

Panelists







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Accounts Offshoring Demystified: A Roadmap to Success

Learn from the LEA Offshoring Veterans

Implementing Outsourcing Solutions
 Technology Tools and Implement Strategies for Clients
 Overcoming Challenges and Customizing Tools
 Workflow Management





The Outline

Accounts Outsourcing

for Accountants,



by Accountants

- 1. SandMartin's Overview
- 2. SandMartin's Expert F&A Offshoring Services
 - The Unmatched Experts in F&A Offshoring Domain
 - SandMartin Services to EU Region
- 3. Recent post-pandemic trends in offshoring and its significance in the accounting industry
- 4. What are the Challenges in F&A Offshoring
 - The Unmatched Experts in F&A Offshoring Domain
 - Impact of Remote Work, Talent Acquisition, and Knowledge Transfer
 - Case study example showcasing how SandMartin overcame these challenges
- 5. How to Choose the Right Offshoring Service Provider
- 6. Collaboration within the LEA Global Network
- 7. Technology's Role and the Future of F&A Offshoring
- 8. Questions and Answers!



SandMartin's

Expert F&A Offshoring Services









SandMartin's ~ Overview



About Us & Overview



Expert Accounting Services





Infrastructure & Security

With a legacy spanning 40 years, SandMartin stands as a distinguished leader in the industry. Our team of over 550 highly skilled professionals operates from five office locations in India. At our core, we have a deeply rooted accounting knowledge and a strong commitment to excellence. Our team comprises qualified professionals, including ACCAs, CAs, CPAs, and MBAs who bring a wealth of expertise and experience to the table. With an impeccable track record of over two decades in international F&A offshoring, we have earned a reputation for delivering outstanding services in accounting, finance, and tax return preparation. Our extensive experience in handling numerous mid and large-sized offshore migrations positions us as the ideal partner, providing the flexibility of scale and the agility demanded by today's dynamic business environment. Additionally, we pride ourselves on maintaining strong processes that ensure efficiency, accuracy, and compliance throughout our operations.

SandMartin offers a comprehensive range of services, with a strong emphasis on end-to-end Finance and Accounting (F&A) capabilities. We provide a holistic approach, handling all aspects of the financial spectrum rather than focusing on isolated parts of a job. Our dedicated team of professionals excels in areas such as financial reporting, bookkeeping, accounts payable and receivable, payroll management, tax compliance, budgeting, and financial analysis. We specialize in leveraging industry-leading platforms such as Silverfin, QuickBooks, Xero, SAP, and many more, combining our software expertise with deep accounting knowledge. With our expertise and commitment to delivering excellence, clients can trust us to handle their financial needs comprehensively, allowing them to focus on their core business objectives.

SandMartin prioritizes people practices centered around training, knowledge upscaling, and a relentless commitment to service excellence. We foster a culture of continuous learning, providing regular training programs and opportunities for our team members to enhance their skills and expertise. By investing in their professional development, we ensure that our employees stay up-to-date with industry trends and best practices. This focus on training and knowledge upscaling enables us to deliver exceptional services to our clients, consistently meeting and exceeding their expectations.

At SandMartin, we have a robust infrastructure in place to ensure business continuity and meet the evolving needs of our clients. With offices in five strategic locations, we have implemented a comprehensive Business Continuity Plan (BCP) to mitigate risks and maintain uninterrupted operations. Redundancies are built into our systems and processes to minimize downtime and maximize reliability. Furthermore, we are committed to proactively investing in additional capacity ahead of time, ensuring that we can seamlessly scale our operations to meet the growing demands of our clients and maintain the highest level of service excellence.

The Unmatched Experts in F&A Offshoring Domain







Over 40 Years of Experience in Offshoring to Accounting Businesses Worldwide:

SandMartin's extensive track record of over 40 years in offshoring to accounting businesses globally demonstrates their deep understanding and expertise in the field. This wealth of experience enables them to provide valuable insights and guidance to clients, ensuring a smooth and successful offshoring process.



Team of 550+ F&A Professionals with Diverse Qualifications:

SandMartin boasts a team of over 550 professionals who possess a range of qualifications, including Chartered Accountants (CA), Certified Public Accountants (CPA), Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), and individuals with an MBA in Finance. This diverse skill set ensures that clients have access to a highly competent and knowledgeable workforce.



Relevant Training for Continuous Skill Development:

SandMartin is committed to the ongoing training and development of its team members. They provide frequent and relevant training programs to enhance their skills and keep them up-to-date with the latest industry trends, technologies, and regulations. This ensures that the team remains equipped with the necessary expertise to address complex challenges in the offshoring domain.



The Unmatched Experts in F&A Offshoring Domain







Experienced Resources for Navigating Complexities:

SandMartin's team comprises experienced professionals who have successfully navigated the complexities of offshoring in the accounting industry. Their hands-on experience and deep knowledge allow them to anticipate potential hurdles, mitigate risks, and provide effective solutions to ensure a seamless offshoring experience for clients.



Quality Assurance through HRMS & PMS Portal:

To measure and ensure the quality of work delivered by their team, SandMartin utilizes the best Human Resource Management System (HRMS) and Performance Management System (PMS) portal. This portal enables them to monitor and evaluate team performance, track key performance indicators, and maintain high-quality standards throughout the offshoring process. It ensures that clients receive accurate and reliable services consistently.



Up-to-Date Domain Knowledge:

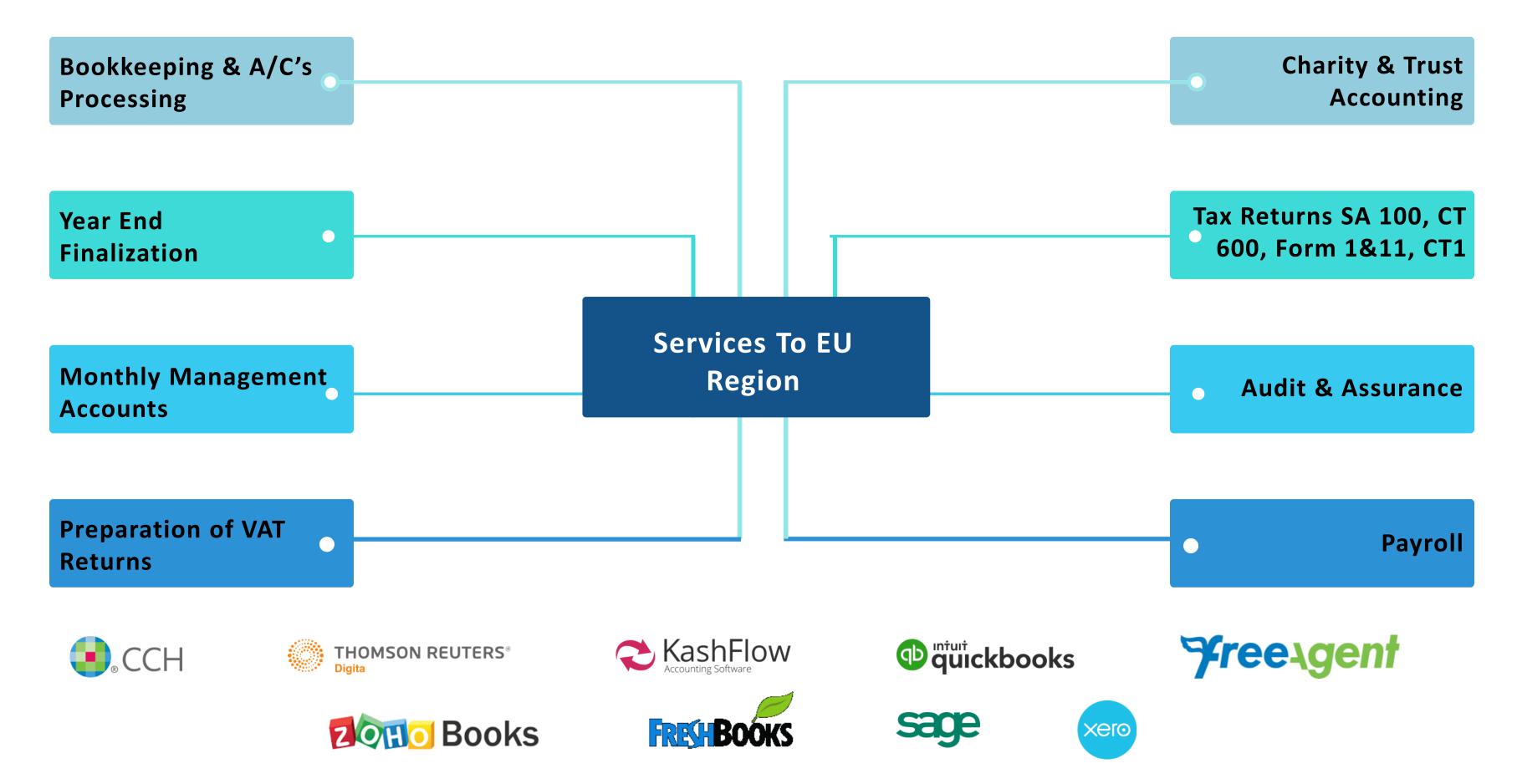
At SandMartin, we prioritize staying up-to-date with the latest changes in the accounting industry. We are committed to ensuring that our clients receive services that are aligned with current knowledge, including software knowledge and skills. Our dedication to continuous learning and expertise in navigating these changes allows us to keep our clients ahead in the evolving accounting landscape.



SandMartin Services to EU Region



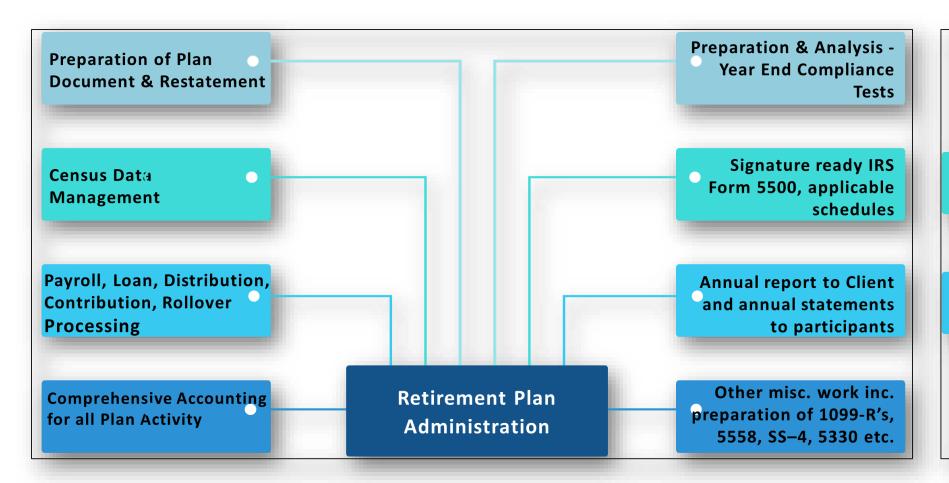




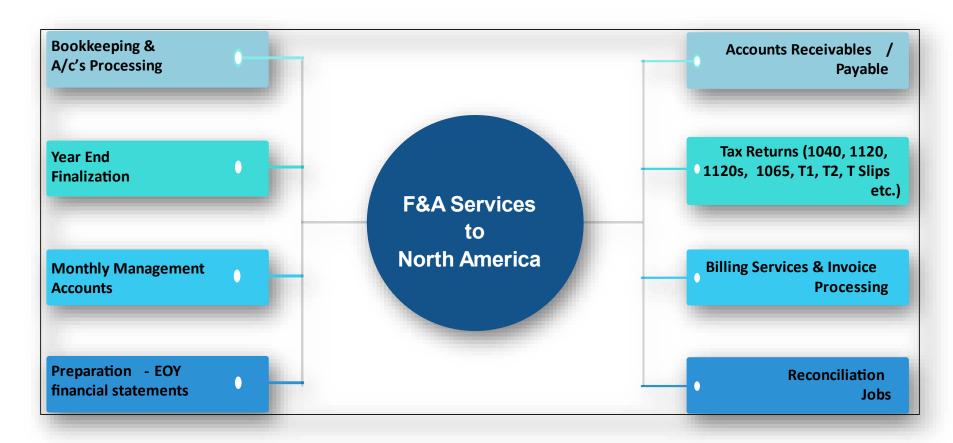
SandMartin Services to North America











Year-end finalization

Having experience of producing financial statements for various sectors such as Construction to Retail or IT to Consulting, we have done it all.

Whether it's for a Sole Proprietorship or a Limited Company or Partnership or any other entity type, we have covered them all in our expansive years of operations.

The year-end finalisation services for SandMartin include:

- Preparing financial statements from client's books/ software
- EOY Journal adjustments
- General ledger scrutiny
- Reconciliation of assets and liabilities at EOY
- Analytical review and variance analysis
- Suggestions/feedback for improvement of bookkeeping by the client
- Preparation of cross-referenced working paper files (scanned)
- Preparation of excel schedules and workings to support financial statements

We are fully trained on a variety of applications used in the EU Region for Accounts production ranging from IRIS, SAPA, Digita, CCH, Pro-Audit, Caseware, Relate AP, SilverFin and many more.

Personal & Corporate Tax

SandMartin's Tax Returns services have been hailed as a lifesaver for EU Region accounting firms. Our expertise in personal tax returns relieves the burden from EU Region staff during peak seasons, allowing them to focus on client servicing. Our highly skilled team stays updated with HMRC, ROS tax laws and conducts regular training. We specialize in income tax returns, including portfolio management with securities transactions, rental accounts for property owners, and self-employment accounts for sole traders. With our meticulous approach and extensive experience, we deliver accurate and efficient tax return services that meet the unique needs of our clients.

Monthly Book-Keeping & Repositing Martin

SandMartin's Bookkeeping services go beyond providing error-free books; we tailor our approach to suit your specific needs and help you save significantly. With 20 years of expertise in various business operations, our bookkeeping process ensures guaranteed satisfaction.

Our Certified users are adept in utilizing mainstream Cloud Applications like Xero, QBO, Zohobooks, Surf, Receipt Bank and many more. Our services encompass assets/equipment ledger maintenance, general ledger maintenance, accounts receivable/payable services, bank account and credit card reconciliation, payroll reconciliations, and cash flow management. Trust us to deliver accurate and cost-effective bookkeeping solutions that optimize your financial processes.

Management Reporting & Analysis

SandMartin excels in Management Accounting and Financial Planning & Analysis (FP&A) capabilities, providing invaluable insights to drive informed decision-making. Our experienced team of professionals combines financial expertise with advanced analytical skills to deliver comprehensive management accounting services. We offer budgeting, forecasting, variance analysis, and performance reporting to help businesses gain a clear understanding of their financial performance and optimize resource allocation.

With our FP&A capabilities, we provide strategic financial guidance, assisting in long-term planning, scenario analysis, and identifying growth opportunities. Our commitment to delivering accurate and timely financial insights empowers businesses to make proactive and data-driven decisions for sustainable growth.









Audit and Assurance Capabilities | Forensic Audits





SandMartin's dedicated Shared Service Centre at Gurgaon in India delivers high-end outsourced auditing services to mid-large sized firms across EU Region and the North America offering a wide range of services across all phases of audit. We have a team of Qualified Professionals (including ACCAs, FCAs, CPAs etc.) who have extensive working experience in performing end-to-end audits of mid-large sized companies with a focus on control & substantive testing capabilities.

Client Acceptance

- Background & Verification Checks
- Identification of Related Parties
- Risk Assessment

Planning Phase

- Roll forward of Audit files
- Process Flowcharts
- Performing a preliminary analysis of financial statements

Control Testing

- Testing of D&I of operational & IT Controls
- Risk Control Analysis
- Testing of the internal controls, identifying weaknesses/deficiencies

Substantive Testing

- Lead Sheets
- Expenses Testing (SAP)
- Sampling
- Performing primary substantive procedures for balance sheet & income statement

Audit Completion and Concluding Phase

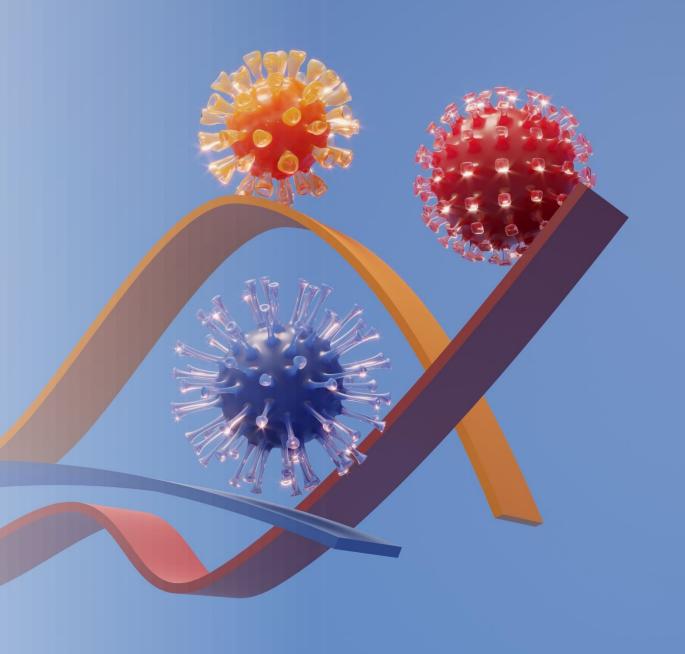
- Documenting Audit Checklists
- Management Representation Letters
- Review of Financial
 Statement & Disclosures

From Client Acceptance to Substantive Testing and from Planning to Audit Completion, we provide niche audit services to solve your audit challenges such as changing regulatory requirements, increasing cost, meeting client expectations and heavy workload.

Not only this, but we are also strengthening our audit and assurance competencies to provide even more flexibility and quality to our clients. We offer tailor made audit solutions to make your business more productive and valuable.



Recent post-pandemic trends in offshoring and its significance in the accounting industry











According to a survey by **Deloitte**, **60% of businesses have increased their focus on cost optimization** strategies post-pandemic, leading to a rise in offshoring activities across various industries, including accounting.



According to a survey by the **Global Talent Trends** Report by LinkedIn, **82% of talent professionals** believe that accessing a global talent pool is essential for their organization's success. Offshoring accounting services allows companies to tap into a diverse range of skilled professionals, enhancing their capabilities and competitiveness.



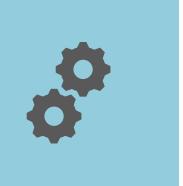
The Global Work-from-Home Experience Survey conducted by **PwC revealed that 83%** of employees reported a positive experience working remotely during the pandemic. This shift to remote work has facilitated the adoption of offshoring in the accounting industry, allowing **seamless collaboration** with offshore teams.



A report by Statista indicates that the global cloud accounting software market is projected to reach a value of \$11.8 billion by 2027, showcasing the increased adoption of digital technologies in the accounting industry. Cloud-based accounting software has enabled efficient remote work and has contributed to the growth of offshoring in the sector.



Research conducted by Everest Group estimates that the Knowledge Process Outsourcing (KPO) market is expected to grow at a **CAGR of 23-25% between 2021 and 2025**. This indicates the increasing demand for specialized accounting services being offshored to leverage expertise and cost advantages.



The Business Continuity Management (BCM) Market, which includes disaster recovery services, is expected to reach \$15.5 billion by 2026, as per a report by MarketsandMarkets. Offshoring accounting processes helps mitigate risks and ensures business continuity, making it a vital strategy for companies to protect their financial operations.



Specific Challenges Encountered in F&A offshoring post-pandemic









The transition to remote work during the pandemic has posed challenges in F&A offshoring. Offshore teams had to quickly adapt to remote work setups, including securing reliable internet connections, ensuring data security, and maintaining effective communication channels.



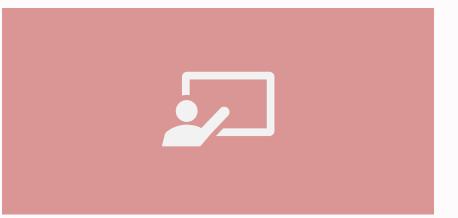
Infrastructure and Technology

Offshore service providers faced challenges in upgrading their infrastructure and technology to support remote work on a large scale. This involved ensuring secure remote access to financial systems, implementing collaboration tools, and maintaining robust IT support for employees



Data Security and Privacy

F&A offshoring involves handling sensitive financial data. Maintaining data security and privacy became even more critical during the pandemic due to increased cybersecurity threats. Service providers had to invest in advanced security measures and adhere to strict compliance regulations.



Employee Productivity & Engagement

The shift to remote work can impact employee productivity and engagement. Challenges include managing remote teams, maintaining motivation, and ensuring effective collaboration and knowledge sharing among team members.

Impact of Remote Work, Talent Acquisition, and Knowledge Transfer

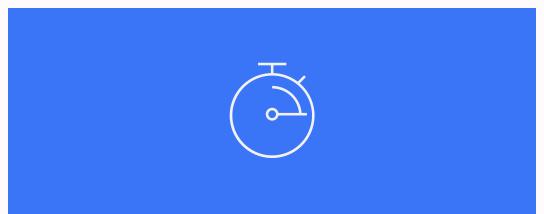






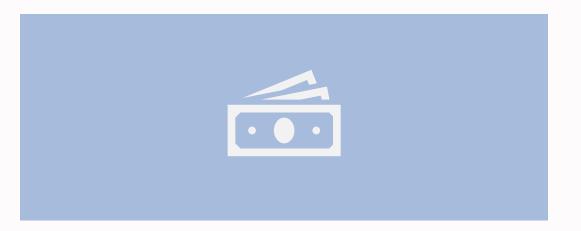


Remote work has allowed companies to access a larger talent pool by hiring employees from different geographical locations. It has enabled flexibility in work arrangements, reduced office space requirements, and increased employee satisfaction. However, it also presents challenges in terms of managing remote teams, ensuring effective communication, and maintaining productivity.



Talent Acquisition

Offshoring operations require access to skilled finance and accounting professionals. Talent acquisition can be a challenge, especially in niche areas or locations with limited talent availability. Remote work has opened up opportunities to tap into global talent, but it also requires implementing effective recruitment strategies, assessing cultural fit, and providing adequate onboarding and training.



Knowledge Transfer

Offshoring involves transferring knowledge and expertise from onshore teams to offshore teams. Remote work can pose challenges in knowledge transfer, as face-to-face interactions are reduced. It is crucial to establish robust knowledge management systems, document processes, and promote regular communication and training sessions to ensure effective knowledge transfer.





Case study example showcasing how SandMartin overcame these challenges









Remote Work Transition

SandMartin successfully transitioned to remote work by providing employees with the necessary equipment and technology. They implemented secure VPN access and collaboration tools, ensuring uninterrupted communication and workflow. Regular virtual team meetings and training sessions were conducted to maintain engagement and productivity.

Infrastructure and Technology:

SandMartin invested in upgrading their infrastructure and technology to support remote work. They ensured data security through encrypted connections and implemented multi-factor authentication. Additionally, they provided IT support round the clock to address any technical issues faced by employees.

Data Security and Privacy:

SandMartin implemented stringent data security measures, including regular security audits and compliance with industry regulations. They conducted employee training on data protection and established protocols for handling sensitive financial information. Regular internal and external audits were performed to maintain data privacy standards.

Employee Productivity and Engagement:

SandMartin focused on employee engagement by organizing virtual teambuilding activities, recognizing outstanding performance, and providing regular feedback. They promoted knowledge sharing through online platforms and encouraged collaboration among team members. Performance metrics were established to monitor productivity, and support was provided to address any challenges faced by employees during the remote work transition

A Case Study: Getting the most out of outsourcing | Less worry, more results



Client is a leader in fintech powering truly innovative customer commerce solutions. It provides seamless, and omni-channel commerce experiences across any and every channel - regardless of customers' location, mode of payment, and device. Client Team was facing resource crunch in their accounting team when SandMartin's long time business partner — ABC Ltd (one of the Top CA firms in the UK) referred them to us. They were desperately looking for a partnering solution to address their resourcing issue.

We at SandMartin offer a wide range of services addressing different accounting needs and have a truly versatile team with hands-on experience on different software. A preliminary discussion was soon initiated with Client where we addressed their questions w.r.t the process, our experience, our scope of services, relevance to their needs, migration process, service models, resourcing process etc.

Once they were agreed, we had them meet our software SMEs and technical managers for a debrief understanding of their requirements and expectations. Client management then soon decided to proceed with our FTE model. Given the compelling circumstances within Client's accounting team, we had a very short notice of 15 days when we had to get 4 resources ready to begin with the transition directly.

It was crucial to have a strong team @SandMartin who could manage a paced transition. We built a competitive team with our transition experts who were set up on our client's system in no time and the trainings soon started. We have always emphasized on the importance of a fool proof transition plan hence we included specialists who were in-charge of documenting the processes every step of the way.

As of today, we're into our 5th month with Client and already working with a team of 10 FTEs with a great potential to grow further. The team and the process leaders have been greatly appreciated time and again by our client's team and we've had such a fulfilling partnership over such a short period time with Client.



Delighted to see the SandMartin team integrating so well with Client on AP. I would like to note the professionalism of the team and the leaders.

How to Choose the Right
Offshoring Service
Provider





When implementing outsourcing solutions for accounts offshoring, choosing the right partner is crucial. Consider the following factors to ensure a successful partnership:



Service Level Agreements (SLAs):

Establish clear service level agreements with the outsourcing partner to define expectations, deliverables, turnaround times, and quality standards. SLAs help ensure accountability and provide a framework for measuring performance.



References and Reputation:

Conduct thorough research and seek references from other clients who have worked with the outsourcing partner. This will give you insights into their reputation, reliability, and client satisfaction levels.



Regulatory Compliance:

Ensure that the outsourcing partner complies with relevant legal and regulatory requirements in the jurisdictions where your firm operates. They should have proper certifications, licenses, and adherence to data privacy regulations.







Selecting the Right Outsourcing Partner:

When implementing outsourcing solutions for accounts offshoring, choosing the right partner is crucial. Consider the following factors to ensure a successful partnership:



Expertise and Experience:

Look for an outsourcing partner with expertise and experience in the accounting field. They should have a strong understanding of accounting principles, tax regulations, and industry-specific requirements. Assess their track record and client testimonials to ensure they have a proven record of delivering quality services.



Security and Data Protection:

Accounting firms deal with sensitive financial information, so it is crucial to prioritize security and data protection. Ensure that the outsourcing partner has robust security measures in place, including encryption protocols, secure data centers, and compliance with relevant data protection regulations like GDPR or HIPAA



Scalability and Flexibility:

Consider the outsourcing partner's ability to scale their services based on your firm's needs. They should be able to handle fluctuating workloads and accommodate growth. Additionally, check if they offer flexible engagement models, allowing you to adjust the scope or volume of work as required.







Selecting the Right Outsourcing Partner:







Communication and Collaboration:

Effective communication is essential for a successful outsourcing partnership. Evaluate the outsourcing partner's communication channels, response times, and language proficiency. They should be easily accessible and responsive to your queries and concerns. Collaboration tools and regular progress updates should be part of their standard practice.



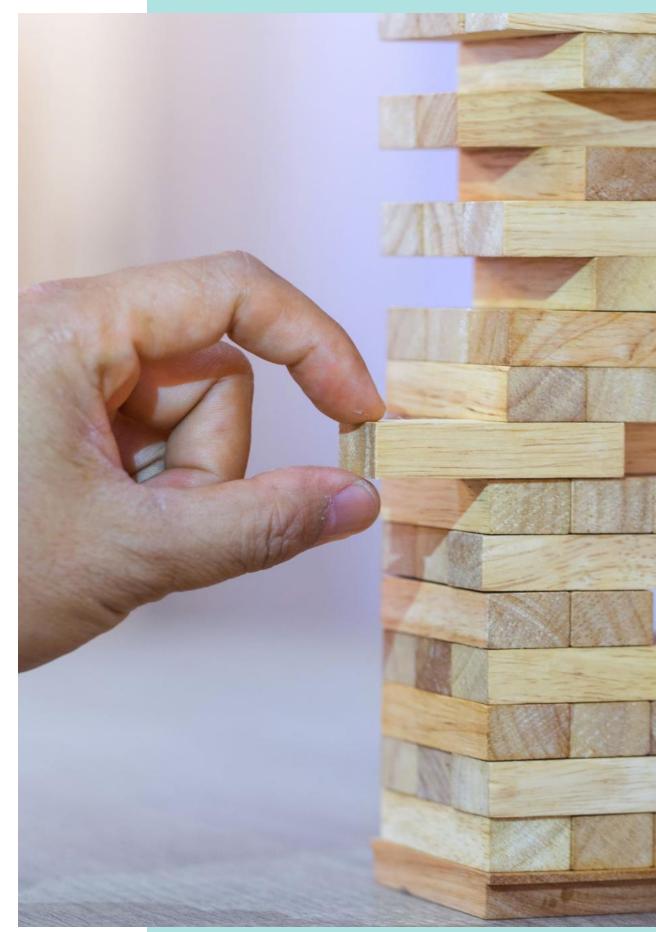
Cultural Fit:

Understanding and aligning with your firm's culture is crucial for seamless collaboration. Evaluate if the outsourcing partner's values, work ethics, and communication style align with your firm's culture. This ensures a smoother integration of their team with yours



Technology and Infrastructure:

Assess the outsourcing partner's technology infrastructure and software capabilities. They should be equipped with modern accounting software and tools to ensure efficient workflow and data integration. Compatibility with your existing systems and ability to transfer data securely are important considerations.









Collaboration within the LEA Global Network

SandMartin - Outsourcing Experts, with over 40 years of experience in catering to clients worldwide, expresses gratitude for the 20-year partnership with the Leading Edge Alliance (LEA), an association of independently owned firms. This collaboration provides personal global connections, innovative accounting and business experts, and quality specialists in diverse services and industries.

Strengthening Collaboration:

- 1. Knowledge Sharing: Propose establishing a dedicated platform or forum for members to exchange insights, best practices, and industry trends, fostering cross-learning and staying ahead of the curve. This collaborative approach will enhance expertise and benefit clients.
- 2. Joint Marketing Efforts: Suggest showcasing joint successes and expertise through case studies, webinars, articles, and social media. By amplifying our global market presence, we can attract new clients seeking outsourcing solutions and increase business opportunities for all members.
- **3. Client Referrals**: Promote active client referrals within the network, leveraging respective strengths and specialties to provide comprehensive solutions to clients with multifaceted requirements. Collaborative referrals will enhance client satisfaction and expand our collective reach.
- 4. Training and Professional Development: Organize workshops, webinars, and training sessions to enhance skills and stay updated with the latest advancements in outsourcing and related fields. This ongoing professional development will benefit individual members and strengthen the overall expertise of the network.
- 5. Joint Ventures and Strategic Alliances: Explore opportunities for joint ventures or strategic alliances on specific projects or geographical expansions. By combining resources and capabilities, we can deliver exceptional value to clients and pursue mutually beneficial growth.

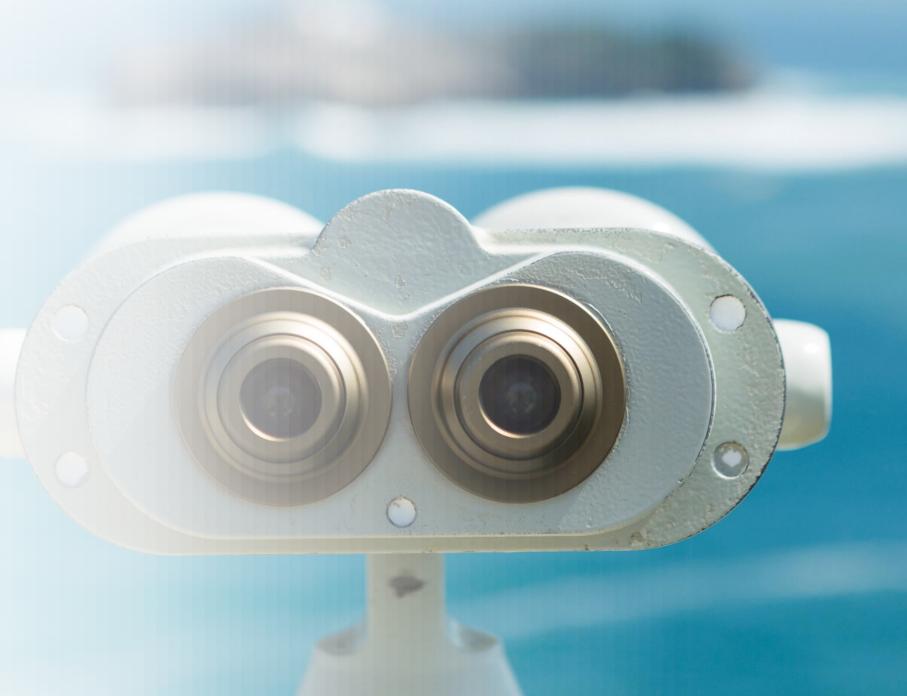
By leveraging our extensive experience, diverse expertise, and global reach, the LEA Global Network can navigate the dynamic outsourcing landscape successfully. Through increased collaboration and implementing the proposed initiatives, we can drive business growth, enhance client satisfaction, and solidify our position as leaders in the industry. Let us seize this opportunity to strengthen our partnership and achieve collective success.







Technology's Role and the Future of F&A Offshoring









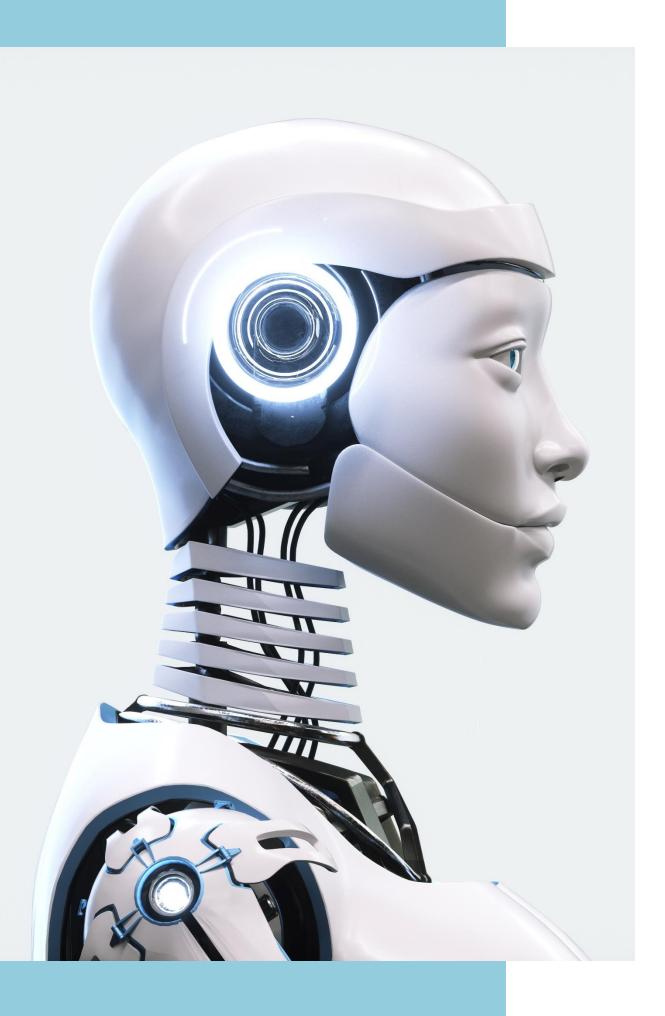
Role of technology in F&A Offshoring

The evolving role of technology in F&A offshoring has been transformative, enabling greater efficiency, accuracy, and cost-effectiveness. Automation, AI, and data analytics have played significant roles in streamlining F&A processes and enhancing decision-making capabilities.

Automation has revolutionized repetitive and rule-based tasks in F&A offshoring. Technologies such as robotic process automation (RPA) have automated manual data entry, invoice processing, and reconciliations, reducing errors and processing time. This has led to improved productivity and increased focus on value-added activities.

Al has introduced intelligent automation in F&A offshoring. Machine learning algorithms can analyze large volumes of financial data, identify patterns, and make predictions or recommendations. Al-powered chatbots and virtual assistants have improved customer support and reduced response times. These technologies enable faster decision-making and provide insights for strategic planning.

Data analytics has become crucial in F&A offshoring as organizations gather vast amounts of financial data. Advanced analytics tools can extract meaningful insights, detect fraud, identify cost-saving opportunities, and optimize financial processes. Predictive analytics helps in forecasting cash flows, managing risks, and improving financial planning.



Future Trends & Opportunities in F&A Offshoring

Advanced Automation

F&A offshoring will see further advancements in automation, with increased adoption of RPA and intelligent automation. This will lead to faster transaction processing, reduced errors, and improved scalability. The focus will shift towards automating complex tasks and enhancing collaboration between human and automated processes.

Al and Cognitive Technologies

Al will play a more significant role in F&A offshoring, with machine learning algorithms becoming even more sophisticated. Predictive analytics and Al-driven insights will empower organizations to make data-driven financial decisions and optimize business performance. Natural language processing (NLP) will enable advanced data extraction and analysis from unstructured financial documents.

Enhanced Data Analytics

Data analytics will continue to evolve, with advancements in data visualization, predictive analytics, and real-time reporting. F&A offshoring providers will leverage big data and cloud computing to process and analyze large volumes of financial data, enabling proactive decision-making, risk management, and strategic planning.

Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

With increased reliance on technology and data, F&A offshoring will face greater challenges in maintaining cybersecurity and data privacy. There will be a growing demand for robust security measures, including encryption, secure cloud solutions, and compliance with data protection regulations.





Future Trends & Opportunities in F&A Offshoring, considering integration of technology



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Cybersecurity and Data Privacy

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Talent Development

As technology becomes more integral to F&A offshoring, there will be a need for upskilling and reskilling the workforce. Organizations will focus on developing expertise in data analytics, AI, and automation to benefits maximize the technology integration. Continuous learning and development programs will be essential to adapt to the evolving landscape.

Overall, the integration of technology in F&A offshoring presents tremendous opportunities for improved efficiency, strategic decision-making, and cost optimization. Organizations that embrace these trends and leverage technological advancements will gain a competitive edge in the future of F&A offshoring.





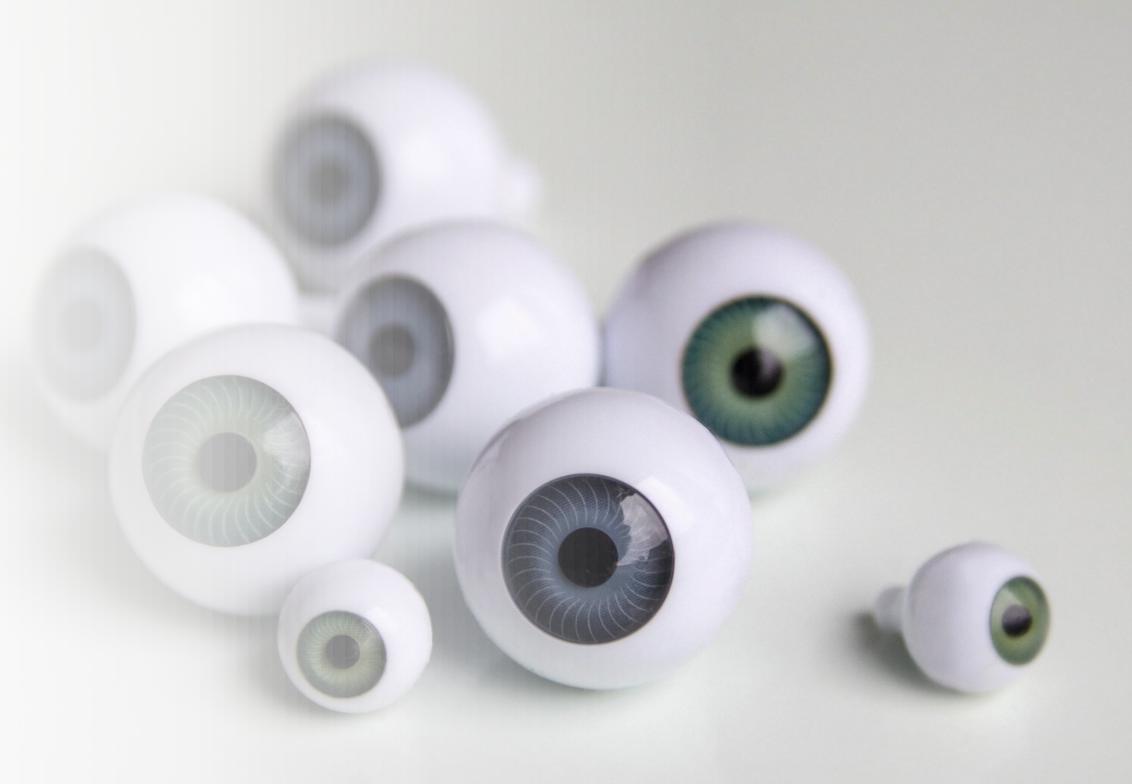
Questions and Answers!







Closing Remarks





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