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DACHSER
Intelligent Logistics

SUCCESS STORY

Automating payment processes

As one of the world's leading logistics companies, DACHSER combines the power of a multinational firm with the values of a traditional family-owned enterprise. The company, founded by Thomas Dachser in 1930 and headquartered in Kempten, consistently pursues a strategy focused on sustainability which is supported by both shareholders and management alike. Professional financial management with an eye for sustainable decision-making, as well as a focus on continual, integrative growth form the commercial basis for the company's success.

CHALLENGES

- Resource overhead for communication between foreign subsidiaries and banks
- Serious compliance and security concerns

PROJECT GOALS

- SEPA compliance and harmonization of payment processes out of the ERP system
- Reducing the complexity of formats, decentralized accounts and local signatory rights

BENEFITS

- End-to-end solution covers all requirements for automated payment processing: formatting, bank connectivity, and management of signatory rights
- No need for bank formats customization in SAP
- Compliant with SEPA ISO 20022 XML

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WHY TIS?

- Fast and easy transition to SEPA with a multi-ERP capable solution
- Cloud-based architecture allows for access via web browser
- Multi-bank capability – ideal for international banking
- Audit-proof solution, offering full transparency and control
- Fast onboarding without costly IT implementation project
- Master user approach drastically reduces costs through centralized management

AUTOMATED PAYMENT PROCESSES AT DACHSER

Over the past years, logistics company DACHSER has been introducing the SAP FI and CO modules worldwide, starting with Germany in 2009. When the German Accounting department initiates a payment through SAP, a new file is created. The internal EDI system converts it into the Edifact Paymul payment format before it is forwarded to the bank together with an accompanying fax document.

In Germany there are only two banks to consider. However, DACHSER is active in many countries around the world and deals with several hundred banks, each with their own formats and requirements. In countries like Sweden and Norway, where DACHSER has not introduced SAP yet, domestic payments are only semi-automated, and all international payments are made manually. This is not only inefficient because manual processes take more effort, but also a compliance risk, since transferring the information from one media to another is a potential source of error. Together with the implementation of SAP and in the context of the transition to SEPA, the logistics company wanted to introduce an integrated solution for international payments.

“We wanted to automate and centralize the payment processes with our banks,” says Michael Haas, Group Leader System Design/Interfaces, Finance, Legal and Tax Department at DACHSER. When processes between ERP systems and banks are fully automated, they are transparent, reproduceable and well-documented, mitigating the risk of manual manipulation.

FORMATTING, CONNECTIVITY, AND DISTRIBUTED SIGNATORY RIGHTS

According to Michael Haas, a solution for automated payment processes needs to pass three tests: Formatting, bank connectivity, and management of distributed signatory rights. “To us, the TIS solution seems the most easy to use: We simply deliver payment requests for domestic and international payments as iDocs to the TIS Bank Transaction Manager (BTM). There is no need to customize formats in SAP. The EDI system no longer has to manage any connections, since the TIS solution handles bank connectivity.” TIS also supports management of distributed signatory rights. Michael Haas concludes that: “There’s a whole host of efficient systems for individual tasks, but the TIS solution brings together by far the broadest functionality.”

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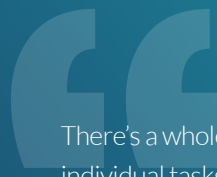
Aside from the features, the cloud-based architecture speaks in TIS' favor. "This way we do not need to install the software on premise; each user can access it via browser," explains Michael Haas.

MASTER USER APPROACH FACILITATES MANAGEMENT OF SIGNATORY RIGHTS

DACHSER Germany does not have a central accounting department. Branch, administrative and accounting heads are making payments from SAP from 17 different locations. Usually, this would mean setting up and managing more than 100 release and signatory authorizations with the banks via EBICS. This tremendous administrative burden is lifted with the TIS master user approach. This way, signatory rights are managed on TIS platform instead of in SAP. TIS converts approvals into the bank-specific format and forwards them to the bank with just one electronic signature, namely that of the master user. Changes to DACHSER's authorized signatories no longer impact the bank.

A CLOUD PLATFORM CENTRALIZES ACCOUNTING ACTIVITIES

As a legal entity, DACHSER in Germany comprises a single company code with only one account for outgoing payments per currency. The 17 regional accounting locations, however, all initiate their own payment runs and are billing suppliers independently. This means authorized persons from all locations can see the payment runs of all other locations. It is difficult to set up a process in SAP to avoid this because DACHSER Germany is one legal entity in the SAP system, but with TIS an account can be set up for each location.



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MICHAEL HAAS

Group Manager for System Design and Interfaces at DACHSER Intelligent Logistics

In summary, TIS is ideal for DACHSER because it brings together the three key roles in transaction processing onto one single payments platform: the banks, the SAP systems and the internal payment processes.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR: TIS

TIS is reimagining the world of enterprise payments through a cloud-based platform uniquely designed to help global organizations optimize outbound payments. Corporations, banks and business vendors leverage TIS to transform how they connect global accounts, collaborate on payment processes, execute outbound payments, analyze cash flow and compliance data, and improve critical outbound payment functions. The TIS corporate payments technology platform helps businesses improve operational efficiency, lower risk, manage liquidity, gain strategic advantage – and ultimately achieve enterprise payment optimization. Visit www.tis.biz to reimagine your approach to payments.

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TREASURY INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS GMBH

Germany (+49 6227 69824-0) | United States (+1 (617) 955 3223) | info@tis.biz | tispayments.com