"We are safer. The solution's internal control is better today. Above all, we are all protected, and we also have the filing system with xSuite Archive Prism".

Lina Löfberg, Head of AP and AR at Perstorp

SAP-integrated Processes Worldwide in Invoice Processing and Archiving

Perstorp

Perstorp is a global company that processes a high volume of important documents. Maintaining a clear overview of the processes in all departments places great demands on the company's document management system. This overview was lacking in the previous invoice processing system Perstorp used. Today, they use an SAP-certified solution which provides an overall picture and full control of their important documents. Switching solutions has had a major impact not only on employees' daily work processes, but also on the business in general – with results like these:

- Employees can track the invoice from when it is received to when it is registered in SAP
- SAP generates daily reports, so you only need to check the document in one place
- Fewer errors are made, and the invoice handling workload is reduced.
- Improved KPIs for matching up purchase orders and invoices
- The solution is easy to use

A well-established company with the focus on digital innovation

With more than 135 years of expertise, Perstorp Group is one of the world's leading specialists in innovative solutions for many types of industries and fields. They specialize in organic chemistry, process technology and application development. That's why Perstorp's solutions are used in a wide variety of products that are used in everyday life – both at home and at work. Perstorp's focus is at the molecular level. As they put it themselves, "One molecule can change everything."

Company
Web: www.perstorp.com
Sector: Chemical Industry
Headquarters: Sweden

xSuite® solution
- SAP-integrated invoice processing
- Archiving

Description
- Up to 90,000 invoices annually
- 12 company codes integrated
- More than 800 workflow users

Systems integration
- SAP ERP

www.xsuite.com

xSuite
It's simple. It's digital.

Examples of Perstorp's work extend to feed in livestock farming or products for sustainability in the plastics industry and reinforcing products using "coating technology" to fireproof, strengthen, or extend the life of different materials.

Perstorp Group's headquarters are located in Sweden, but they have branches in more than twenty-six countries worldwide. They require optimal invoice management not only in Sweden, but also in all the other areas of the world, and in all markets. That is why they needed to review and re-evaluate the solution they were using.

The need for a stable, SAP-certified solution

The processes that involve managing financial documents are important core processes central to the daily work. As such, they can be described as „the backbone" of a business; incorrect management can have devastating consequences for the company's operations and financial situation as a whole. The potential for improving efficiency is great in terms of time, manpower, and error reduction.

Over the years, Perstorp undertook several digitalization projects in order to streamline internal work processes, or even replace them with automated alternatives. Perstorp's previous solution could be described as a "patchwork solution" that just didn't work that well. Accounts Payable had a list of almost 60 suggestions for changes that needed to be addressed just to achieve a situation that was "okay." The previous solution, which was, most markedly, not SAP-integrated, thus presented Perstorp with significant challenges. They felt that their platform was unstable, that it did not provide an overview of the processes, and that very little support was available when they needed it.

Therefore, Perstorp started looking for a 100% SAP-certified solution, one that was stable and user-friendly, and could provide the overview they needed. They wanted improved workflows and simplified structures for approving and releasing invoices. The solution was to be deployed company-wide across the globe, creating a solid foundation for company operations into the future.

Minimizes errors and optimizes processes

The solution that was previously used for invoice management could not be adapted to Perstorp's work processes. Lina Löfberg, Head of AP and AR at Perstorp says: "It was difficult to match up invoices with purchase orders. The risk with that is that many errors are made which then have to be handled partly manually, and it is also difficult to then identify just where the financial disparity has occurred, and to correct it."

Perstorp processes up to 90,000 invoices over the course of a year. Identifying and correcting each error that occurs generates a considerable workload. Therefore, a solution was sought which would optimize more processes, including things such as the workflow in SAP. Keeping the number of errors to a minimum would free up more resources.

From a limited solution to stable integration

Today, Perstorp can see the difference the implementation of xSuite Invoice Cube has made in managing its invoice processes. Fully SAP-integrated, the invoicing system delivers all the necessary functions involved in invoice approval and release processes, and can handle all types of electronic invoices using a rule-based workflow or workflows. This provides a transparency in all the processes, brings down the number of errors, and increases speed.

xSuite
It's simple. It's digital.

xSuite Nordic is Perstorp's solution partner. One of its strengths is designing the solution to support a company's business processes. Lina Löfberg, Head of AP and AR at Perstorp, says: "We are safer. The solution's internal control is better today. Above all, we are all protected, and we also have the filing system with xSuite Archive Prism."

With its "four-eye" principle, the internal control protects both the individual employee and the organization as a whole, as the approval and payment of invoices require the involvement of a colleague each time approval is given. The system is based on a release strategy that makes the process easy to implement in practice. It instils confidence in everyone who works with the system – they can always see who has changed, approved and released invoices in the system's log. Even in the company's accounting, you can see who has worked with a particular document or process, which makes it much easier to identify and solve any errors made.

Perstorp can now access a more stable, secure solution in which the errors have been minimized significantly. In addition, the integration of this system saves them time which, in turn, has contributed to a general streamlining of the processes involved. The department that previously required eight people to handle invoices can now manage with only four employees. Accounts Payable has thus freed up resources which can now be used to perform other important tasks.

An integrated solution with optimized functions

xSuite is an SAP-certified solution, that it is implemented directly in the existing SAP environment to create an integrated platform. This integration has allowed Perstorp to create and structure a number of workflows, and to have an integrated structure for releasing and approving invoices, which makes the whole process more transparent and better organized. In xSuite Invoice Cube, the whole P2P process is simple to follow and clear. In other words, you control your invoice flow and know that you only have to look in one place, a huge difference from how it used to be using Perstorp's previous solution.

To digitalize invoice management, Perstorp has integrated an input/output-handling system which can both send and receive physical documents, PDF files from e-mails, and incoming XML files. The digitalization of the process forms the basis for automation. For example, it creates reserve invoices if the purchase has been approved as "Approval before commitment". The xSuite solution also handles the workflow for procurement management and has a uniform release strategy.

Sparring partners

The collaboration between xSuite Nordic and Perstorp started in 2016, when xSuite Invoice Cube was implemented. The process went without a hitch. In 2018, xSuite performed another update which also went smoothly, giving Perstorp more detailed, in-depth knowledge of how the system works.

Perstorp believes that they now have a good springboard for making further improvements. Perstorp's previous challenge was to get the invoice handling platform to work at just a minimum level. Now, either on their own or with the support of xSuite Nordic, they can develop and implement improvements on a continual basis, which will result in the platform becoming even more closely adapted to Perstorp's operations as their business progresses.

xSuite
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The positive collaboration on Perstorp's document handling in Accounts Payable and the automation of their processes have provided a basis for further process analyses via process mining. Here, working together, they examined the order-to-cash process to gain an overview of and identify potential for streamlining the sales process.

Looking towards processes for the future

Perstorp is a global corporation which wishes to use one single solution globally as they expand, rather than having to use a separate billing platform for each country. Using a flexible, SAP-certified solution would solve several problems all at once. Therefore, one of the requirements Perstorp had regarding the application was that it has good SAP integrability.

With the help of xSuite Nordic, Perstorp now has a stable platform and an overview of its processes in which errors have been reduced to a minimum. A number of processes have been automated and streamlined, which has improved the KPIs for matching up purchase orders with invoices.

The tight SAP integration that xSuite provided Perstorp ensures that its systems can be easily adapted to other markets. The integration provides a good foundation for creating new and even more workflows, and for automating processes for various departments. For Perstorp, this could include solutions for order management, procurement and accounts payable. Perstorp has therefore been given a platform geared towards ensuring that it can handle the processes of the future.

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