



Bottomline Technologies  
service underpins growth  
in business



## AXA Wealth pension platform connects seamlessly to SWIFT

### Company Profile

AXA Wealth is part of the AXA Group. The AXA Group has a history dating back to the 18th century, with three distinct areas of business, namely wealth management, insurance and healthcare. The Group employs 214,000 employees and distributors worldwide and has major operations in Europe, North America and the Asia/Pacific area. 95 million clients around the world have placed their trust in AXA to insure their property (cars, homes, belongings); provide health and personal protection for their families or employees; and to manage their personal or corporate assets.

AXA Wealth comprises more than 3,000 people across multiple sites, AXA Wealth comprises: AXA Elevate wrap; Architas Multi-Manager; AXA Wealth International, (including our offshore businesses in the Isle of Man and access to offshore products in Dublin); the AXA Winterthur specialist investment and pensions businesses; and Corporate Investment Services through a Corporate Trustee Investment Plan (CTIP). The Wealth portfolio is complemented by AXA Bancassurance, which provides investment products to key banking partners, and Sun Life Direct, which provides life assurance products direct to the consumer.

### The Situation

AXA Wealth, in planning ahead to embrace the shift from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution provision, devised a strategy to create a reliable and robust pension platform to support significant business growth. With a preference to buy rather than build and retain their expertise and focus on building their business, AXA Wealth selected Altus Funds Gateway (AFG), due to the expertise of the company and the track record of the product.

The selection and implementation of the pension platform would require integration with the SWIFT network where automated, secure transactions could be reliably transmitted between AXA Wealth and its pension scheme administrators. The emerging new message standards for Funds Trading over SWIFT were being embraced by the market and seamless connectivity between AFG and SWIFT was essential.

Bottomline's SWIFT Access Service (SAS) had already proven their Service Bureau as a reliable service for processing messages to and from AFG, across the SWIFT network. The Bureau enables AFG customers to utilise SWIFT ViaNova, an ISO compliant communication standard which is recognised by the industry as a framework for financial organisations to process financial transactions via

“SWIFT connectivity  
99% plus reliability.  
Project delivered on  
time and on budget”



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electronic messaging. The AFG platform and the link to SWIFT, supports funds order processing, price reporting, holding statements, funds transfers and other related activities using the industry standard, ISO2022 messages over the secure SWIFT network

*“Our partnership with Bottomline has proven to be a real benefit for this project. As the SWIFT Regional Partner and with the wealth of experience and SWIFT accreditation which their team has built up over 15 years, Bottomline was able to*

*understand AXA Wealth's requirements and ensure the implementation of the SWIFT connectivity went smoothly. The complexity of SWIFT is a fear factor for many. However, the benefit of working with the experts at Bottomline ensures this is not a barrier to success. We are delighted that this particular implementation has met AXA Wealth's requirements and is now live." Ben Cocks, Products Director, Altus.*

The ultimate goal of maximising straight through processing (STP) of messages using industry standards across the SWIFT network, is now a reality for AXA Wealth and its customers.

## Results and benefits

AFG had already proven the connection and reliability of the SWIFT connection using Bottomline's SAS solution. With AXA Wealth's requirement for speed of the implementation, both Altus and Bottomline were comfortable that they could meet the challenge and indeed, within 3 months from the project kick-off, AXA Wealth processed live messages across the network.

Much is made of achieving high rates of STP. However the benefits to the organisation cannot be under-estimated. Speed and reliability of message transfer improves workflow and customer satisfaction. It saves time and money. With access to more than 1,000 funds and over 200 trades processed daily, the AXA Wealth team, are now able to rely on the technology and focus their attention on business growth and improved customer service.

*"Moving from paper to electronic processing of funds messaging is essential to AXA Wealth business. As we embrace new industry initiatives the speed to market is key for us. However, change creates many challenges for both people and technology in any business. Our relationship with both Altus and Bottomline, and the way their teams work well together, has been an integral part of the speed at which this project has been delivered. In particular, SWIFT connectivity is very complex and requires specialised skills. We need to know that we are working with those who have a proven track record in the SWIFT messaging arena and the fact that we are shielded from the complexity of this by the skilled team at Bottomline, is perfect for us." John Maxwell, Project Manager – AXA Wealth, Investment Operations.*

## About Bottomline

Bottomline Technologies, a leading provider of collaborative payment, invoice and document automation solutions, recently acquired SMA Financial, a London-based provider of Software as a Service connectivity to SWIFT. This acquisition combines a SWIFT Regional Partner for the UK, Ireland and the Channel Islands with Bottomline's expertise in payments, treasury and cash management solutions.

Bottomline now offers SWIFT Access Service and a range of business consulting, technical services and solutions to complement the SWIFT network to a range of bank, financial institution and corporate customers. Bottomline's accredited team of SWIFT experts has more than 300 successful customer implementations.



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