

## The IPO and Beyond: Why Intacct is the Right Choice for Financial Management

For a thriving business, the IPO is a major milestone. However, the IPO also brings to the finance team a new set of reporting, accounting, and control burdens. One important way to improve your IPO readiness is to deploy a modern, IPO-ready financial management system at least 12-36 months in advance. Entry-level software might handle the needs of a growing company for a few months, but it is not IPO-ready software. Legacy financial systems are inflexible, lacking the features, controls, and the analytical capabilities you need as a public company.

Of course, the IPO isn't the finish line. Post-IPO, the finance team must focus on a changing set of essential requirements in the journey of building a successful company. To manage the challenges of being a public company, you need a system that supports operational growth and strategic complexity. Intacct meets the needs of companies before and after an IPO with:

- Professional-strength financial management software to deliver real-time reporting and analytics
- Powerful automation and integration
- Superior compliance and auditability
- Unlimited flexibility and scale in the cloud to evolve with your business

These capabilities are among the reasons that the AICPA selected Intacct as its preferred provider of financial applications.

### The Four Keys to IPO Preparedness

- 1. Streamlined financial processes** — Intacct enables your company to be IPO-ready with financials built on well-documented, organized transactions and balances for faster period closes, accurate financials, and easy auditability.
  - Automate order processing and consolidations, saving you from hiring staff to keep pace with growth in these areas.
  - Eliminate spreadsheets for revenue recognition and currency conversion, ensuring accurate financial reporting and compliance with accounting standards.
  - Create multiple ledgers and multiple books, letting you maintain separate sub-ledgers or tax-only books in order to streamline your period close and reporting processes.
- 2. Robust internal controls** — IPO preparation must include robust internal controls that demonstrate the effectiveness of your accounting and reporting processes. Intacct focuses solely on financial management, with 100 percent of all R&D going toward finance/accounting challenges, so your financial controls are always IPO-ready.
  - Document and follow approval processes for purchase orders, employee expenses, sales contracts, journal entries, and more.
  - Enforce segregation of duties, with a documented audit trail.
  - Create reports on the history of changes to settings, data, and system access to prove that proper controls are in place.
  - Set and manage controls from a centralized management module, making it easier to establish thorough controls and demonstrate them to auditors.
- 3. Skilled financial staff** — Comprehensive automation lets you manage growth without hiring extra staff to perform manual work. With a more efficient closing process and stronger reporting, your team can focus on more than just churning out reports.
  - See the big picture with tools that analyze the unique dynamics of your business.
  - Develop the new skills you need to prepare for the IPO and beyond — forecasting, treasury, and SEC reporting.

- 4. Best-in-class business systems** — Intacct is a best-in-class financial management system built to integrate with other business solutions.
- Use standard APIs and Web services in the cloud to link payroll, project management, CRM, and more — with Intacct as your financial system of record.
  - Expand finance’s capabilities without extra staff or specialized IT resources, thanks to flexible, scalable Web-based integrations.

## The Four Keys to Post-IPO Success

- 1. Fast and accurate financial reporting** — As your public company grows, your finance team must evolve to manage global expansion, support M&A events, and build a best-in-class ecosystem of business solutions.
- Meet unique requirements with a flexible system that is easy to re-configure without additional IT resources.
  - Quickly add multiple entities, currencies, and locations as your business expands.
- 2. Regulatory compliance** — Post-IPO, there is much greater scrutiny on your financial reporting from the SEC, auditors, analysts, investors, and the media.
- Keep current with guidelines for revenue recognition and other complex accounting standards, as well as business and regulatory changes – with Intacct’s automatic quarterly updates.
  - Establish policy and exercise accounting judgment with a flexible system that you can configure to meet unique needs, *not* a fixed, pre-defined methodology.
- 3. Focus on the forecast** — As your forecast on future results become public, *your ability* to meet that forecast is scrutinized more heavily than the actual forecast. Intacct enables greater insight into business operations, so you can fine-tune your forecast for greater accuracy.
- Gain real-time visibility into financial and operating data in the same place.
  - Keep up with rapid change in a growing business to capitalize on shifting market opportunities.
  - Develop deeper insights into what’s not working — understand why, in real-time, so you can make rapid course corrections.
- 4. Data visibility** — Going public means executives spend less time on growth and more time managing a variety of costs. This shifting focus on the bottom line is an implicit change that CFOs must figure out quickly before enduring a missed earnings forecast.
- Drill down into any exceptions, and slice and dice by business drivers (Intacct calls them “dimensions”) such as project, customer, and department to understand the true nature of your business.
  - Tag every transaction, budget, and even operational measures with dimensional values that capture the business meaning of the data.
  - Improve cost management by getting granular — digging into budgeted and actual expenses for each department, team, and project — in real-time to hold teams accountable.

## Conclusion

Many aspects of your finance team and processes will change before and after the IPO. With Intacct as your financial-management software foundation, you will be better prepared to manage these new complexities. Go public with Intacct and benefit from:

- The best management reporting and business visibility of any system for medium-sized businesses
- A configurable system that meets your unique requirements
- A best-in-class solution built for integration, with 100 percent focus on finance
- A cloud-based solution offering a fast pace of innovation to support your growth

