EFFICIENT PROCESSING OF SERVICE SPECIFICATIONS

Gira integrates GAEB files into SAP via *FIS*/rdf

GIRA

Customer

- Gira Giersiepen GmbH & Co. KG
- Year of foundation: 1905
- Headquarters: Radevormwald
- Employees: over 1,200
- International subsidiaries: 38

Industry

- Electrical installation technology, building systems technology, plastics technology

Challenge

The creation of quotations from GAEB service specifications proved to be cumbersome for Gira: descriptions and specifications from the GAEB file had to be compared with the article numbers from the Gira SAP system and it had to be checked for each quotation item which Gira article number is suitable. Therefore, the existing SAP system should be enhanced by a special solution for an accelerated and simplified GAEB processing.

Solution

- *FIS*/rdf – for GAEB processing

Benefits

FIS/rdf for quotation entry enables Gira to directly import GAEB files into SAP. Processing and post-processing can be made immediately from quotation processing and manual work steps are no longer required.

Small module, great effect - FIS GmbH enables a convenient exchange of service specifications in the GAEB format and their integration into SAP ERP with one of its *FIS*/rdf Rapid Deployment Functions. The plug-in for quotation entry makes it easier for Gira, the manufacturer of electrical installation and building system technology, to automatically upload GAEB files into SAP ERP. As a consequence, communication with business partners is significantly simplified and accelerated.

The electronics specialist Gira acquired the entire range of SAP standard modules in 2012 as part of the ERP implementation. However, there was one small gap that the commissioned IT service provider could not cover: the automated processing of GAEB files directly in SAP ERP. For this purpose, Gira has brought FIS GmbH on board, which provides exactly the right special tool among its *FIS*/rdf Rapid Deployment Functions.

FIS/rdf is a set of tried and tested functions for exact optimizations and more efficient work with SAP ERP.

The GAEB data exchange is a standardized exchange of building information and has been defined by the Joint Committee for Electronics in Civil Engineering (GAEB) of the Federal Institute for Building and Regional Development within the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. The task of the Committee is to promote rationalization in the construction industry through data processing.

Electronic data exchange in civil engineering

In the course of the bid invitation, award and billing (BAB) process in civil engineering, the organizations involved in the construction exchange data in various ways. For single trades, bid invitations are created in the form of service specifications describing new buildings, renovations or other building projects. In order to obtain comparable quotations, the services requested in such specifications are subdivided into item texts with detailed descriptions. Irrespective of the inbound format (paper form, PDF, Word or Excel document), incoming service specifications are converted manually into SD documents (e.g. quotations) by the person responsible and subsequently into GAEB formats. Since, for example, ordinal numbers, which clearly identify each individual subservice (item) in the service specifications set, can only appear once in a GAEB file, the use of the GAEB format also entails a quality check during conversion.

In the past: arduous puzzle

The GAEB interface is used by electric wholesalers or architects to send their service specifications to providers such as Gira, where the quotation department compares the descriptions and specifications from the GAEB file, such as requested modules of a KNX bus system for door communication, with the article numbers from the individual SAP system. For each inquiry item, the matching Gira article number must be checked individually - a cumbersome and time-consuming puzzle so far.

Gira can only create a suitable quotation in its SAP system for the tendered services and send it to the customer or planner as GAEB file once the item has been found. This already includes the net and gross prices and, depending on the GAEB phase, specifications for the article or material. In this way, the customer can keep track of the totals and easily compare which products they should buy from which electric manufacturer.

FIS combines GAEB with SAP

The *FIS*/rdf plug-in for quotation entry now enables Gira to import these GAEB files directly into the SAP VA21 transaction and to process them immediately from quotation processing. Post-processing can also take place within quotation processing: Subsequent assignments of items from the service specifications set can easily be included in existing quotations and extend them.

Without the plug-in, the IT department would first have to make the very technically constructed GAEB directories readable with a separate tool to see that item 100 means 100 sockets for instance. Then, the colleague from the quotation department would have to open their SAP system and manually enter the article number for a socket in the quotation.

"The FIS software enabled us to automate and, as a consequence, to drastically simplify GAEB processing - it really is a great help," says Fabian Reuter from the Gira IT Service Management.

Integration in transaction VA 21

Gira imports the inbound GAEB files into the FIS module. It does not matter whether these files are imported in the 90, 2000 or XML format since the FIS solution is able to process all GAEB import formats.

On the left side, the employee marks the item displayed within a clearly arranged tree structure from the GAEB file for which a Gira article number is to be found.

In the right section of the screen, they see the ERP entry screen with the standard SAP VA 21 transaction for quotation entry and select the appropriate GIRA article number.

In doing so, both are linked to each other. A simple click is all it takes to include the item from the GAEB file into the SAP quotation - with article, condition and everything else needed to create the quotation for this item.

Even faster quotation creation thanks to automatic material recognition

A matching routine for automated material recognition during the import accelerates and simplifies this process even further: The FIS tool checks the key fields and makes suggestions to the user from a hit list of possible materials. The user simply takes the article they are looking for from the list and only assigns it manually in case of deviations. The quotation department can then send the quotation in the desired GAEB output format to the inquiring wholesaler directly from SAP ERP.

"Faster and error-free creation of quotations and, as a consequence, better customer communication are the benefits of using this extremely helpful FIS tool," says Fabian Reuter with satisfaction.

For central or mobile access: Gira Control 19 Client (left figure) and Gira HomeServer/FacilityServer App (right figure)

GIRA

Gira Giersiepen GmbH & Co. KG

Gira Giersiepen GmbH & Co. KG was founded in 1905 and is now one of the leading medium-sized German companies in the electrical industry sector with more than 1,200 employees and subsidiaries in 38 countries. Gira produces switches and sockets as well as a wide range of electrical installation systems for communication technology, door intercoms or the automation of heating, lightning and blinds for instance. Since Gira has separated plastics technology from building technology and set it up as a separate business field, other companies, such as medical technology companies, also have their products manufactured by Gira.

FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH

FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH is an expanding and independent enterprise and the roof of the FIS Group, which employs more than 800 persons making companies more modern, economic and competitive every day. FIS focuses on SAP projects and the development of efficient solutions promoting digitization within companies. As one of the leading value-added SAP resellers in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, FIS is the market leader in technical wholesale with the all-in-one *FIS*/wws solution. Together with its Medienwerft subsidiary, FIS covers the complete range of SAP topics in the field of Customer Experience (CX).

More than 100 specialists operate and administer the customers' SAP systems in the FIS-ASP subsidiary data centers in Southern Germany. The FIS-SST subsidiary is the competent partner for nearshoring projects. The FIS-iLog subsidiary develops collaborative solutions for the convenient and secure process management of different companies on shared platforms.