



Newest Release of MAS 90 and MAS 200 from Best Software Brings Ease of Use and Added Insight to Small and Medium Sized Businesses

New Version 4.0 of popular mid-market accounting and business management software, packed with significant enhancements, now available

Irvine, Calif - March 1, 2004 - Today Best Software announced the general availability of MAS 90 and MAS 200 Version 4.0 accounting and business management software. The culmination of over 12 months of development effort and extensive usability tests, MAS 90 Version 4.0 represents the most significant release of MAS 90 since the introduction of its Windows-based product in 1996, and is sold through the Best Software network of partners nationwide. These new versions of MAS 90 and MAS 200 are packed with major enhancements designed to streamline accounting operations, make management reporting more responsive, and reduce the learning curve for new users.

As part of this milestone release, Best Software introduced the Business Insights Reporter, a groundbreaking wizard-based reporting tool now provided as part of the standard MAS 90 system. Many customers have expressed a desire to simplify the process of getting at their data, and a key goal for MAS 90 version 4.0 is to address this issue. With the Reporter, a user can easily and intuitively identify the information they need from any part of the MAS 90 system, and quickly get that data into a printable form or into Excel spreadsheets to facilitate additional analysis. By allowing our customers access to their data in such a flexible format, senior managers can now get the information they need on a near real-time basis, and make decisions or implement changes quickly, to easily avert problems when they occur.

"With this release, we've added a number of customer-requested capabilities to the system, giving our customers more power to run their businesses smoothly and effectively, maximizing their ROI and streamlining their operations," said Craig McCollum, SVP and general manager of mid-market accounting solutions for Best Software. "We are thrilled to introduce MAS 90 4.0, which provides our customers with increased efficiency through faster data entry, improved ease of use and additional insight with refined reporting capabilities."

Version 4.0 also includes a free limited edition of the Business Alerts module, which further allows managers to identify problems and trends real-time. Business Alerts generate an email communication when specified circumstances occur, providing an additional way for MAS 90 customers to get business insights real-time. The limited edition provides five free alerts and can be upgraded to provide unlimited alert capacity.

Focusing on features that increase efficiency and give our customers more tools to make informed decisions, a few of the GL enhancements included in Version 4.0 are:

- **New Dual Grid Design:** The data entry interface can be personalized to individual workflow needs for faster data entry.
- **New Company Set Up Wizard:** Whether a new installation of MAS 90, or just setting up a new company, the new Company Set Up Wizard will guide them through the configuration of General Ledger by way of an easy to use interface.
- **Unlimited Budgets:** Customers can now save all of their historical budgets for reporting purposes, while building budgets for future fiscal periods.
- **Financial Statements:** A new wizard walks customers through creating financial statements by selecting from a range of pre-defined templates, The result can be fine-tuned to exactly match the customer's requirements.

"The new overall appearance and function of the GL module is more user friendly, and enables me to work more quickly," says Michelle Thom, executive assistant, KAPP Paintball. "And, In 4.0, we're really excited about the sales history lookup function in the RMA and Sales Order modules, making returns management much easier. Overall, these enhancements save me a lot of time and allow us to improve the level of service we give to our clients."

Also new with 4.0 is the Business Object Interface, which enables developers and partners to easily integrate and customize MAS 90 for business-specific scenarios without modifying the underlying source code of the application. This new flexibility frees third parties to focus on delivering custom solutions in whichever development environment they find most appropriate for the situation—reducing development time and complexity.

"One of our clients served as a beta site for Version 4.0, and is already pleased with the new features," said Karen Ferguson, a Best Software partner with Champ Systems. "So I'm looking forward to working with more clients on 4.0, and I'm particularly excited about the new Business Object Interface, which will make it easier than ever for us to assist our clients with integrating their applications."

Today's announcement is just another example of the continued expansion of the MAS 90 family. Last month, Best Software announced the acquisition from Macabe Associates of the entire family of hundreds of EASY Solutions. The EASY Solutions family, now called MAS 90 and MAS 200 Extended Solutions, brings mid-market customers the benefits of a sophisticated, highly customized business management application at a fraction of the cost and time of developing a typical customized solution.

Recommended by more CPAs than any other product in its class and named 2003 Product of the Year by CMP Media's CRN Test Center, MAS 90 includes core accounting, e-commerce, business intelligence tools, payroll, customer relationship management, sales force automation and financial reporting software. In addition to basic business management, MAS 90 offers industry-specific functionality for manufacturers and distributors, such as inventory management, bill of materials and job costing. MAS 90 is also ideal for small businesses who have outgrown an off-the-shelf application such as Peachtree Accounting, and there is a clear migration path available for customers who are ready to make that transition. For sales or additional product information, please call (800) 854-3415, or visit www.bestsoftware.com.

About Best Software

Best Software offers leading business management products and services that give nearly 1.8 million small and mid-sized customers in North America the insight for success throughout the life of their business. Its parent company, The Sage Group plc (London: SGE.L), supports over 3.6 million customers worldwide and has revenue of approximately \$899.7 million. For more than 25 years, Best Software has delivered easy-to-use, scalable and customizable applications through its portfolio of leading brands, including Abra, ACCPAC, ACT!, BusinessVision, CPASoftware, FAS, MAS 90, MIP, Peachtree, Timberline and SalesLogix, among many others. For more information, please visit the Web site at www.bestsoftware.com/moreinfo or call (866) 308-BEST.

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