Invoice Payment Workflow
Project Sets High Standards

HAUNI

"Software extendibility is another advantage with xSuite.
Step by step, we can equip all foreign and domestic subsidiaries."

Gabriele Wolff, Head of Accounting, HAUNI Maschinenbau AG

Company
Web: hauni.com
Sector: Industry
Headquarters: Hamburg, Germany

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

Decisive arguments for xSuite
• Entirely SAP integrated,
 standardized, and generic solution
• Regional proximity
• On-site support
• Workflow capabilities

Systems Integration
• SAP ERP, IBM FileNet-Archive,
 XMailFetcher

When Hamburg-based Hauni Maschinenbau AG took up the topic of invoice processing in spring, 2011, the company was anything but inexperienced in the area. So much higher were the demands placed on the xSuite solution. What convinced the AP department at Hauni the most about it was its sophisticated workflow.

Hauni Maschinenbau AG is the leading provider of technologies, as well as of technical services and consulting for the international tobacco industry. With branches around the globe, Hauni supports customers worldwide in the areas of tobacco processing and filter and cigarette production. The company offers technologies for all steps of the process ranging from the preparation of tobacco to the production of filters, cigarettes, and special products, as well as the final step of quality measurement. Hauni employs around 3,900 employees across the world.

As early as 2004, Hauni was using a solution for automatic invoice processing that included a workflow. The ERP system that was deployed is SAP ECC 6.0. However, the company producing the software was sold to foreign investors and the software product used by Hauni was consequently discontinued. Hauni was on the lookout for an alternative and landed on xSuite.

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It's simple. It's digital.

Different vendors of systems for automated invoice approval and release workflows in SAP ended up in the final selection. xSuite stood out from the others with the capabilities its workflow offered. Regional proximity and the prospect of on-site support also factored in. The decision was made in July, 2011. In November, the parent group went operational, with Körber Schleifring GmbH to follow in mid-2012. An xSuite solution for scanning and data extraction have been deployed, as well as an interface for the connection to SAP and the invoice processing workflow xSuite Invoice. An IBM FileNet archive is connected to SAP and, as of July 2012, the XMailFetcher.

Parked Invoices as a New Feature
The new solution allows Hauni to implement a whole range of new functions. These functions include a concept for a release strategy and receipt of electronic FI invoices. Working directly in SAP with xSuite already starts with the capture step: Even before the actual workflow starts, Hauni accountants can validate the scanned document contents entirely within SAP. The results are then displayed concurrently in SAP and directly on the archived invoice record. This way, it is easy for them to adopt data from the image into the SAP document — a highlight of the xSuite solution which other systems do not offer. The benefit: data stays up-to-date.

Hauni has a daily count of around 700 and 900 incoming invoices. 2,500 people use the workflow for checking and releasing of invoices with order reference in MM and of FI invoices. 85 percent is constituted of MM invoices and 15 percent of FI invoices. For the latter, the machine manufacturer has set up workflows using the four-eye principle with xSuite Invoice. The software allows the AP department to perform targeted searches and selection of individual approvers according to account assignment. Releasers are found automatically through a release strategy. This is the great advantage of the system for employees in accounting.

"The workflow runs efficiently and is stable," states Birgitt Lantzsch, team leader in Accounting. "With it, we can maximize automation in invoice release."

Secure Four-Eye Principle
Earlier, invoices were not released through the workflow, but through a separate tool for signatures. Now, this manual process has been automated with a secure four-eye principle and tamper-proof documentation of the releases in the system. The functionality provided by the xSuite solution for MM invoices is essentially the same as that provided by the previous system. An MM workflow generally only starts when there is a discrepancy between an invoice and an order. The only invoices that are posted straight through in the background are MM invoices for warehousing materials, for which goods receipt is available and the price on the order corresponds with the information in the invoice. This constitutes an average of 15 to 20 % of the total number of invoices processed.

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"The demands we placed on our new technology partner were very high and very specific as the system we'd had up to that point was already tailored to our exact needs. It's not as if we're starting with a wide open field—for a new provider, it was certain to be a challenge," says Gabriele Wolff, Head of Accounting, HAUNI Maschinenbau AG

Expansion in Hungary

In mid-April, 2013, Hauni went productive at a foreign subsidiary, Hauni Hungaria GmbH. Incoming invoices are scanned at this location and sent to the headquarters in Hamburg for OCR processing. The OCR extracts the data. The Hungarian employees perform the rest of the processing in the central SAP system. Company codes for five companies in the Hauni Group were set up in SAP after the roll-outs in different countries: Hauni Hamburg, Hauni Hungary, Baltic Metalltechnik, Hauni Primary, and Universelle.

The IT department of the machine manufacturer can administer a unified solution much better centrally than when an autonomous system is used at each subsidiary. For this, the workflow must possess the necessary flexibility as the processes differ from business to business. In this regard, xSuite Invoice with adaptability it offers is the ideal platform for the Hanseatic machine manufacturer.

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