



# ASL\*Form Product review

By Khalil Rehman, Independent Oracle Applications Functional Consultant

*For years I have been involved in implementing the Oracle e-business suite, when users want a bespoke form or report my eyes usually glaze over and I call for a team of developers. Have you ever noticed they usually talk in a different language almost unintelligible to business users? Before you know it you have lost what you originally required and are left with techno mumbo-jumbo. No more, I have just been introduced to ASL which simplifies the development process enabling the business user to get more hands-on in the process.*

## What is ASL\*Form?

Simply stated, ASL\*Form software enables its users to develop very powerful and highly functional add-on solutions that are 100% integrated directly into Oracle Applications in a very short time. The results look like any other Oracle screen or report.

requirements are either scaled down or scrapped completely due to time and/or budgetary constraints. Building solutions with ASL\*Form is a task that a functional consultant can do with some help from a DBA, a developer or even an end user with a little SQL knowledge. It is claimed you can become productive with ASL\*Form in literally a matter of minutes. To make the best use of this product I would recommend the formation of a small development team. The team should consist of a high level business user who can define the business requirement. The second team member should be a developer who has had the ASL training (a day for experienced PL/SQL developers otherwise a week for beginners). The final team member should be a tester from the business community. It is their role to ensure that the Development satisfies the business requirement.

are not just in the time and cost of the initial solution – development, support time and costs are also dramatically reduced; training costs are reduced, as you do not need to train your staff in the latest development tools. Your end-users are likely to be much happier with their system and therefore they will be more efficient. Also, because the solutions developed with ASL\*Form have the exact same look and feel to standard Oracle Applications forms, they do not have to train to use a different kind of system; consistent look and feel is very important to everyone.

ASL\*Form is not just a tool for building new systems, it can be used to improve your existing systems in many ways; for example, it can be used to replace many standard reports with new, fully interactive form based versions. Quite often users print reports consisting of very many pages and then just use a couple of pages at the back, the hardcopy report is cumbersome, costly and ultimately hard for the user to use but they use it anyway because that is all that is available to them. You can replace the report with a fully interactive ASL\*Form that is accessed via the standard Oracle Applications menu. Another way to improve productivity and user efficiency is to replace many of the standard Oracle Applications forms with ASL\*Forms; in certain cases, information that a user requires is buried deep within a large and complex form; now you can take out the complexity and provide the user with an easy to use alternative which gives them the information they really need.

Category	Item	Onhand Qty	Safety Qty	Planned Qty	Wip Qty	Order Qty
ASSEMBLY	AS41001	0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL	AS42001	0	0	0	0	0
COMPONENT	AS54999	400	0	300	4	0
Desktop Li	AS62444	0	0	0	1424	0
Hard Drive	AS62445	0	0	0	877	0
LINEN	AS65101	944	0	9700	0	0
Laptop Pro	AS65102	1200	0	2000	0	10
MED/SURG	AS65103	1700	0	3000	0	10
MISC	AS66311	50	0	100	1500	2
Monitors	AS72111	3750	0	2000	100	200
PRODUCTN	AS90888	0	0	0	0	0
SERVICES	AS93789	93300	0	0	0	10

Fig. 1 An ASL\*Form in action

Traditionally, add-on solutions for Oracle Applications are developed by teams of highly skilled technical consultants; these solutions can be expensive, take a very long time to develop and can be difficult and costly to support. Quite often, an end user's

The suppliers of ASL\*Form (ApplTop) cite the case of a client who recently implemented it to develop in-house, a mini application for Oracle Applications that consisted of 10 professional forms and 11 reports. This was done by someone with no forms knowledge at all in less than four days. Cost and time savings are potentially huge. These savings

If you have had Oracle Applications for years then this is a good time to use ASL\*Form; you can now start those 'Maybe Later...' projects that were put off originally due to lack of time and/or money. ASL\*Form is a system that can be used as a way of continually improving your Oracle Applications.

The product is licensed on a site/solution basis. The base product itself, which consists of (but is not limited too) the ASL\*Form Builder IDE and the ASL\*Form Runtime engine is licensed per site; you then license the number of solutions you are going to develop using it. Special development licenses for software companies wishing to develop their own commercial solutions using ASL\*Form are also available. In this scenario, the software company would purchase special licenses that allow them to develop solutions and sell them on along with just the runtime engine component of ASL\*Form. There are two pricing structures that can be used when pricing ASL\*Form, High-Usage Pricing and Low-Usage Pricing. Both pricing structures are based on how many solutions are developed, the idea being that the less you use the product the less you pay.

### Claimed Cost and Time Savings

Figure two shows the kind of cost savings that the suppliers of ASL\*Form claim are

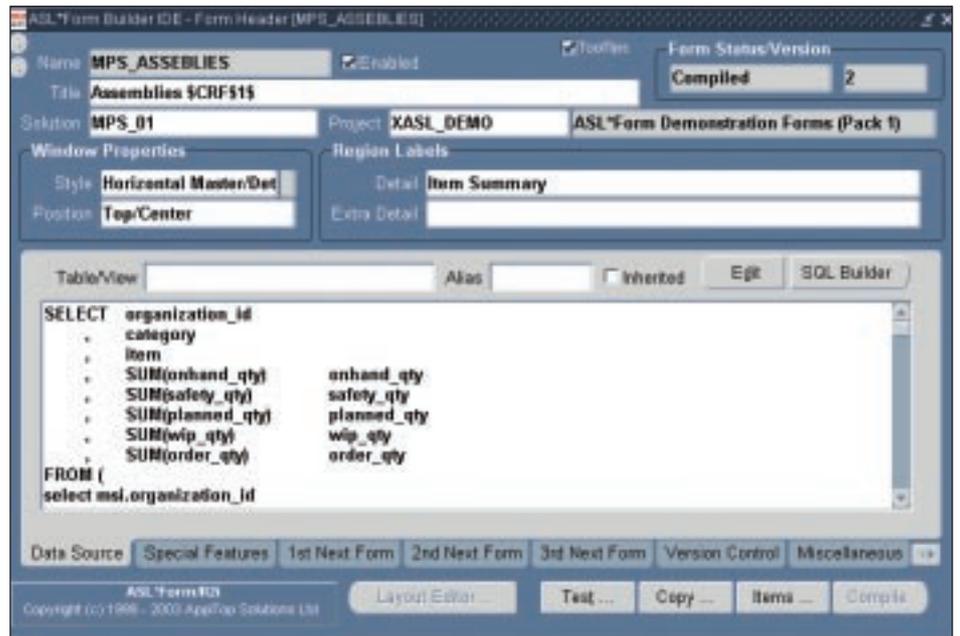


Fig. 3 The ASL\*Form Builder IDE

possible. The suppliers claim that the cost is between five and 23 times less using ASL\*Form. Further savings may be possible via reduced support costs.

### Product Details

The prices quoted in this review are out of date. Current pricing is lower.

Please contact us for current Pricing & Licensing information.

System Requirements: Oracle E-Business Platform  
 Supplier: ApplTop Solutions Ltd  
 Supplier Web Site: <http://www.appltop.com/>

### About the Author

*Khalil Rehman works as an Independent Functional Consultant on Oracle Applications Implementations. He has worked in the following capacities on over 22 projects in the last 11 years in over a dozen countries. Khalil can be contacted on [kal\\_mbht@yahoo.com](mailto:kal_mbht@yahoo.com)*

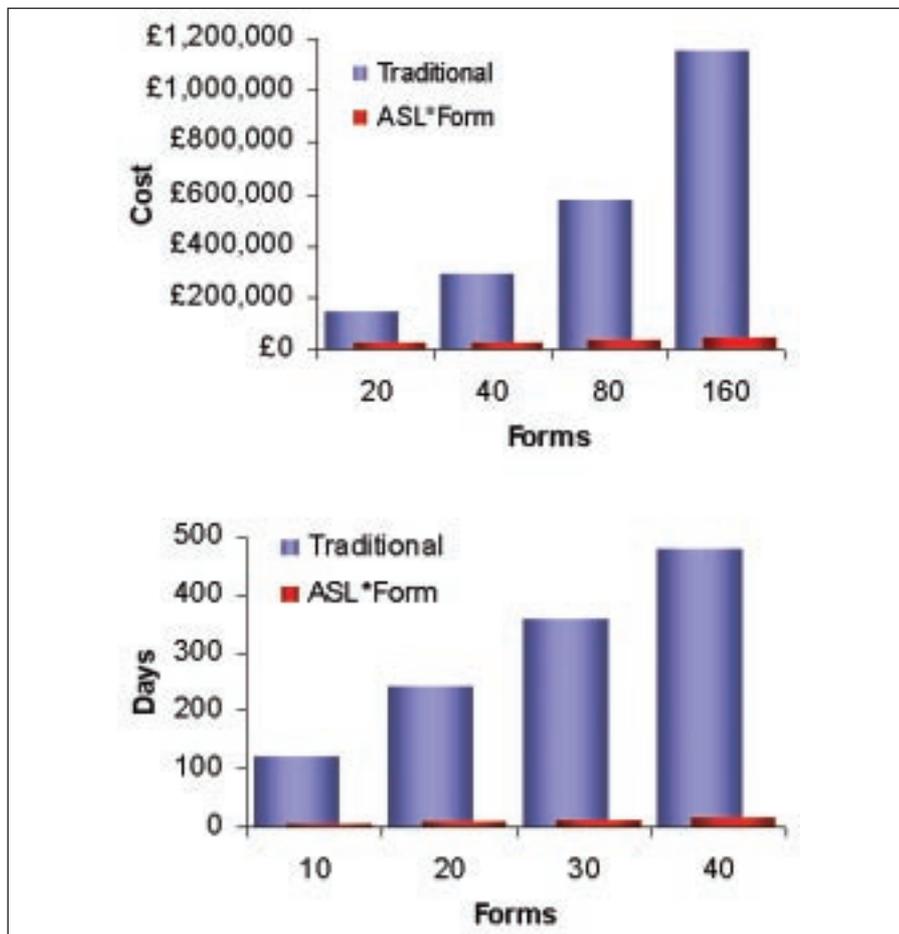
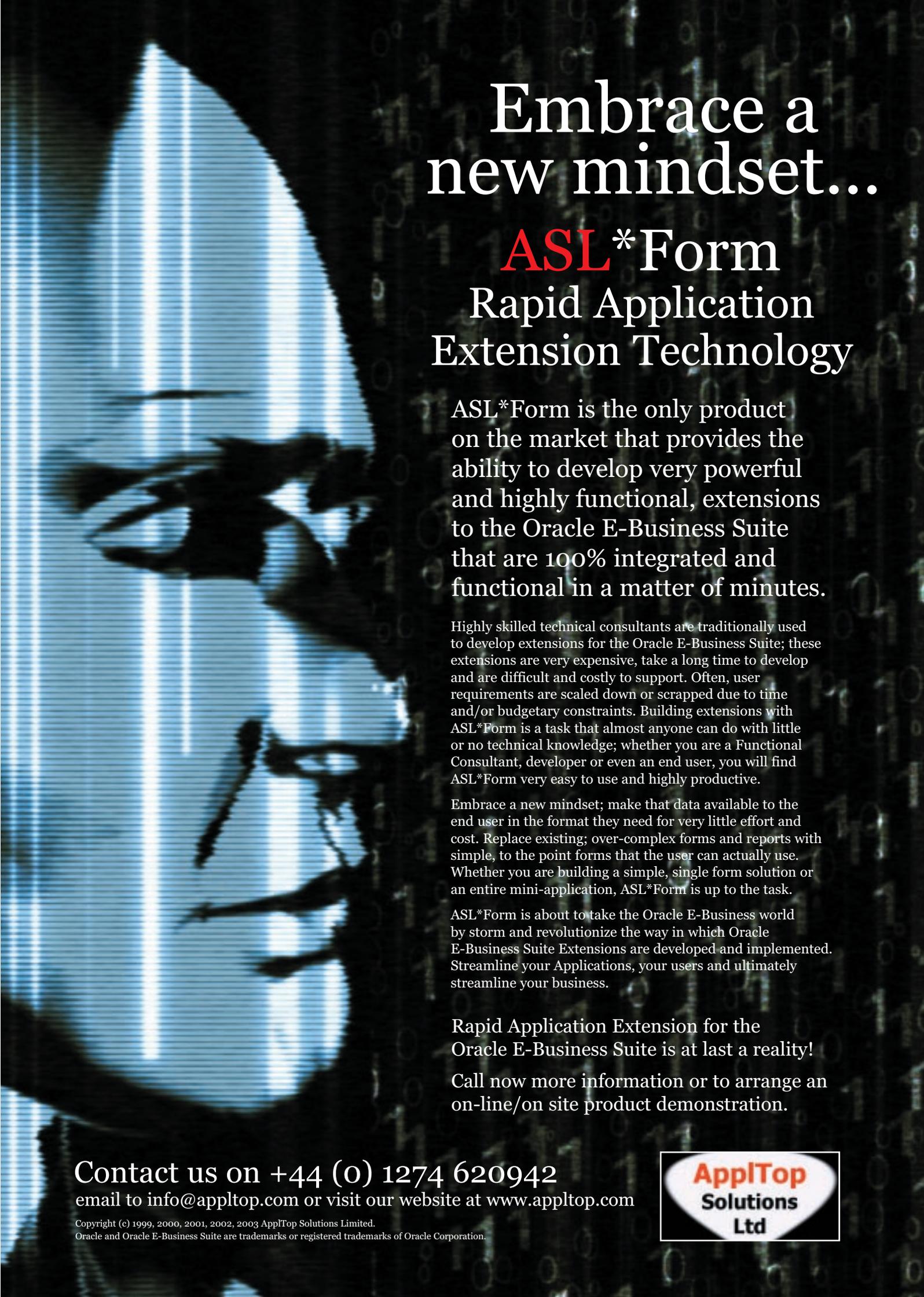


Fig 2 Potential Cost and time Savings (Average build cost is 12 days per form at typical rates for a technical consultant)



# Embrace a new mindset...

## **ASL\***Form Rapid Application Extension Technology

ASL\*Form is the only product on the market that provides the ability to develop very powerful and highly functional, extensions to the Oracle E-Business Suite that are 100% integrated and functional in a matter of minutes.

Highly skilled technical consultants are traditionally used to develop extensions for the Oracle E-Business Suite; these extensions are very expensive, take a long time to develop and are difficult and costly to support. Often, user requirements are scaled down or scrapped due to time and/or budgetary constraints. Building extensions with ASL\*Form is a task that almost anyone can do with little or no technical knowledge; whether you are a Functional Consultant, developer or even an end user, you will find ASL\*Form very easy to use and highly productive.

Embrace a new mindset; make that data available to the end user in the format they need for very little effort and cost. Replace existing; over-complex forms and reports with simple, to the point forms that the user can actually use. Whether you are building a simple, single form solution or an entire mini-application, ASL\*Form is up to the task.

ASL\*Form is about to take the Oracle E-Business world by storm and revolutionize the way in which Oracle E-Business Suite Extensions are developed and implemented. Streamline your Applications, your users and ultimately streamline your business.

Rapid Application Extension for the Oracle E-Business Suite is at last a reality!

Call now more information or to arrange an on-line/on site product demonstration.

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