GETINGE DIGITIZES INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL PROCESSES WITH FIS

Swedish medical technology manufacturer uses the *FIS*/edc invoice monitor all over the world

FIS

GETINGE

Customer

- Getinge
- Year of foundation: 1904
- Based in: Sweden
- Number of employees: >15,000

Industry

- Medical technology

Key figures

- Connected locations worldwide: 46 (approx. 90 being in final stage)
- Approvers: 650
- Annual volume of incoming invoices: 250,000 (estimated for 2017)
- Improvement in invoice processing: 20 %

Challenge

Due to the worldwide use of electronic invoice processing, Getinge needed a new solution covering the following requirements: SAP integration, multilingual recognition, workflow adaptability and information transfer to the ERP system.

Solution

- *FIS*/edc, *FIS*/fci, *FIS*/xee

Benefits

Already after the connection of the first subsidiaries, the invoice processing times were considerably reduced. The high recognition rate and the individual setting of the release procedure quickly received positive feedback.

Getinge is on the move. During the last few years, the Swedish corporate group has sharpened its profile as the leading manufacturer of highly specialized medical technology through a number of acquisitions. Currently, Getinge is implementing the SAP template as standard worldwide ERP solution. In 2016, the number of incoming invoices nearly doubled after the go live of US companies: at that time, *FIS*/edc was already in use at Getinge.

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>
> Katharina Becker, Inhouse Consultant & Object Responsible SAP Finance in the Center of Excellence IT Applications.

The invoice workflow of the system used until 2013 was no longer able to cover the increasing requirements. The international legal requirements on invoice receipt workflows vary a lot so that a solution needs to be flexibly adjustable and multilingual. The combination of the SAP template and the *FIS*/edc solution makes Getinge ready for the future.

A little insight into regional accounting rules shows that an accountant in country A does not necessarily know what must be noted when processing invoices in country B. In almost every country, the legal situation has a couple of small surprises and particularities in store. In Sweden, vendors need to mark their invoices with an additional number used for assigning the payment. In Italy, in turn, it is differentiated between EU and non-EU documents; there is also the 'Bolo' tax, which only applies to specific invoice types.

"If you use a digital solution for invoice processing and chekking, it goes without saying that this solution needs to cover such special cases," says Katharina Becker, Inhouse Consultant & Object Responsible SAP Finance in the Center of Excellence IT Applications of the German Getinge headquarters in Rastatt (previously Maquet - the medical technology manufacturer has been a Getinge brand since its acquisition by Getinge). "It must be adjustable to the different country-specific particularities and it must be able to interpret invoices in the corresponding national language, i.e. to recognize the correct keywords." Only then will the system make work easier for the employees since it is able to check independently whether the invoices correspond to all requirements and can be transferred to SAP for further processing.

FIS/edc is a fixed component of the SAP template

Katharina Becker is member of a Getinge team that is responsible for the international SAP rollout. Currently, Getinge uses ERP SAP 6.0 with Enhancement Pack 8, which is to be implemented in all companies worldwide by 2022 and to replace the previously used third-ERP systems. Since 2013, when the old workflow was replaced, *FIS*/edc has been a fixed component of the SAP template. Searching for a solution for scanning and parking invoices with release workflow, the SAP team shortlisted four providers and finally decided in favor of the combined FIS system. "The conclusive FIS concept convinced us and offered the best possibilities with regard to adaptability and extensibility of the solution. We also liked the control mechanism very much," says Katharina Becker.

Good status overview of each invoice

The *FIS*/edc approval monitor is no longer upstream - as in the previous solution - but directly integrated in SAP. The *FIS*/fci invoice reading software is also part of the overall solution so that the SAP team only has to contact one manufacturer if questions arise. Both components communicate with each other. The data exchange can be monitored in the FIS Life Cycle Manager. "This evaluation tool enables us to control at any time where in the system an invoice currently is and what status it has, which is not necessarily part of the standard version of comparable software solutions," says Katharina Becker. The invoice information is transferred to the ERP system within SAP standard via SAP IDoc format. For this purpose, Getinge uses the *FIS*/xee integration component, which is based on SAP PI and, consequently, on the SAP standard transactions.

At Getinge, a company corresponds to a company code. In Rastatt alone, there are six big and six small company codes. Currently, 42 companies worldwide use the new SAP/FIS solution. Many more will follow until completion of the rollout. In 2017, Katharina Becker particularly attended (from Singapore) to the template implementations in Japan, Australia and New Zealand. It varies from country to country whether invoices are received in paper form or electronically via e-mail. With regard to an increasing electronic invoice volume, a specific e-mail account the vendors can address was created for each company code.

Getinge OR PowerLED

Recognition rate: 90 to 95 percent

Getinge has installed two Financial Shared Service Centers (SSC) in Poland and Costa Rica for the financial accounting of many company codes. These employees in the Shared Service Center work on the SAP/FIS system and trigger the release workflows to 640 approvers worldwide. The invoice receipt as such has not been centralized into the SSC yet; each subsidiary still receives its own documents. These are either scanned on site and sent to the *FIS*/fci server or the locations execute the entire process themselves since not all companies have been integrated into the SSC so far. Getinge is clearly on the move.

Release workflow can be adjusted individually and country-specifically

"The recognition rate of the invoice reading software is between 90 and 95 percent," knows Vasi Simea, Inhouse Consultant SAP Finance at Getinge. "Invoice processing has considerably improved compared to the past." This improvement results from the high recognition rate and the fact that the SAP team can individually adjust the release workflow to each company. "In the past, we only had two approval levels. Now, we can differentiate between FI and MM invoices, can individually set the levels and amount limits for each company code and consider many country-specific particularities for invoice processing. As a consequence, the processing times have been considerably reduced and the user feedback on usability is very positive," says Vasi Simea.

Another benefit of the FIS solution: Getinge is not only able to enter invoices but also further document types, such as order confirmations and payment advices. The order response

Getinge reprocessing instruments

Comprehensive check and matching routines during IDoc import enable an automated processing of inbound order responses. Two Getinge companies in Germany and France use these functions.

Two companies in Great Britain and Ireland also use the *FIS*/edc monitor for processing payment advices. Shortly, there will be four other companies in Australia and New Zealand.
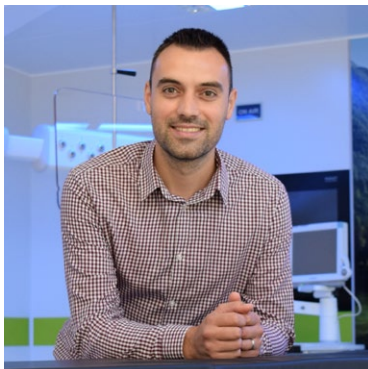
"The recognition rate of the invoice reading software is between 90 and 95 percent. In overall terms, our invoice processing has improved by 20 percent compared to the past."

Vasi Simea,
Inhouse Consultant SAP-Finance

monitor is used to automatically update order confirmations in SAP irrespective of their receipt in electronic form via EDI, as paper document or as pdf sent by the vendor via e-mail. All documents received are displayed in the order response monitor from where they are imported directly into the SAP system via the SAP standard IDoc interface.

The rollout of SAP and *FIS*/edc is in full swing: By the end of 2017, six locations will be connected in North America, 45 in the EMEA region and seven in the Asia/Pacific regions. FIS implemented Japanese as new language specifically for Getinge so that the invoice reading software can recognize and analyze the correct keywords from the Japanese invoices.

Fiori app for invoice release

An upgrade to the latest *FIS*/edc release is planned for 2018. Moreover, Getinge wants to make the release processes even smarter through the implementation of a Fiori app by FIS. At the beginning of 2015, the SAP Netweaver Web dynpro as technology enabled releases on all terminals, which has been made ever since. Now, the use of the Fiori app is another significant step forward for Getinge. The FIS "Invoice receipt analysis" app gives a quick overview of how many invoices have been processed in a company code and the corresponding entry channel used. The app lists the number of incoming invoices and their (absolute and rela- tive) distribution across the corresponding entry channel relative to each vendor. As a result, the user can see at a glance which vendor selects which entry channel and can derive the corresponding optimization measures with re- gard to continued digitization.

Getinge

Getinge is a global provider of innovative solutions for ope- rating rooms, intensive care units, sterilization departments as well as for companies and institutions in the life science area. Based on our first-hand experiences and close partner- ships with clinical experts, medical professionals and medi- cal-technical specialists, we are improving people's everyday lives - not only today, but also tomorrow.

FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH

FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH is an expanding, independent company and forms the umbrella of the FIS Group. Within this group, more than 800 employees work to make companies more modern, more economical and more competitive every day. The focus of FIS is on SAP projects and the development of efficient solutions that drive digitali- zation in companies. As one of the leading SAP system houses in the D-A-CH region, FIS is the market leader in technical wholesale with its complete solution FIS/wws. Together with its subsidiary Medienwerft, FIS covers the complete SAP range of topics for the Customer Experience (CX) area.

In the subsidiary FIS-ASP, more than 100 specialists operate and administer customers' SAP systems in their own data centers in southern Germany. The subsidiary FIS-SST is a competent partner for nearshoring projects. Collaborative solu- tions for the convenient and secure process handling of different companies on common platforms are developed at the subsidiary FIS-iLog.