Standardized Processes Worldwide in Procurement and Invoice Processing

Emery Oleochemicals

"With xSuite, we are able to standardize our P2P process worldwide and achieve a new level of performance and satisfaction not only among our employees and the management but also ultimately among our vendors."

Ramesh Kana, Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Transformation Officer

Emery Oleochemicals is one of the world's leading producers of naturalbased chemicals operating with a global footprint of manufacturing facilities and distribution network. Headquartered in Malaysia, the company's product portfolio also includes innovative solutions designed to improve manufacturing efficiencies in high-performance industries such as plastic additives, oilfield and exploration and ozone. The ERP solution employed at Emery Oleochemicals is SAP ECC 6.0. Since 2011, xSuite's SAP-integrated solutions for the electronic release of procurement requisitions and invoices has been in use.

A SAP system that is uniform on the international level and, at the same time, local processes running separately both in purchasing and in invoice processing – this was the scenario at Emery Oleochemicals in the past. The company wanted to change this and sought a globally uniform and centralized solution for release processes of orders and invoices. Emery Oleochemicals found the solution with the software manufacturer xSuite and its SAP-integrated modules for Procurement and Invoice.

Company
Web: emeryoleo.com
Sector: Chemical Industry
Headquarters: Malaysia

xSuite® solution
• SAP integrated incoming invoice processing (xSuite Invoice)

• SAP integrated procurement solution (xSuite Procurement)

Decisive arguments for xSuite
• Deeply integrated into SAP
• Option of mobile releases (e.g., smartphones)
• Standardized, generic solution

Systems integration
• SAP ECC 6.0

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xSuite
It's simple. It's digital.

Image source: Emery Oleochemicals

Project goals

Emery Oleochemicals had set itself the goal of achieving the highest possible degree of standardization and automation in the areas procurement and invoice processing. In the accounting department, the processes of approval and release of invoices were to be optimized qualitatively as much as possible through standardization. The same procedure in procurement was planned with the intention of enabling order releases from every mobile device (Blackberrys, iPhones, etc.). Low implementation costs and quick support in the entire global organization were other criteria.

The greatest challenge of the anticipated project was that of finding a solution both for procurement and for invoice processing that could be deployed worldwide in a uniform manner – with the accountants remaining at their various local sites. The enterprise decided on the xSuite solution because it is deeply integrated into SAP and offers the option of release from smartphones.

Transparency in cash flow

The process of recognizing an invoice at Emery Oleochemicals previously took place separately in the respective regional subsidiary and was dominated by manual activities. Forwarding invoices to the accounting department and releasers took place in paper-based form and through interoffice mail. There was no overview of which invoices were being processed by whom at a certain time, or whether they were already posted.

With the new solution, each incoming invoice is now scanned at one of the central locations Düsseldorf (Germany), Cincinnati (U.S.A.), and Telok Panglima Garang (Malaysia). In the central data processing center in Germany, the invoice data of all locations are captured with a central invoice capture solution, checked against SAP data, and automatically passed on to the SAP system.

xSuite

It's simple. It's digital.

The module xSuite Invoice automates invoice release; if a manual release must take place, the releaser is informed by email, allowing the release to be performed via SAP GUI, the xSuite web client, or a mobile device. Today, Emery Oleochemicals can boast a unified, web-based system for all national and international business areas. The accounting processes have been standardized globally and the enterprise profits from transparency in cash flow that provides traceability.

The automated adoption of data has reduced the effort involved in invoice entry. Invoices can now be viewed by each authorized user in the central "Invoice Overview" in xSuite Invoice. The history of each invoice is traceable and there is transparency in the status of each document. The resulting electronic document flow ensures that cash discounts that are attainable are in fact achieved. xSuite Invoice also contains powerful reporting and monitoring functions based on which the management and the accounting department can derive detailed information on the exact status of each invoice within the process.

Procurement workflow integrates delegation of authority rules
With xSuite Procurement, the group has acquired a unified, web-based release system for its procurement processes. The workflow is used in all divisions of the company. The releasers can now process procurement requisitions easily while on the road as well, accepting them or rejecting them. With xSuite Procurement, Emery Oleochemicals is able to assign three approvers or releasers to an order. The worldwide procurement approval processes at the locations Germany, Malaysia, and U.S.A. are standardized and reflect the internal delegation of authority rules. The approvers are reachable globally through the approval features for web and mobile devices.

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