

# FIS IMPLEMENTS WAREHOUSE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AT BRENNTAG

Ideal integration of SAP EWM and MFS with the ERP system



## Customer

- Brenntag S.p.A. (Italy)
- Year of foundation: 1953
- Based in: Milan

## Industry

- Chemicals distribution

## Challenge

- Implementation of an automated warehouse management system incl. material flow control within 9 months only
- Connection of the warehouse management system to the external ERP system

## Solution

- SAP EWM for warehouse management
- SAP EWM MFS for the connection of induction-led forklifts
- FIS/xee as integration solution for the external ERP system
- Individual developments to meet requirements of the external ERP system
- Software support by FIS and hosting by FIS-ASP

## Benefits

- Faster processes within intralogistics
- Optimally integrated and scalable software
- High user acceptance by the warehouse workers

Automated warehouse processes ensure faster processing times within intralogistics and, as a result, more satisfied warehouse employees and customers. Brenntag S.p.A. (Italy) - part of the international Brenntag Group - decided to implement SAP Extended Warehouse Management (EWM) and the associated material flow control (MFS) system for its new warehouse at the Filago location near Milan in order to accelerate intralogistics processes through automation. The state-of-the-art, four-aisle high rack storage area with guided forklifts replaced the old manual warehouse with its limited logistical capacities on the opening day.

*“The introduction of warehouse management with SAP EWM is the first important step towards digitization with SAP.”*

Domenico Managò,  
Financial Director at Brenntag S.p.A. (Italy)

## The starting situation

In the former warehouse, work was still largely paper-based, for which the warehouse management modules of the existing ERP system were sufficient. However, over the years, the requirements, the number of incoming deliveries and purchase orders as well as the pickings increased so that the previous ERP system could no longer sufficiently cover the warehouse processes necessary today. Therefore, Brenntag Italy had decided to go the path of digitization with SAP in addition to building the required new warehouse. “The implementation of warehouse management with SAP EWM is the first important step,” explains Domenico Managò, Financial Director at Brenntag S.p.A. (Italy).



*“In goods receipt and goods issue, we can now make the processes very lean with the new warehouse management system.”*

Marco Colombo,  
IT Manager at Brenntag

### Shortest possible project duration

FIS needed only nine months of project time to implement the SAP EWM software with MFS and to connect the existing non-SAP ERP system to the new components. In addition to the required expertise in the area of warehouse logistics and software, FIS, an SAP partner with “Gold” status, was also able to manage the connection of the ERP system with the FIS/xee component. This enabled Brenntag Italy to put the new warehouse management system into operation just in time for the warehouse opening. Another argument for the cooperation with the FIS Group for Brenntag Italy was the comprehensive range of services from a single source as FIS will also be responsible for continued software support and the FIS-ASP subsidiary for hosting.

### FIS template accelerated project implementation

For the implementation of SAP EWM, companies like to use the FIS/ewm+ template developed by FIS with predefined industry processes that accelerate and facilitate the implementation of the warehouse software. Brenntag Italy’s IT department used the template during initial training and was therefore able to significantly reduce the process design phase. The predefined FIS/ewm+ template processes helped familiarize users with the new system at an early stage and create a common speech comprehension. This resulted in a high level of user acceptance and rapid familiarization of employees with the new software.

### Working with mobile data entry

Brenntag Italy has considerably reduced the paper-based work with SAP EWM. Within intralogistics, the company now uses mobile hand-held scanners as well as mobile label printers (“belt printers”). This enables employees to enter and label goods flexibly and from any location. After scanning, the data is immediately transmitted to the warehouse management software by radio. The subsequent warehouse movement is consequently monitored and coordinated by the system up to the storage bin in the bulk storage or production supply area or buffer area from which the guided high-rack stacker takes over the pallet.

The advantages over manual processing are manifold: On the one hand, there are no more manual errors in goods receipt and issue due to possible transmission and typing errors. On the other hand, all data can be viewed in real time in the warehouse management and ERP systems.

### FIS/xee closes gap between SAP EWM and external ERP system

The FIS/xee process integration solution using the integrated qRFC technology (queued Remote Function Call) ensures seamless interaction between SAP EWM and the external ERP system. These two components enable Brenntag Italy to use the full range of EWM functions, which would be limited by pure communication via IDocs, as usual in the SAP standard version. “Even without an SAP ERP system, we can use all functions of the SAP Warehouse Management system. FIS/xee closes the gap that remains open in the SAP standard version,” explains Domenico Managò.





## Individual optimizations for Brenntag

“With the new warehouse management system, we can now streamline processes in goods receipt and issue,” describes Marco Colombo, IT Manager at Brenntag, the fundamental advantage of working with SAP EWM. This is reflected in a high level of user acceptance.

In order to enable consistent communication between SAP EWM and the ERP solution, some adjustments to the software were necessary, such as additional individual developments for the batch management functions. Further SAP warehouse management adjustments have been made to the material flow control system to ensure smooth interaction between the software and the forklift control system.

The dialogs on the hand-held scanners were further optimized in order to be able to process warehouse tasks more quickly and to cover the necessary batch processing. A separate EWM screen dialog for Brenntag Italy has been developed for this purpose. The employee can use this screen dialog to enter additional product information during goods receipt processing of a pallet, which is required for further processing and documentation.

Another optimization supports you in putting away large delivery quantities of the same product on several pallets. The warehouse employee selects their own screen template on the hand-held scanner and enters and updates all relevant data, such as pallet type, product quantity, number of pallets etc. only once. Now, they print the individual HU labels for these similar pallets at once using the mobile printer instead of entering each pallet individually and printing each label separately. This saves them a lot of time, especially with very large delivery quantities or pallets with the same goods.

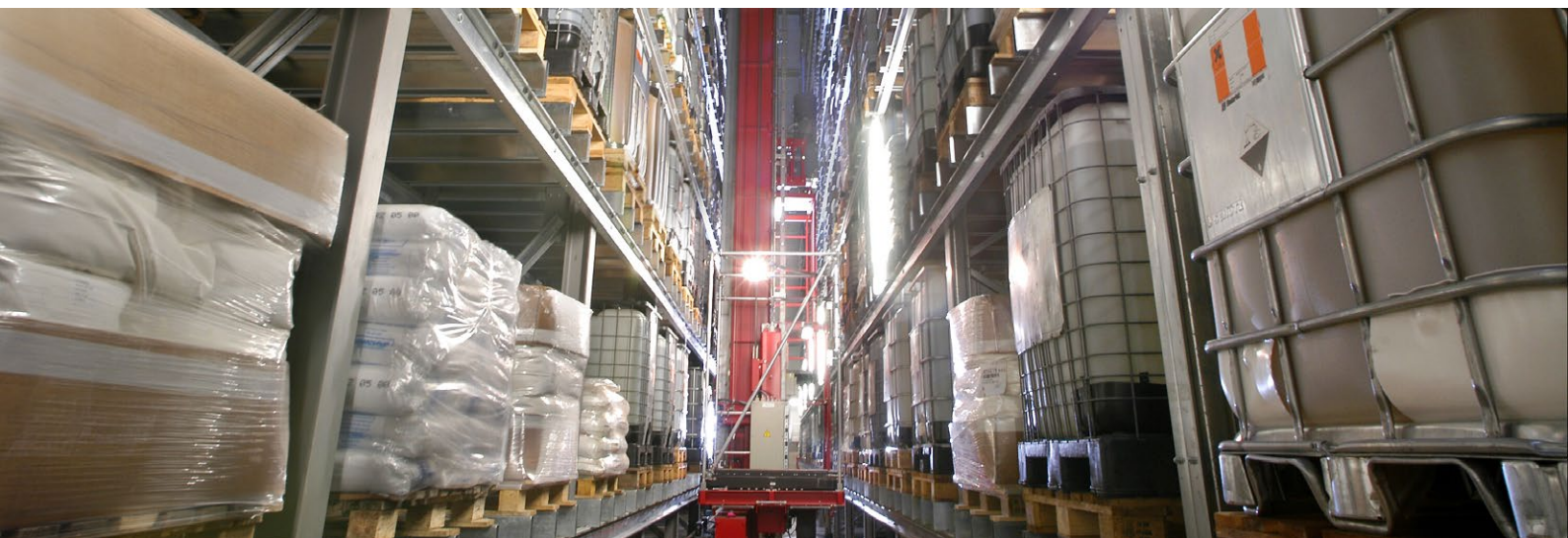
Another individual requirement of Brenntag Italy was that some warehouse management data could still be retrieved via the ERP system. FIS has therefore ensured that SAP EWM transmits them to the ERP system.

Goods issue processing has also been adapted so that employees can pick outbound deliveries of a route in an optimized manner. They no longer have to process picking across all sub-steps of the standard goods issue process. The individual sub-steps are executed by the software in the background. Consequently, the steps from picking to loading have been reduced to the essential and necessary steps.



## Further logistics projects planned with FIS

After a successful implementation in Filago, Brenntag Italy also plans to take the next step together with FIS and digitize further warehouse locations. In Venice, for example, another warehouse complex with a multi-aisle high rack storage area is planned for a food chemistry company, where FIS will also implement the SAP EWM solution.







**Brenntag S.p.A. (Italy)**

Brenntag Italy is part of Brenntag, the global market leader in chemical and ingredients distribution, headquartered in Essen, Germany, and operates a global network with more than 530 locations in 75 countries. With more than 16,600 employees worldwide, Brenntag is the strategic partner and service provider for manufacturers of industrial and specialty chemicals at one end of the value chain and for users of chemicals at the other end of the value chain.



### **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 digitalization 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 solutions for the convenient and secure process handling of different companies on common platforms are developed at the subsidiary FIS-iLog.



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