

## FIS-ASP puts fourth data center into operation



In January this year, FIS-ASP put its fourth data center into operation at the Grafenrheinfeld location. Like all other data centers of FIS-ASP, the fourth data center 'RZ4' is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure: flue gas early warning system, nitrogen fire extinguishing equipment, video surveillance, redundant air conditioning etc. A separate diesel-powered emergency generator (760 kW power output) ensures the electrical power supply even in cases of extended power failure. A fiber glass ring connection to two separated telephone exchanges of Deutsche Telekom ensures that our customers can access the systems at any time. Particular importance was attached to effici-

ency when building the new data center. Efficiency is measured by means of the PUE (Power Usage Effectiveness) factor. PUE is the ratio of average data center energy consumption per year (all IT equipment) to the amount of energy consumed by the IT equipment alone. A PUE value of 1.0 would mean that all energy consumed by the data center goes to the server. The mere fact that data centers have to be air-conditioned makes it impossible to attain a PUE of 1.0. A PUE value of 2.5 or more is no rarity in existing data centers. This means that more than twice the energy required for the server is needed. With high capacity utilization, FIS-ASP wants to attain a PUE factor of 1.4 in RZ4 due to modern technique and complete housing of the rack rows.

"By means of the data centers located on our campus, we are able to provide solutions of highest availability to our customers. In addi-



Robert Schuhmann,  
Managing Director FIS-ASP

tion to the databases mirrored via two data centers, critical components such as backup environments, shadow databases or quorum servers can be stored in different data centers which helps to reduce 'Single Points of Failure'. True redundancy can only be achieved by means of physical separation and duplication. Nature has shown us the way and designed important systems redundantly. Let us have a look at our body: we have two eyes, ears and hands".



## Successful use of FIS solutions at ThyssenKrupp Nirosta

ThyssenKrupp Nirosta and ThyssenKrupp Stainless belong to ThyssenKrupp's stainless steel division Inoxum employing almost 12,000 people worldwide. Over half of its employees work at the plants in Germany where, since the end of 2011, ThyssenKrupp Nirosta has been processing its incoming invoices electronically with FIS/edc®, a solution for document reading, invoice receipt processing and SAP-based release developed by FIS GmbH. ThyssenKrupp's US subsidiary Stainless has been using the FIS/edc® solution already since the beginning of 2011. Every day, 500 invoices are scanned at the plant in Krefeld, Germany and around 150 at the plant in Calvert, USA. The invoice reading software FCI enables the classification of the invoices and the subsequent transfer to the SAP-integrated FIS/edc® release workflow to which around 400 approvers at five loca-

tions in Germany as well as around 100 approvers in the USA are connected. "Thanks to FIS/edc®, our invoice receipt processing has become much faster and more reliable," explains Marco Kurz, project manager at ThyssenKrupp Nirosta. "Before the implementation of FIS/edc®, we had used another document reader as well as a self-created workflow based on the SAP standard transactions for the subsequent release. Impressive references also convinced us of the benefits of the solution developed by FIS." The SAP system and the FIS/edc® solution are operated from Germany. This enables the processing of two company codes in Germany and a third one in the USA. As the invoice receipt processing has gone live successfully, a second FIS project concerning the shop solution FIS/eSales® is currently in preparation for the location of ThyssenKrupp Stainless in Alabama.



ThyssenKrupp Nirosta  
Ein Unternehmen von ThyssenKrupp Stainless

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Successful use of FIS solutions

## Dear Reader,

Unfortunately, I must begin today's edition of our "FIS News" with very sad news. On Friday, 22 June 2012, Gert Lang, our managing director and company founder, died unexpectedly. It is a very sad moment for all employees to lose such a caring and prudent person. It is now our task and aim to further develop the company in his honor and spirit. The transfer of ownership of FIS GmbH and its succession is assured: Frank Schöngarth and I will manage the business of FIS GmbH.

In view of the events, it is a special challenge for us in these days to continue the day-to-day activities without interruption. However, the growth trend of FIS GmbH requires exactly that. When paging through today's FIS News, you will find several well-known names and assert that an increasing number of renowned and internationally operating medium-sized and large companies are using the solutions of FIS GmbH. This success fills us with joy despite the present mourning since it shows that our concept of the two new Business Units "Smart Products" and "Technical Wholesale + SAP Services" has worked. Moreover, we could increase the number of our employees to 420!

According to our customers, the deep SAP integration of our solutions is the major advantage of FIS followed by the smoothly functioning support for which SAP Germany awarded us the "SAP Partner Center of Expertise" certification. This certification guarantees our customers quality-tested processes in regard to Service & Support.

In order to guarantee that all customers receive highest quality support for SAP-related services, SAP has introduced the support certification. In the course of the certification procedure, SAP Germany verified the performance of the whole

support infrastructure of FIS GmbH and performed an audit to check processes, procedures, guidelines, goals and strategies of our support. The certification will be valid for two years.

Due to a support team of more than 60 employees with many years of experience, FIS offers its customers individual support as well as different support models tailored to customers' specific requirements. The FIS service portfolio provides special tools for its customers such as FIS/oss which can be used free of charge. This tool includes specifically developed functions such as escalation processes, 24/7 alarm function, KPI evaluations and SLA times check.

On the following pages you will read more about what has happened since the last edition of FIS News. I would also like to point out our next FIS Innovation Day on May 14 and 15, 2013 where we will present all FIS products every two years. It still takes a while but it is definitely worth marking your agenda...

Yours,

*Ralf Bernhardt*

Ralf Bernhardt,  
Managing Director of FIS



## Higher productivity in accounting: Union Investment relies on FIS/edc®

With more than 4.4 million clients, the Union Investment Group is one of Germany's leading fund providers and offers asset management for private and institutional clients. The group has standardized its invoice receipt process in order to continuously reduce the average costs per invoice document and to accelerate the approval and posting procedure. This was achieved by implementing a free-form recognition software (OCR solution) with the Web-based and SAP-integrated FIS/edc® workflow developed by FIS GmbH for the approval and release of parked invoices.

"By using the software developed by FIS we visibly increase our process and cost efficiency," says Pascal Ruben, accounts payable accounting's team leader at Union Investment. "Before the implementation we worked with two separate systems - workflow system here and SAP system there - and our colleagues in the accounting department spent a lot of effort to control the actual release process. By integrating

the approvers into the SAP integrated workflow, we relieve the accounting and can use our resources there more effectively," he continues.

Vendor invoices are automatically posted after having been entered by the accounting and released by the respective department. Nearly 60% of these invoices in accounting are only to be checked by means of the two eyes principle instead of the previous four eyes principle. This enabled us to reduce lead times and manual process steps and to surmount media incompatibility problems within the overall process. As from 2012, invoices in PDF format will also be



Pascal Ruben,  
Accounts payable accounting's team leader at  
Union Investment

released since vendors will increasingly send their invoices in PDF format due to the Tax Simplification Act. The scan process is consequently committed and the PDF documents are immediately put into the OCR recognition and subsequently released.



## Work with the SAP system becomes more efficient thanks to the FIS function blocks

The technology changeover to the new SAP enhancement concept with Business Functions and Switch Framework now enables even non-FIS/wws® customers to benefit from our long-standing experience. As from SAP Release 6.0, particular functions will be available. You will be able to apply our well-tried solutions quickly, safely and reliably. By now, FIS GmbH provides more than 40 such function blocks with many practical and time-saving functions.

Fast and efficient order and quotation entry – everything at a glance with the navigation tree:

The navigation tree represents the long demanded supplement for the operator's daily job within quotation and order processing. Our solution enables you to provide all information available in the system very fast for order/quotation processing.

Easy project and object data exchange in the construction industry with our GAEB solution:

Predominantly in the German construction industry, data is increasingly exchanged in the GAEB format. Our solution enables an easy and fast exchange of relevant data (service specifications, request for quotation and submission, price inquiry and price quotation, purchase order etc.) in all standard GAEB formats. After data import, the articles are automatically matched with the article master and provided as defaults.

Data exchange in the Datanorm format:

Our solution enables normed data exchange between vendor, wholesale and retail without media breaks. This means that a very easy, uniform and fast exchange of master data such as article texts, article prices, material groups, etc. is possible. Moreover, our function block contains the administration of dimension and long texts including the linking number. Consequently, our solution not only enables the administration of data but also the exchange of this data with the corresponding partners without problems.

## FIS Mourns Passing of Managing Director



Gert Lang

On Friday, 22 June 2012, Gert Lang, owner and managing director of FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH, died unexpectedly at the age of only 57. Gert Lang managed FIS GmbH since its foundation in 1992 with exemplary commitment and visionary power. His unexpected death is a great loss to all FIS employees. Gert Lang, Graduate Engineer in Economics, worked in

the bearings industry for 12 years after leaving university in 1980. He worked in organization and IT holding various positions and started to participate in different SAP R/2 projects in 1986. In 1992, he ended his "bearings" career as proxy and senior head of the "Logistics Europe" department before becoming managing director of the newly founded FIS focusing on "SAP Consulting". Ten months later, he took ownership of FIS and from then on, FIS became a specialist for technical wholesale industry and SAP ERP complementary products. The SAP-centric applications and professional services are used to improve productivity within business processes in user companies.

Gert Lang's entrepreneurial skills and his keen sense of dealing with customers and us, his employees, were decisive factors for the successful market position held by FIS GmbH today. We will further develop the company in his honor and spirit and lead it into a successful future in remembrance of his merits.

## VEDES improves quality of article master data with FIS/mpm®

The headquarters of the VEDES group, Europe's leading trade organization for toys and games, is located on the former GRUNDIG site directly next to the Nuremberg easyCredit stadium. Since 2011, the VEDES headquarters has administered the master data of 400,000 articles of its entire range with the SAP-integrated FIS/mpm® solution.

In 2005, VEDES implemented 'SAP Retail', a uniform ERP system for the central retailing to which around 300 retailing systems of the 1,150 associated retailers are connected today. Night after night, master data changes are distributed to these systems. The group was looking for a central operational system for master data that was able to make such changes and in which article data could be created and processed before including them

in the range. They decided in favor of FIS/mpm®.

Thanks to our software, VEDES is able to work more safely and significantly increases the data quality of its SAP system. FIS/mpm® is the only solution on the market to run with full SAP integration. Master data management, however, is made independently from the operative SAP system. Moreover, VEDES uses FIS/xee® to harmonize the exchange of transaction data that the group transmits to the partners involved in the WWS1, Buschdata, ADC



and EDI format. FIS/xee® ensures that the different data formats can be processed in SAP in a sensible manner.



## Three entry channels in one system

Electronic incoming invoices are by no means new to Dachdecker-Einkauf Süd eG since this cooperative society has processed information from invoices in EDI-format via the FIS/edc® monitor for incoming invoices for many years now – as well as scanned paper and PDF invoices. Moreover, the key account vendors receive their purchase orders electronically via the

2011 enabled DEG to offer a third option to its business partners: sending cost accountings and MM invoices in PDF format. The FCI invoice reading software classifies the documents and assigns them to the MM invoices once it has recognized a purchase order number. There are six vendors that already send MM invoices as PDF documents or in paper format which will

be read by using FCI. The number of vendors is quickly increasing as preparations are hardly required.

Consequently, FIS/edc® makes the planning of the group's financial requirements much easier. Once the debit memo



FIS/xee® EDI converter. DEG saves a lot of time and staff thanks to the mutual EDI transfer of business information, be it invoices or purchase orders.

Gradually, MM invoices of vendors not being able to use EDI are digitized and read via OCR. The new Tax Simplification Act that came into effect in the middle of

has been created, the invoice has already been entered and open bank receipts are no longer to be posted.