

E-INVOICING OPTIMIZES SAP INVOICE PROCESSING IN B2G AND B2B

ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH Designs Intelligent Processes with E-Invoicing Solution



DER BILDUNGSEINRICHTER.

Customer

- ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH
- Year of foundation: 1937
- Headquarters: Stockheim

Industry

- Manufacturing and sale of education furniture

Challenge

Due to a continuous corporate growth and the associated increase in the amount of documents, ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH was searching for a more efficient invoicing solution completely integrated in SAP to fulfill its obligation to use "XRechnung". The objective was to significantly reduce manual efforts and optimize the cash flow. Furthermore, an independent adjustment of the invoicing solution was also to be enabled within the user department.

Solution

- FIS/eInvoicing

Benefits

Due to automatic process flows in invoice processing, FIS/eInvoicing reduces processing times and provides for efficient and transparent processes.

The invoice process can now be implemented fast and reliably and with low personnel deployment. By means of postings in the background, a "no-touch" rate of more than 90 percent can be achieved and manual matching and releasing of invoices can almost completely be omitted.

Since November 2020 at the latest, the issue of digital invoice processing has gained in importance. In accordance with current legal provisions, all invoices for public orders have to be transmitted electronically in a standard format since that time. With the implementation of "XRechnung" as a German standard for the exchange of invoice data, numerous enterprises, public clients and institutions were facing a great challenge. How this hurdle can be cleared in Financial Accounting by using automated processes integrated in the SAP ERP system and what additional benefits are provided by E-Invoicing is shown by the example of ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH.

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Christine Wolfrum, Head of Finances, Accounting and, Controlling

The legally enforced changeover to the "XRechnung" standard particularly put enterprises in the B2G area under pressure to take action. However, the undeniable benefits of E-Invoicing and automated invoice processing in SAP are - without a doubt - also of interest for the B2B area. Compared to manual processing, the automation of invoice processes in Finance and Accounting provides a large amount of added value for enterprises. Due to faster transmission, the processing times of SAP invoices decrease and liquidity is increased. In addition, administrative efforts, related costs and error rates caused by manual entry are reduced. Enterprises intending to efficiently manage a multitude of invoices and transmit them in a time-saving manner by using specific electronic formats require a digital solution. ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH came to this conclusion as well and made a decision in favor of the FIS/eInvoicing solution.

ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH develops and produces high-quality education and school furniture for classrooms, such as school chairs and school desks, but also well-conceived cupboards for administrative offices. Since 1937, production and assembly sites have been located in Germany. By means of individual material developments, such as PAGHOLZ® and innovations such as the all-round PU edge, the "education furnisher" has optimized its furniture solutions through the years. As ASS-Einrichtungssysteme

GmbH mainly issues invoices to public educational institutions, the legally enforced changeover to “XRechnung” now involved a need for optimization in the area of invoicing.

Manual processing via public platforms were frequently inefficient

Since the legislative change in November 2020, the following provisions apply: As soon as the value of an outgoing invoice exceeds 1,000 Euro, it must be transmitted to public clients in the electronic “XRechnung” format. Although it is possible to transmit invoices via the “Central Federal Invoice Receipt Platform” (“Zentrale Rechnungseingangsplattform des Bundes”, in short: “ZRE Bund”) in a lawful and barrier-free way, this solution involves high manual effort in case of a correspondingly large number of invoices. Outgoing invoices first have to be created in SAP and subsequently imported into the portal. Control of a neat data transmission is missing as well. Due to a continuous corporate growth and the associated increase in the amount of documents, ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH was determined to find a more efficient invoicing solution to fulfill its obligation to use “XRechnung”. The objective was to significantly reduce manual efforts and optimize the cash flow.

Automated processes and seamless SAP integration with FIS/eInvoicing

In addition to the necessity to establish the “XRechnung” format, it was a central requirement of the enterprise that such a solution can be independently adjusted within the user department. Therefore, only an E-Invoicing solution came into question that seamlessly integrates into the SAP system and, amongst other things, independently sends “XRechnungen”

here, reproduces the correct delivery and eventually also updates the incoming payment in an automated way.

ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH made a quick decision in favor of cooperating with FIS Informationssysteme und Consulting GmbH and SAP optimization FIS/eInvoicing. In addition to the legal requirements to electronic invoicing and completely automated processes, FIS/eInvoicing fulfils the ideas of ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH with useful functions such as a lean overview that clearly shows the invoice status immediately. Almost all formats in invoice receipt and invoicing can be processed with FIS/eInvoicing. In addition to an automated and transparent invoice exchange with external business partners, a consistent financial process between internal departments is ensured. “For our decision in favor of FIS, not just the functionality was decisive, but we wanted a sustainable platform that is no stand-alone solution,” Christina Wolfrum, Head of Finances, Accounting and Controlling, points out.

Lean implementation project according to the needs of ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH

Implementation took place in the context of a lean project. The first step consisted in examining the exact requirements within a two-day workshop with all persons involved. In addition to determining the number of invoices and the target groups, the formats required for a correct transmission were identified. ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH uses “XRechnung” to cover invoicing to public clients.

After creating a concept in the second step, the implementation phase was entered quickly so that the project was completed even before the key date of the official changeover to “XRechnung”.





Universal interface as an initial access to digital invoice processing

Due to the changeover to SAP optimization *FIS/eInvoicing*, automated process flows reduce processing times, provide for more efficient processes and offer an ideal initial access to further digitization of invoice processing. The great benefit for users particularly consists in the fact that the invoice process can now be implemented fast and reliably and with low personnel deployment. By means of postings in the background, a “no touch” quota of more than 90 percent can be achieved. As a consequence, manual matching and releasing of invoices can almost completely be omitted. Once the SAP optimization has been implemented, it can furthermore be adjusted independently to other requirements by the users with a little bit of know-how.

“To be honest, we were sceptical at the beginning as we considered the implementation of “XRechnung” an obligation that will provide no benefits for us. In the meantime, however, digital invoice processing has become second nature for us and we do not want to do without it any more,” Christine Wolfrum stresses. “It is an important step towards digitization.”

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As an interface, *FIS/eInvoicing* transmits SAP invoice data, such as “XRechnung”, to different business partners in the desired way and in different formats. In doing so, its high degree of flexibility does not only show within national borders. Even at international level, electronic invoices can be adjusted to European and international formats, such as FatturaPA for instance.

As a consequence, the SAP optimization provides a uniform, standardized solution for electronic invoice processing taking into account different invoice formats as well as the fulfillment of fiscal and country-specific requirements. Therefore, *FIS/eInvoicing* does not only provide numerous benefits for digital incoming and outgoing invoices in the B2G environment. “Invoice tracking via the outgoing invoice cockpit in particular is a great benefit. This was not possible in the past,” Christine Wolfrum reports.

Convincing cooperation with perspective B2B integration

From the beginning, the project was lean and implemented fast and completely due to active participation of all parties. During the project, *FIS* proved that measures for digi-

Christine Wolfrum, Head of Finances,
Accounting and, Controlling

tal invoicing can also be implemented cost-efficiently. The "XRechnung" implementation for outgoing invoices was optimally resolved. ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH plans to use FIS/eInvoicing also in the B2B area in the future. Here as well, electronic and automated invoice exchange between busi-

ness partners can provide for cost reductions of up to 80 percent, for instance by saving administration and postage costs. The adaptation of FIS/eInvoicing to the B2B area will therefore be the next joint project of FIS and ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH.



DER BILDUNGSEINRICHTER.

ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH

ASS-Einrichtungssysteme GmbH is one of the leading enterprises in the area of education furniture. The main purpose of the enterprise consists in the production and sale of high-quality furniture for schools and educational institutions to customers throughout the world.

The products are based on the latest ergonomic findings as well as constant innovation and future-oriented product management. In addition to functionality and a long service life, the enterprise puts great emphasis on environmental friendliness and recyclability of its furniture.

ASS - The education furnisher also offers its customers a comprehensive consulting and planning service of holistically thought-out furnishing concepts. The enterprise's primary objective is to make places of learning throughout the world an inspiring environment for learning successes.



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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