

# Budgeting, Planning & Forecasting

Corporate Performance  
Management – Extended!



"We're extremely pleased with the solution. We have a very complex budgeting model... at no point did Vena say 'that can't be done in the application.'"

For years, technology for the budgeting process has been a story of two extremes. At one end, an uncontrolled assembly of spreadsheets – typically shared by email. The other option, a rigid, IT-constrained database-driven application. Is there a better alternative?

Vena Solutions introduces an alternative approach to Corporate Performance Management (CPM). Vena 5 is an easy to deploy application for budgeting, planning and forecasting made available in a single, web-based software solution that leverages your existing spreadsheets and financial models.

Our innovative platform uniquely provides the flexibility and agility organizations are accustomed to with MS Excel® plus the added structure and security of a traditional CPM solution.

## Flexibility in a Controlled Environment

Today's Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A) function is faced with the paradox of flexibility and control as never before. The control challenges involve both the process (with numerous contributors across dozens of geographical/ functional areas) and the data (with many source systems, and a limitless proliferation of worksheets).

## Leverage Your Existing Spreadsheets

Vena 5 is a high-performance platform to build world-class CPM applications. Clients are not required to replace their current models and spreadsheets, so the resulting solutions are tailored to business needs... and implemented in a fraction of the time.

Find out how – in a few short weeks – Vena can transform your budgeting, planning & forecasting process with outstanding results.

# Rich Functionality Drives Many Benefits for Vena Clients...

"...when we implemented Vena, there was very little IT involvement... the staff accountants owned the process."

## Control & Visibility

### Vastly Improved Process Control

- Intuitive process design and workflow management engine
- Links all required users to necessary data resources (spreadsheets/templates) at each stage (task) in the workflow
- Contributors & managers are notified via email when template is available; click a link to edit, review or approve/reject

### Tracking and Status Monitoring

- Enhanced visibility for managers, including:
  - consolidated dashboard showing current status of all processes in their domain
  - centralized control for all business drivers, assumptions, validation parameters, threshold limits, and more.

## Acceptance & Usability

### Ease of Use, Very High User Adoption

- Familiar (yet powerful) user interface – Microsoft Excel®
- Managers easily create and update workflow with intuitive "drag & drop" process designer
- Contributors can conveniently work offline in MS Excel®, and synchronize updates when reconnected

### Improved Trust and Buy-in

- Structure and logic defined by the business unit
- Users work within the same spreadsheets they currently use

### Owned by Finance...not IT

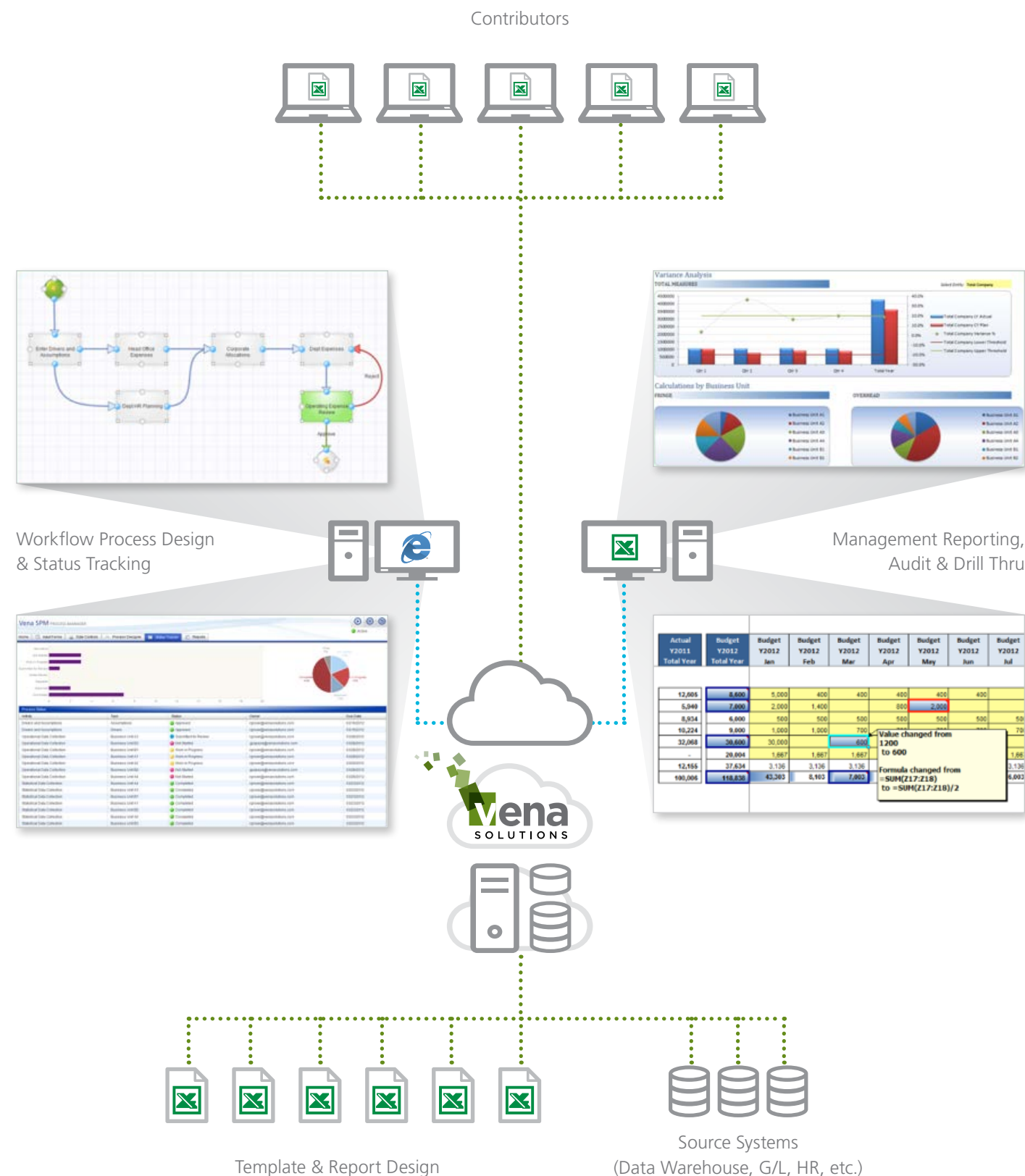
- Intuitive web and MS Excel® based platform for easy creation of process flows, data models and input templates
- No dependence on IT for complicated spreadsheet linking or running macros
- Application is not "hard-wired"... built, managed – and improved – by the business users

### Improved Collaboration

- Convenient email notification to contributors, reviewers, and approvers
- Centralized repository for all spreadsheets/templates
- Contributors only have access to data as defined by the workflow – ensuring security and version control

### Flexible, User-Defined Reporting

- As MS Excel® is the "window" to the data, business managers can easily define and customize their reports using a familiar palette
- Report books are defined in the process flow and published automatically to management or other stakeholders



## Data Integrity

### More Confidence in the Numbers

- Ability to truly manage and enforce the many data validation features available in MS Excel® today
- Thresholds and /or validation checks are applied to increase database integrity, and enforce business rules
- Rule violation controls can be hard (eg. reject save to database) or soft (eg. require supplementary commentary)

### "Single Version of the Truth"

- Seamlessly integrate any data sources with real-time updates – to a high-performance, in memory multi-dimensional database
- "Drill-through" to underlying data values and calculations
- Consolidations are automatic and reliable as contributors are submitting directly to the database – no macros, no linking, and no "cutting & pasting"

### Increased Security and Auditability

- Role-based access rights for contributors, viewers and approvers
- Enhanced ability to analyze data history including:
  - User identity
  - Time of spreadsheet save
  - Cell by cell comparison noting changes in values or formulas

## Value & Efficiency

### Ease of Deployment, Rapid Implementation

- Leverages existing models and spreadsheets to create new templates... the "Ultimate Starter Kit"
- Fast data model creation through simplified MS Excel®-driven interface

### "Rinse & Repeat" – Quick Process Rollover

- Flexibility of global variables enables the rapid "restart" to any repeatable process
- Just a few clicks and the process re-launches by retrieving a new-period view of the database

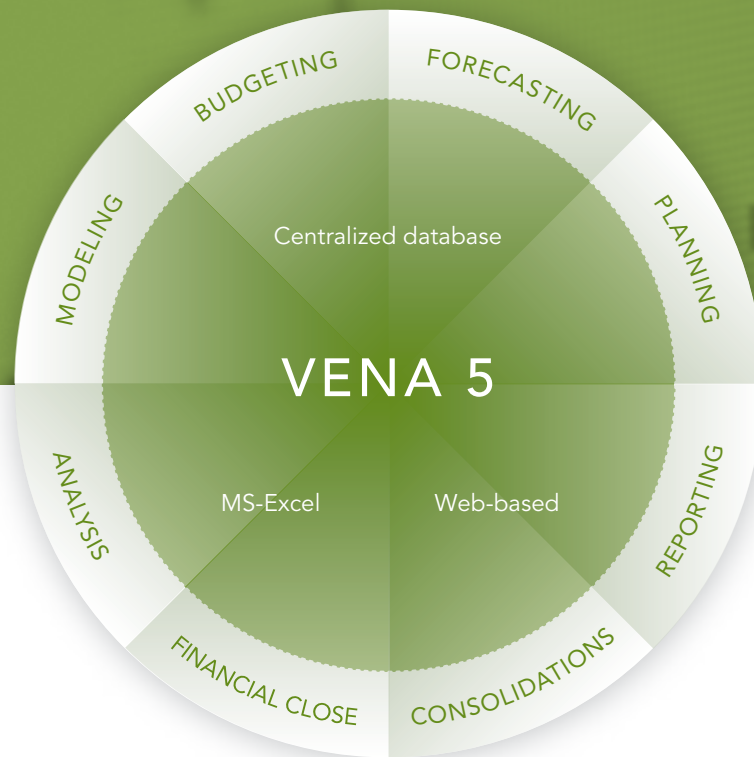
### Leverage Industry Leading Technologies

- Lower cost and improved performance by leveraging Microsoft Excel®... the world's most popular finance productivity tool
- "Future-proofed" application supports any new upgrades from Microsoft including upcoming Business Intelligence (BI) and Data Visualization enhancements
- Supports any third-party MS Excel® Add-ins (eg. industry data feeds) or custom developed macros

### Lower Total Cost of Ownership

- Quick deployment
- Existing spreadsheets renovated, adding control and auditing functions... not recreated in a different application
- No specialized IT staffing required
- Minimal user training... it's MS Excel®!

Find out how Vena Solutions  
is "changing the game" in Corporate  
Performance Management...



**Vena Solutions Headquarters**

1243 Islington Avenue, Unit 400  
Toronto, ON, Canada M8X 1Y9  
+1 416 207 1770

**Vena Solutions – Americas**

1971 Western Avenue #1125  
Albany, NY, 12203

**Vena Solutions – UK**

+44 20 3651 8189  
vena.uk@venasolutions.com

**General Inquiries**

+1 416 207 1770  
info@venasolutions.com

**U.S. North East Region  
Sales Office**

Wayne, Pennsylvania

**U.S. West Region Sales Office**

Boise, Idaho

**U.S. Midwest Region  
Sales Office**

Dallas, Texas

**New England Region  
Sales Office**

Boston, Massachusetts

**U.S. East Region Sales Office**

Charlotte, North Carolina