

OUTGOING INVOICES

Bertrandt



Challenge:

- » Digitization of approx. 30,000 outgoing invoices per year

Solution:

- » Introduction of the SAP add-on AFI Billing as pay-per-use model
- » Customer registration via company website

Benefits:

- » Short project duration
- » Savings in postage and material costs
- » Conservation of environmental resources



Further promotion of digitization with electronic outgoing invoices

Improvement has a beginning but no end. Leading companies in particular are constantly on the move when it comes to optimization – including the international Bertrandt Group.

What started over 40 years ago as a one-man engineering office, is now one of the leading engineering partners worldwide. No matter if autonomous driving, mixed reality or the digital twin in production: Bertrandt has the aspiration to develop the best solution for every customer.

Setting an example

As a forward thinker, Bertrandt knows how important efficient processes are, which is why digitization is continuously pushed forward. The finance department has already been digitizing incoming invoices for a good seven

years and electronic invoice receipt was implemented in 2018.

It suggested itself that the expectations placed on own suppliers should also be fulfilled by the company itself: therefore, the next logical step was to digitize outgoing invoices.

Cost effective and ecofriendly

Apart from process optimization and transparency, digital processing of outgoing invoices should primarily save archiving costs in the future. The environmental aspect also plays an important role for Bertrandt as Tonia Rexer from the finance department explains: *“The paperless office is not only good for our processes but also goes easy on environmental resources. In the first instance, we save on postage and printing costs of course and*

in the long run, the elimination of archiving costs will eventually be added. At the moment, we certainly have to store existing paper documents for a total of ten years but with the digital solution this will pay itself off in the future.”

Bertrandt sends about 65,000 outgoing invoices per year, more than half of which are already transmitted to the customer via other electronic channels. For the dispatch of the remaining documents, Bertrandt decided to use the solution AFI Billing from AFI Solutions.

Since it was very clear to the company that not all customers would jump on the digital bandwagon at once, the pay-per-use model is ideal as Ms Rexer also confirms: *“This is the best solution for us since AFI Billing allows us to*

pay only for the documents which we send electronically. Thereby, we can increase the volume little by little."

Implemented quickly and extensive in use
This is what Ms Rexer says about the implementation period: *"The project duration was also very convenient for us. We had scheduled about twelve weeks from the beginning and it did not take us much longer than that."*

After going live in June 2019, inter-company billing was the first to get off the ground. The Bertrandt Group's specialist departments now appreciate and use the option of sending their invoices by e-mail.

Bertrandt informed its customers already in May 2019 about the option of digital invoice delivery as of July 2019 and the company has come up with something clever to reduce further manual effort. Ms Rexer recounts:

"Customers must register on our website for digital delivery. This is where they fill out all relevant information, for example the e-mail address for invoice dispatch. The data is then automatically uploaded into the SAP master data and we do not have to maintain everything manually. In addition, a double-opt-in procedure via the website helps to protect ourselves in terms of data-protection law."

After the kick-off campaign, there were of course the highest number of registrations for digital processing of outgoing invoices. Meanwhile, more customers are being added at irregular intervals.

Time is money
Companies normally cite savings in material and postage costs and transparency as advantages in projects for the digitization of outgoing invoices since all those involved in the process receive a complete overview of all these invoices.

Tonia Rexer highlights another key advantage: *"The fact that electronic outgoing invoices arrive faster and above all directly at the responsible employee of the customer and thus also contribute to an acceleration of internal processes is not to be underestimated."*

Next Bertrandt intends to roll out the solution to its foreign locations.



The paperless office protects the environment – a major advantage for Bertrandt.

From the initial idea to the production-ready product, Bertrandt provides innovative engineering as well as consulting in quality and project management. The Group deals with sophisticated technologies of the present and the future and thus plays a decisive role in shaping the world of tomorrow. The developments improve the quality of day-to-day life.

With 13,000 employees at over 50 locations, Bertrandt is represented internationally and provides know-how in all high-tech sectors. Bertrandt: engineering for people.

www.bertrandt.com

AFI Solutions GmbH is a leading solution provider for the digitization and optimization of document processes around SAP. The solutions cover the entire purchase-to-pay and order-to-cash process.

AFI is the only software manufacturer on the market that offers everything from a single source: With the RedPaperCenter as a managed service, companies can easily outsource the digitization of a wide variety of paper documents. In process optimization, AFI scores with SAP-integrated software solutions. The cloud-based DocumentHub as software as a service (= SaaS) completes the unique product portfolio.

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