in Progress, a leading fourth generation computer language and database management system, it is designed to run with whatever mix of technologies you have in your company. The user interface, database and hardware platform may all be changed as Progress insulates **STYLEman** from the underlying environment.

“When merging our two companies, we chose STYLEman from Option Systems against strong competition, because that installation best supported our complex global business processes and had the lowest cost of installation. Looking forward we are convinced that STYLEman has a strong future, taking into account the number of customers they have and the possibilities for upgrading.”

KELD SØNDEGAARD, CFO, IC COMPANYS AS.

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future proof

THE HEART OF THE SYSTEM

There are seven main modules to the STYLEman suite:

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|----------------------------|--|
| STYLEman | fully Internet enabled import, distribution, production, CMT and retail application. |
| STYLEman Financials | an integrated suite of financial applications including Accounts Payable and General Ledger, Fixed Asset Register, Cash Book, Executive Desk Top Reporting and more. |
| STYLEman Salesman | a portable system designed for the representative on the road. |
| STYLEit | a Windows CAD design package for line sheet preparation, colourway presentation, and for prints, woven & knit design with a 3D draping facility. |
| STYLEform | a product development management (PDM) specification and costing system for the clothing manufacturer. |
| STYLEplan | a visual planning system, replicating a traditional planning board in a Windows environment. |
| STYLEview | an Executive Information System tailored to the STYLEman database. |

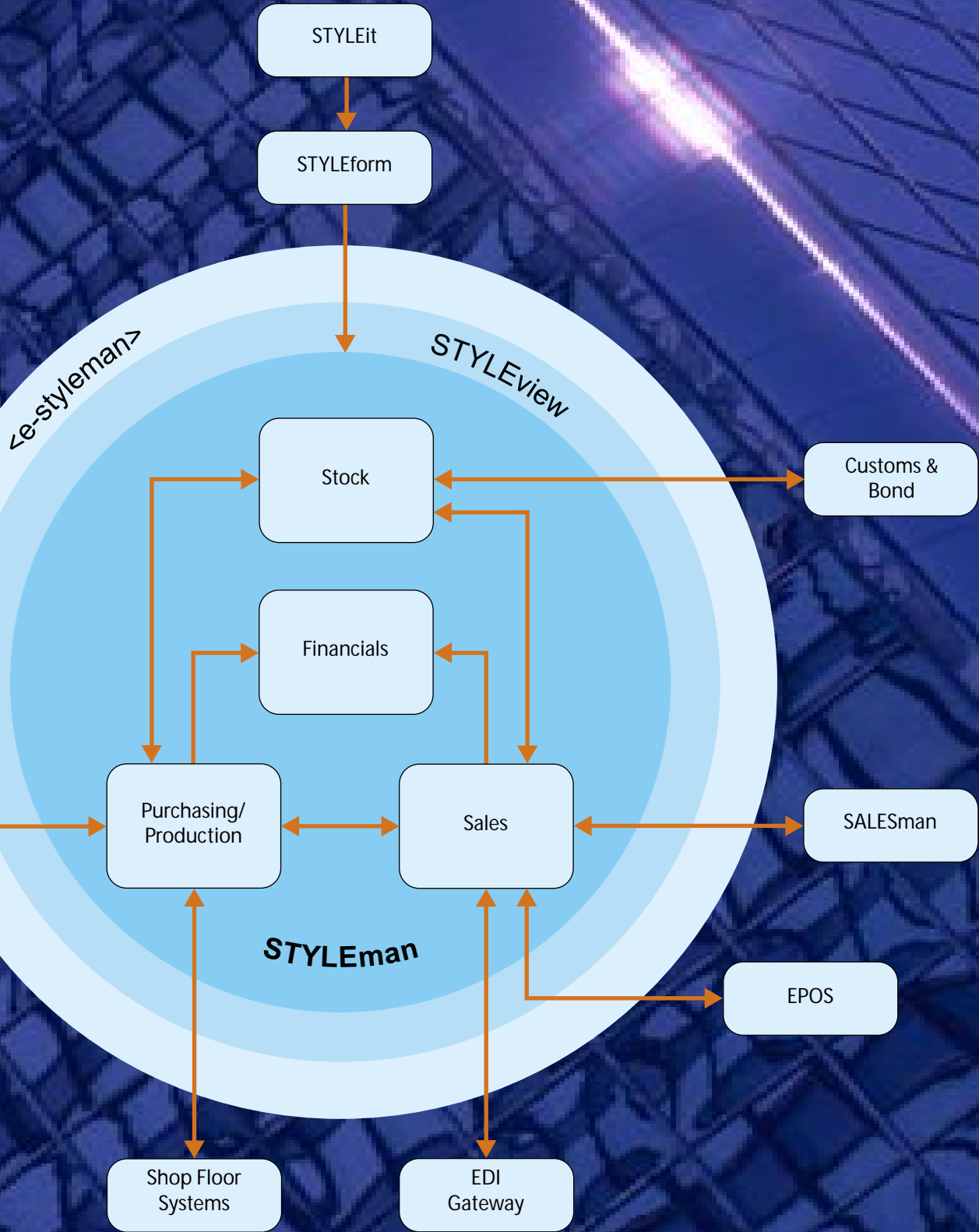
In addition, we interface into a number of other systems for specific functions, such as:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Customs and Bond | rotational stock control and clearance, customs approved. |
| EPOS | point of sale integration for sales capture, stock control etc. |
| EDI Gateway | management and conversion of data to and from STYLEman in EDI format files. |
| Shop Floor System | integration with bundle tracking and piecework payroll systems. |



STYLEplan

the big picture



excellence



'BEST OF BREED' ASSOCIATES

As specialists in our field, we recognise the need to be able to supply our customers with a complete solution. However, rather than try to develop additional systems ourselves, we have taken the 'Best of Breed' approach.

To achieve this, we have developed a number of strategic alliances with organisations that, like ourselves, are dedicated to the clothing and footwear industries. Their products, when integrated with **STYLEman**, allow us to provide a total tailored solution co-ordinated from under one roof. Examples of software available from OSL and our associates include:

- STYLEform - Style Product Data Management (PDM)
- STYLEview - Electronic Information System (EIS)
- STYLEit - Computer Aided Design (CAD)
- STYLEplan - Fast React Planning System
- Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) Gateway
- EPOS Retail System
- Shop Floor Management Information System
- Payroll

"OSL's strategy to link with dedicated software specialists is a very shrewd move. It guarantees they provide their clients with proven software that is enhanced by their associates' continuous investment in R&D. This allows OSL to concentrate their own resources on the development of STYLEman, safe in the knowledge that the complimentary software they offer is state of the art technology."

ANDREW BROWN, DIRECTOR, FAST REACT LIMITED

EXCELLENCE



international



AN INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

Since 1991 we have established an impressive list of clients with sites around the world. Companies such as **Levi Strauss**, **IC Companys**, **Pepe Jeans**, **Ben Sherman**, **Hi-Tec Sports**, **Dewhirst**, **Mizuno Corporation**, **The Seardel Group**, **Van Winkel**, and **Mamiye Brothers** all rely on **STYLEman**.

THE STYLEMAN NETWORK

STYLEman is a truly international product, which operates equally well in any location around the globe. In order to provide first class support and service to our international customers we have set up a network of specialist distributors. These local experts are part of our highly skilled team of professionals whose job it is to ensure that the exacting standards we set in the UK are maintained throughout the world. This strategy has resulted in companies such as **Breakaway** (Australia), **Omegaline** (Sri Lanka), **Bonwit** (South Africa), **Bentex** (United States of America) and **Kingsway** (Holland) all adopting **STYLEman** locally.

“STYLEman the product is impressive to say the least, but it is in the areas of implementation, support and development where OSL really shines. When a new computer software system is introduced to a company there is what Option Systems describe as an ‘assimilation gap’. That is to say there is a difference between the software’s capability and the assimilation rate of the staff using the system. OSL fully understand this situation and have geared up their support & services to bridge this gap. In doing so they not only ensure a smooth transition period, but also maximise the potential of the system within the company.”

DAVID CROPPER, CIO, MAMIYE BROTHERS INC



MAMIYE BROTHERS INC.

international

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CRYSTAL BALL GAZING

Predicting the future has never been easy and beware anyone who tries to tell you they know what's going to happen in the computer world. Technological breakthroughs are happening so fast that it would be foolish to try to second-guess the advances that undoubtedly will be made.

That's why, as one of the largest dedicated suppliers in our field globally, we have worked so hard to future proof our systems to ensure they work whatever configurations are required, now or in the future.

A TOTAL PACKAGE OF SUPPORT AND SERVICE

At Option Systems, we understand that the provision of the system represents only the start of the relationship. Our ability to satisfactorily supply on-going support and service is critical to the continued success of both our businesses.

The key to tackling and taking advantage of the challenges and opportunities that the future holds is the ability to both innovate and react quickly. Clearly, companies and individuals will have to maintain a committed programme of improvement and development to keep pace with the ever-increasing speed of change. However, the technological advancements that stem from this change will open up more and more opportunities and that can only be good for us all.

“During our eight year relationship with OSL, they have continued to add to STYLEman and it has been easy to upgrade to new versions to take advantage of additional functionality. At the same time, our business has evolved considerably and STYLEman has the flexibility to change with our organisation. It is this flexibility that keeps OSL at the front of the pack.”

NISH SONEJI, DIRECTOR, PEPE JEANS EUROPE BV

Pepe Jeans™

L O N D O N

innovation

support



A HELPING HAND

At Option Systems we can help. We want to help. And we will do everything in our power to ensure that we do help. From specifying the system through implementation, support, training and on-going enhancement, our aim is to ensure your business has the right systems for success.

Through a programme of continuous industry trend monitoring, 'user group' feedback and legislation appraisal, we drive product development forward to provide the right solutions for your future needs.

Our commitment to implementation and support services, which fill the 'assimilation gap', will keep **STYLEman** and OSL ahead of the game and in tune with the specific requirements of our customers.

OUR COMMITMENT TO YOUR FUTURE

Effective information systems are the means to maintaining and improving business performance. Our aim is to ensure companies within the apparel and footwear industries have systems available to enable them to take maximum advantage of the opportunities as (or indeed before) they arise.

We want to help your business fulfil its potential. So please, call us today and let's begin a partnership to build for a prosperous future.

"Our IT experts trawled the global markets for a system that was specific to the clothing and footwear industries. After extensive evaluation they found STYLEman was the only system and support package that could offer us what we were looking for. What's more, the team at OSL were able to work alongside our staff to implement the system quickly and with minimum disruption".

IAN TRIPCONY, ADMIN DIRECTOR, HI-TEC SPORTS UK LIMITED



support

contact

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