

SOLUTION FOR OUTGOING INVOICES

TechniData IT-Gruppe



Challenge:

- » Optimization of the invoicing process in SAP

Solution:

- » Introduction of an SAP add-on to minimize the processing steps in invoicing

Benefits:

- » Lean process = time saving of 35 days
- » Clear display of the invoice documents created per customer or sales area
- » Original for each process available by click
- » Maximum flexibility, data security and user-friendliness
- » Direct jump to invoice display (SAP standard transaction VF02)



More digital power for a time-saving invoicing process

Coffee. Beloved by many and something that used to be a lifesaver at TechniData IT-Gruppe in the SAP invoicing process. According to staff from the commercial department nothing worked without coffee: many tedious, repetitive, manual steps really sapped their energy.

Today coffee is just dearly beloved again. For a change, this has nothing to do with digitization itself because the company has already been mailing 60 percent of its outgoing invoices electronically since 2012. As for the remaining 40 percent, customers still insist on paper – for a variety of reasons.

Digital is not the same as efficient

Despite all the digitization, mailing of outgoing invoices from SAP was laborious because TechniData IT-Gruppe works with 4 company codes and mails up to 7,000 outgoing invoices per year and rising.

Each individual invoice or contract invoice first had to be created in SAP, extracted and then converted into a PDF outside of SAP before it could be imported back in SAP. Thereafter, the invoice was sent to the customer by e-mail out of SAP using a self-developed tool.

Markus Springer, application consultant at TechniData IT-Gruppe, describes the initial situation as follows:

“We sent each invoice separately indeed; bulk mailing was not possible. In conclusion, our staff filed the invoice manually as well. In our view, there were too many unnecessary steps which we simply wanted to reduce. After all, the number of outgoing invoices is growing steadily but the size of our commercial department is consistent so that’s why we really needed a smart solution.”

The smart solution was found in no time. Mr Springer still had a good memory of AFI Solutions from a fair attendance and immediately found what he was looking for on the website. Project launch was in October 2018 and after only 2 months TechniData IT-Gruppe could have gone live with the solution AFI Billing. The SAP application consultant explains why things turned out differently: *"We have simply postponed the go-live of the solution to February 2019 due to year-end business. This allowed us to test the solution in detail and calmly in January and then go live in February 2019."*

Time saving of 35 days

The invoicing process from SAP is much tighter today. *"We gain up to 35 days a year by using the AFI solution for SAP or save this time which we can now use for more meaningful activities,"* says Mr Springer.



Markus Springer, SAP application consultant
TechniData IT-Gruppe

Employee acceptance is correspondingly high. Meanwhile, SAP generates the PDFs for the invoices itself which TechniData IT-Gruppe optimized based on its own SAP know-how. The AFI solution now automatically retrieves the invoice PDFs from the SAP system and ensures smart processing.

Today, commercial staff can clearly see all outgoing invoices per customer or sales area in the solution cockpit and can add attachments if necessary. In addition to status displays of the invoice, the recipient as well as the dispatch type and time are listed transparently.

Since the solution is directly integrated into SAP, every original document is available at the click of a mouse and a direct jump to the SAP standard transaction VF02 is possible at any time. The system now dispatches several invoices in one go of course. In addition, it is possible to mark recurrent outgoing invoices so that they are sent automatically by the system. AFI's solution also sends the information to the accounting department. Project managers today have read access to AFI Billing and can easily filter and find their relevant outgoing invoices.

Paperless invoicing process

Although 40 percent of customers want to receive their outgoing invoices on paper, the commercial department of TechniData IT-Gruppe works paperless. *"We use an external service provider who sends out our paper invoices but these outgoing invoices are also processed via the AFI solution. AFI Billing sends the invoices electronically to the external service provider who then handles the postal processing as usual,"* says Mr Springer.

XRechnung* in prospect?

TechniData IT-Gruppe also has many customers in public administration. According to German legislature, each contracting authority shall only receive and issue invoices in the XRechnung format from 27 November 2020.

The company keeps calm when it comes to the topic of XRechnung which Mr Springer explains as follows:



*XRechnung: format for digital invoicing in German public administration



TechniData IT AG Company building in Karlsruhe

“Of course, we keep the XRechnung and the time specifications in mind. Our customers from the public sector are still at ease so we will approach this topic accordingly in 2020.”

When the time comes, the AFI solution AFI Billing can be used to create and send any exchange format.

Based in Karlsruhe, TechniData IT-Gruppe is a full-service provider of high-quality IT services for industrial medium-sized companies as well as contracting authorities throughout Southern Germany. The portfolio includes IT services and support, data center and cloud services, business solutions and consulting as well as software development.

Customer applications and systems are operated at the company's own data center in Möglingen near Stuttgart. In 2018 the turnover of TechniData IT-Gruppe was 26.76 million euros. The IT group currently employs around 220 people at locations in Karlsruhe, Mannheim, Markdorf/Lake Constance, Ludwigsburg and Möglingen.

www.technidata-gruppe.de

AFI is a solution provider and leading manufacturer of software for the optimization of paperless, digital document processes around SAP as well as a provider of services for document capture and processing. AFI offers optimal solutions for the entire purchase-to-pay and order-to-cash process.

AFI combines state-of-the-art SAP technology with technical innovation to develop excellent software solutions integrated in SAP for processing a wide range of document types. Routine tasks are replaced by automated and paperless processes.

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