The Benefits of Remote Deposit Capture

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During an economic environment in which increased cash flow and efficiency are key to successful small business operations, it may be a good time to consider the benefits of using a remote deposit capture (RDC) service. This increasingly popular service enables small business owners to streamline their check deposit and reconciliation operations and receive faster access to funds by electronically depositing checks from the convenience of their office(s) for same-day processing.

RDC works by using a check scanner installed at your place of business to capture check images and electronically submit those images for deposit to your business bank account via a Web-based connection. If the deposits meet your financial institution’s electronic check deposit deadline, you may also receive same-day ledger credit for the deposits.

According to a 2008 report from Aite Group—a leading independent research and advisory firm focused on business, technology and regulatory issues and their impact on the financial services industry—the firm forecasted the percentage of U.S. small businesses using remote deposit to increase to 25 percent by the end of 2009, up from 16 percent in 2008.

Remote deposit capture offers many benefits to small business owners. These include:

- **Savings.** RDC can save your business valuable time and money by eliminating trips to the bank, simplifying deposit preparation, consolidating deposits from each of your business locations, eliminating the endorsement of checks and reducing the costs related to check handling.
- **Increased security.** The electronic transmittal of checks can reduce the possibility of checks being lost or stolen in transit.
- **Faster access to funds.** Your business can accelerate deposits with same-day processing of your checks if the deposits are made before your financial institution’s electronic check deposit deadline.
- **Better customer service.** RDC provides small businesses the ability to quickly respond to customer payment inquiries.
- **Efficiency.** The service simplifies processing, posting and reconciling checks.
- **Convenience.** RDC enables businesses to deposit checks quickly and conveniently 24 hours a day.
- **Reduced errors.** The service provides automated balancing, thereby reducing errors.

As small business owners search for ways to remain viable and competitive during this tough economy, RDC can be a helpful tool to increase efficiency and expedite access to cash flow.

Christy Schmitt is the small business services manager for Union Bank, N.A., a full-service commercial bank providing an array of financial services to individuals, small businesses, middle-market companies and major corporations. Union Bank is California’s fifth largest bank by deposits. The bank has 335 banking offices in California, Oregon, Washington, Texas, and New York and two international offices. UnionBanCal Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group, Inc. (NYSE: MTU). Visit [www.unionbank.com](http://www.unionbank.com) for more information.