Procure-2-Pay Scenario in SAP S/4HANA

BELL FOOD GROUP OO O

Swiss meat manufacturer Bell Food builds a cross-country solution for integrated ordering and invoicing processes with software from xSuite

With annual sales of 4.2 billion Swiss francs (2021), Bell Food Group AG is the Swiss market leader in meat processing and convenience food. The company is represented in 15 European countries. Following the Group's 2017 decision to switch from their old SAP ECC 6.0 system to S/4HANA, the SAP add-ons they had previously used also proved to be outdated. The invoicing solution used in Switzerland was not standard or compatible with S/4HANA.

„The entire application had only been developed for Switzerland and should have been over-hauled. That was too tricky for us because we were looking for an invoicing solution for international use," explains Manfred Portmann-Philipp, SAP expert in the IT department of Bell Food Group (BFG). A new solution was therefore sought for Switzerland and at the same time for the entire Bell Food Group.

Good experience with xSuite in neighboring country

The German subsidiary had already been using an archive and the invoice processing solution from xSuite for several years. Based on the experience gained there, in 2017 Bell Schweiz AG also decided to implement the invoice workflow based on S/4HANA as well as the SAP archive, both from xSuite.

Company:
Web: www.bellfoodgroup.com
Sector: Food Industriy
Headquarters: Basel, Switzerland

xSuite® solution
- P2P scenario with SAP integrated solutions for procurement and invoice automation (xSuite Invoice, xSuite Procurement)
- Recording order confirmations in SAP (xSuite Order Confirmation)
- Processing incoming delivery bills (xSuite Delivery Notes)
- Archive solution for SAP (xSuite Archive)

Decisive arguments for xSuite
- Invoicing solution already successfully used at Bell in Germany
- End-to-end portfolio that can run on S/4HANA and enables to roll out internationally

Systems integration
SAP S/4HANA

xsuite.com

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„The vendor made a very good impression with its presentation. xSuite offers an end-to-end portfolio that can run on S/4HANA and enables us to roll out internationally," explains John Martinussen, ICT Project Manager at Bell Food Group AG.

Several Bell subsidiaries, including those in France, Austria, and Germany, as well as various Swiss BFG companies, are now working with the on-premises variant of S/4HANA. Bell Schweiz AG itself was still running an SAP ECC 6.0 system until 2021, which has since been migrated to S/4HANA. So wherever the new SAP product generation is used in the Bell Food Group, incoming invoices now pass through the SAP-integrated solution xSuite Invoice. In addition, the SAP-certified xSuite archive is being used. This archive stores not just invoices, but all SAP-related documents that need to be kept audit-proof, an example being papers regarding the slaughtering step in meat processing. Bell digitizes these papers via a scanning solution installed at several locations.

Release workflow involves 550 people, soon to be more
xSuite's invoice processing solution is currently being rolled out internationally. In Switzerland, 70 percent of invoices already arrive by e-mail as conventional PDFs, and the rest are scanned. The situation is similar at Bell Germany, with the added fact that the number of structured data records in ZUGFeRD or XRechnung format (two common XML invoice formats in Germany) is also continuing to rise. These e-invoices are also received and processed with the xSuite solution. Around 400 people are connected to the release workflow in Switzerland, and as many as 550 are connected internationally, with a rising tendency. Martinussen's assessment: „The collaboration with xSuite is exemplary. We have access to excellent professionals to assist us in a timely manner."

The goal is end-to-end, automated P2P processes
The majority of the approximately 100,000 incoming invoices at Bell CH/F each year have a purchase-order reference.

As Lukas Husi from the Group's purchasing department expresses it, „Our goal is to merge ordering and invoicing workflows into end-to-end, automated P2P processes, without any breaks between systems. This is what we hope to achieve by implementing xSuite's procurement solution."

Purchase requisitions should then no longer be made by mail or on demand, but entered directly into the system. „Here, too, we in Switzerland were able to draw on the experience of our German colleagues, who have been working with xSuite Procurement for quite some time," says Husi. After a test phase, the system is scheduled to go live in Switzerland in August 2022. It was preceded by a project for normalizing and standardizing master data.

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Joint technology base
Other components to be deployed for live operation in September 2022 are xSuite Order Confirmation for recording order confirmations in SAP and xSuite Delivery Notes for processing incoming delivery bills. With these components, Bell has formed an end-to-end solution in which everything originates from a single mold on the technical level. Although order confirmations (OC) were also processed in the past, the method used at the time had no future in view of S/4HANA migration and the idea of an end-to-end solution.

Husi observes, „The interaction of all the components from xSuite results in a perfect match: Invoices automatically go through in the background if no discrepancies between quantity and price are detected. As a result, we have significantly less work in invoice processing."

The Business Partner Portal from xSuite is another option that Husi, Martinussen, and Portmann-Philipp are currently considering. With this central platform, P2P processes involving suppliers can be digitalized and standardized. All data and documents relating to procurement are exchanged between Purchasing, Accounting and suppliers, offering relief to the Purchasing and Accounting departments through automatic transfer of data and documents from the portal to the SAP system.

„With xSuite, we have chosen the right solution portfolio, as can be seen from the fact that commercial processes are viewed holistically," states Husi. „Not everyone can deliver an excellent product like this, one that can be used to build international P2P scenarios in S/4HANA."

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