

FIS-iLog Company Foundation: New FIS Subsidiary Starts with Cloud Platform for Returnable Transport Packagings

On April 01, 2016, FIS GmbH founded its new subsidiary FIS-iLog integrated Logistics Platform GmbH (FIS-iLog) based in Grafenrheinfeld. The business concept of FIS-iLog is to provide neutral and trustworthy cloud platforms, where companies can display noncritical company data as well as processes and jointly handle them online. Ralf Bernhardt and Johannes Weigand are the managing directors of FIS-iLog: FIS managing director Ralf Bernhardt now also holds the position of commercial director of FIS-iLog. Johannes Weigand is in charge of technical aspects, strategic orientation, operational implementation and staff responsibility.

The first FIS-iLog platform is called iRetPlat. It focuses on returnable transport packagings for trade and logistics. Returnable transport packagings, such as europallets, wire mesh boxes, containers etc., are intended for repeated use in mutual exchange and can be posted in exact quantities on iRetPlat. "So far, companies have cut themselves off from the outside world for understandable reasons as far as their EDP/



From left to right: Ralf Bernhardt (Managing Director of FIS/FIS-iLog), Robert Schuhmann (Managing Director of FIS-ASP), Johannes Weigand (Managing Director of FIS-iLog), Dieter Ball, Christian Lang (both members of the FIS Executive Board)

IT infrastructure is concerned. However, the market increasingly demands that companies break this rigidity," Johannes Weigand explains the reasons for his innovative solution. "Where pallet slips once were confirmed and countersigned at the loading ramp, iRetPlat makes it possible to post them online and bilaterally via smartphones, tablets or PCs by using easy and user-friendly technology. All that is required is an Internet browser, an Internet connection and access to the iRetPlat platform."

The advantages are obvious for all parties involved: manufacturers benefit from transparent commodity flows, accelerated processes, stock queries in real time, reduced administrative efforts and, as a result, reduced transaction costs. Freight forwarders can avoid empty runs by settling their accounts via clearing procedures.

FIS-ASP and SAP SE are partners of FIS-iLog when it comes to secure hardware operation and future-proof software. Another partner is GS1 Germany, which defines worldwide standards (e.g. EAN bar code) and arranges for a common language between the companies. After test phases at a local freight forwarder and a shipper, there is nothing to stand in the way of a successful market introduction as a trustworthy cloud supplier as of January 2017 and the certification with the "trusted cloud" seal by the Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy.



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20 - 22, 2016, at Nürnberg Convention Center

FIS GmbH as New SAP Partner for Application Development and Cloud Solutions

FIS GmbH, certified as SAP Partner Center of Expertise (PCoE), is now SAP Platform Application Development Partner as well. As such a partner, FIS is able to design new applications based on SAP Platforms and Technologies – SAP HANA Cloud Platform, SAP Mobile Platform, SAP HANA, SAP Business One, Business Intelligence as well as further SAP Database Technologies – and sell them as a participant of the SAP PartnerEdge Program for Applica-

tion Development in the SAP Store. Here, FIS obtains technical resources and tools from SAP to accelerate its development success.

With the partner agreement concluded as SAP Cloud Solution Partner, FIS will furthermore expand its activities in the area of Cloud solutions and intensify its cooperation with SAP in this essential future field. Since the beginning of 2016,

FIS offers its customers the acquisition of the Cloud-Based CRM Solution SAP Hybris C4C and starts with modules "Sales" and "Service" here. A trend towards cloud services and, in this connection, towards mobile access to customer data and processes is obvious. As an SAP Cloud Solution Partner, FIS picks up on this development and enables its customers access to the latest SAP Cloud Technologies.

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Dear readers,

Digital transformation puts our world into a period of transition – not just since yesterday – and we witness the constant and fundamental change of business models. New companies of any industry sector become market leaders within a very short time and business models established for decades are losing their importance. Some companies have already started to adjust their existing processes based on IT or to create completely new business models. Others are just beginning to deal with this topic more intensively. This is absolutely necessary since the change comprising all of our areas of life moves at an extremely rapid pace.

According to forecasts by the Gartner Group, the global network is growing daily by 5.5 million new "things" resulting in new networks used to exchange huge amounts of data and deliver essential information. This continuously growing network of digitized data streams in connection with the use of new technologies enables the processing of information in real time and, as a consequence, represents the basis for ever new business ideas.

Topics such as Cloud Services, Big Data and Analytics, Commerce, Customer Engagement, Mobile Computing, Social Media, Augmented Reality or Internet of Things are representative of the change. The progress in regard to digitization is essential

in order to keep up and to be part of the changing competition rules in the future, which requires a flexibly usable, scalable and high-efficient information and communication technology.

SAP user companies have the best prerequisites. SAP currently provides the most extensive application portfolio on one of the most state-of-the-art and most efficient platforms. The S/4HANA application suite based on the in-memory SAP HANA platform connects with current cloud applications such as Cloud for Customer, Success Factors, the commerce and marketing solution by Hybris or the HANA cloud platform.

Furthermore, FIS customers benefit from the FIS solutions in the automation and digitization areas enhancing the SAP portfolio. As a longstanding SAP partner with "Gold" status, we gladly support our customers during the transition into the new SAP Live Business and offer support for all questions concerning the applications mentioned.

At this point I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you for the long-standing loyalty and for inspiring and helping us again and again to continuously further develop and optimize our solutions and services.

Cordially yours

Wolfgang Ebner, Managing Director –
Head of Business Unit Smart Products



User Association Meets in Switzerland

On June 22, 2016, the recent FIS user association meeting took place at the Spreitenbach Umwelt Arena in Switzerland. The eve before, the participants were demonstrated in an impressive way the central topics "environment", "energy" and "sustainability" of the 100 per cent CO2-neutral operated Umwelt Arena. The central topics of the meeting, however, were as always: exchange of experience, know-how transfer and networking between the participants as well as current IT trends, solutions and strategies of SAP SE and FIS GmbH.

"Our user meetings are close to our cus-

tomers that can directly communicate their requirements here, which is an important pillar of success of our user meetings," explains Dieter Ball, member of the management board and head of the SAP, Technical Wholesale and Industry Business Unit. One result of this close collaboration are new Mobility Apps that were presented in Spreitenbach for the first time – the solution requirements have been elaborated beforehand in joint user association workshops. Furthermore, Joachim Wittek, head of Product Design at FIS GmbH, informed on new and upcoming features of the FIS wholesale solution and explained in detail the FIS

product strategy under SAP S/4HANA. FIS partner mobileX AG informed on its Mobile Workforce Management solution and FIS-iLog GmbH presented the new iRetPlat Cloud Platform for empties management based on SAP HANA.

"The FIS user association meetings do not focus on sales but on IT trends, processes and solution strategies and, in particular, on the exchange of ideas of the participants. This year again, the participants certainly could get much valuable information on important topics such as renewable energies and sustainability. The feedback was positive," says Dieter Ball.

4th FIS Forum: Digital Transformation as Overall Strategy

Fully occupied rows at the Audi Forum Neckarsulm on May 12: FIS informed visitors about SAP process optimization and facets of digital transformation. With its 4th FIS Forum, FIS GmbH is impressively continuing the successful series of events focusing on SAP process optimization. The latest event was entirely devoted to "digital transformation": How can companies implement a digital overall strategy that includes all administrative areas and transforms them into the new digital world? On May 12, 2016, over 50 visitors (most of them sales prospects) met at the Audi Forum Neckarsulm to get to know more details.

The lectures held at this year's FIS Forum were precisely embedded in the thematic framework of this day. Practice-based reports were given by FIS customers Audi and Getinge Group that use FIS solutions for incoming invoice processing and consequently achieve maximum performance in the SAP invoice receipt. Audi explained how the accounting department embeds itself as value-added partner into the digital transformation strategy and what financial potential Audi AG has already brought to light. Getinge, a Swedish manufacturer of medical technology, has implemented the FIS monitor solutions (including OCR) for invoices, purchase

order confirmations and payment advices in 30 countries worldwide – based on digital transformation as competitive advantage.

ECM analyst Bernhard Zöller, managing director at Zöller & Partner GmbH, informed the visitors about legal and fiscal aspects of digitalization. The FIS team as well embedded its lecture "From the circular to the app" into the transformation strategy topic. Finally, the guided plant tour through production units A6 and A7 showed the status of Industry 4.0 at Audi and impressively underlined the framework of the event.

Save the date! The 5th FIS Forum is already waiting in the wings and will provide information on the SAP-integrated master data management in Cologne on October 06, 2016.

FIS-ASP Welcomes Numerous Customers to Its 2016 IT Dinner in Prichsenstadt



The Freihof Hotel in the historic ambience of Prichsenstadt: location of the 2016 IT dinner

On June 02, 2016, FIS-ASP GmbH welcomed its guests to the 2016 IT dinner in Prichsenstadt. Among the participants were numerous FIS-ASP customers. The

rich information buffet was offered by professionals of the Fraunhofer Institut, SAP SE and FIS-iLog integrated Logistics Platform GmbH, the new FIS subsidiary. The menu included current Business IT topics focusing on digital transformation, such as Big Data, Industry 4.0 and Cloud Services.

The participants went deeper into current developments in the field of human-machine communication, such as flexible displays or alternative touch screens, as well as into the question of upcoming technologies concerning the interface between

man and machine. "Big Data" focused on chances and risks of data revolution, precise use cases and appropriate technologies. An innovative Big Data Collaboration Platform out of the Cloud based on SAP OEM and the SAP HANA in-memory technology was exclusively presented during the IT dinner: Managing director Johannes Weigand presented the idea of a shared process technique and "language" for many companies by giving an exclusive FIS-iLog overview of the newly-developed Cloud solution for returnable transport packagings.



FIS/wws® on SAP S/4HANA: New Face under New Name

SAP S/4HANA stands for lean and speedy processes as well as for a considerable simplification of corporate data structures. SAP in Walldorf describes S/4HANA as digital core. Together with different "Lines of Business Solutions", this core is connected into the S/4HANA Suite in real time. Consequently, user companies can benefit from a tool for fulfilling the requirements of digital economy in the best possible way.

Anyone who follows the latest FIS news knows: the FIS/wws® industrial solution for technical wholesale has long been executable on the HANA platform. The previous FIS/wws® version is now amended by an S/4HANA Enterprise Management-based release track. This S/4HANA-based release will get a new face and a new name. The new solution will be launched on July 01, 2017 with S/4HANA as additional delivery

system. To achieve this aim, the FIS Product Design department is now working intensively on a new system landscape for development, test and delivery systems.

New functions are already available, such as the enhancement by additional express delivery service providers (UPS etc.), which the system connects via Web service and, as a result, simplifies label printing. The previous "Information by phone" has been graphically redesigned and now includes a shopping cart function. This can be used at item level to treat several articles differently, i.e. as quotation, order etc., and to provide information more rapidly. Other new features exclusively use the S/4HANA base enabling possibilities that would be unthinkable with a standard database or would require very long runtimes. One of these features, for instance, is a cross-co-

lumn material search, which also supports search strings and achieves suitable search results much more quickly and easily than in the past.

In addition, further new Fiori apps are being prepared, such as a self-collector app identifying the craftsman in the shop of the wholesaler (similar to a customer card). It also authorizes the cardholder for the acquisition of specific material groups. Further plans include integrated SD, MM and LE processes with S/4HANA Finance or S/4HANA LOG/SLOG. Role-based Fiori launchpads and apps are also among the functional enhancements. Consequently, FIS customers are well-prepared for the requirements of Industry 4.0, Cloud and digital transformation.

Please refer to the 2016 Release information for further innovation highlights of the FIS business solution for the technical wholesale. These can be called under www.fis-gmbh.de/release-information-downloadcenter.html or via the adjacent QR code!



Well-Attended FIS Information Day Informed Visitors about Digital Transformation Challenges in Warehouse Logistics



Animated networking at the FIS Warehouse Logistics Information Day

Digital transformation also concerns warehouse logistics and the further automation of storage techniques – keyword "Logistics 4.0" – is already in full swing. An issue that moves this industry sector: The FIS Warehouse Logistics Information Day focusing on this aspect as well as on many other industry trends on July 7 was well attended.

During this event, Detlef Spee, head of department at the Fraunhofer Institute for Material Flow and Logistics (IML), explained the chances and risks related to the use of IT in medium-sized warehouse logistics

from the science point of view. Within the scope of its logistics activities, IML also validates solutions such as FIS/smw® based on SAP LES/WM and soon FIS/ewm+, the FIS GmbH project implementation turbo for faster SAP EWM implementations. Read more about this topic in one of the next FIS NEWS editions. FIS also initiated research on an alternative picking system that is currently analyzed and pursued by the Fraunhofer Institute for Integrated Circuits (IIS) in cooperation with the German Logistics Association (BVL).

Bernd Kutz, Chief Solution Expert Supply Chain Execution at SAP Deutschland SE & Co. KG, informed on "first class warehouse logistics" with SAP EWM and the SAP S/4HANA next generation ERP. The lecture on the project roadmap of FIS customer Wiedemann GmbH & Co. KG impressively described the evolutionary steps from the initial decision in favor of SAP up to optimized and high-performance warehouse logistics. FIS GmbH demonstrated how SAP EWM can be easily and quickly implemen-

ted with the FIS/ewm+ project implementation turbo and informed on changing logistic challenges as well as on the benefits of a workflow management in warehouse logistics. Johannes Weigand, managing director of the newly founded FIS iLog (read more in this edition of the FIS NEWS) presented iRetPlat, an innovative cloud platform for returnable transport packagings in the trade and logistics industry sectors.

Numerous visitors used the Information Day as an interactive information platform for warehouse and logistics managers as well as for IT decision-makers to get informed on trends, challenges and solutions for warehouse logistics on the way to Logistics 4.0. At the accompanying partner exhibition, the participants themselves became active. The participants could see through the data glasses how Augmented Reality brings warehouse processes to the future and they could practically try out innovative application options of advanced warehouse logistics hardware and picking via Pick-by-Voice.