



## Invoice processing: Two specialists team up together

### A case study

#### Multiple channels of incoming invoices.

Digitization is taking over in all sectors of the economy, especially in the area of information exchange. Although the process of conversion started years ago, it is far from being complete. Paper-based and digital processes have existed side-by-side for years and this will undoubtedly remain the case for several years to come, although the balance will continue to tip more and more towards digital.

The exchange of invoices between companies takes place via a number of channels: the traditional printed letter, a PDF file sent via the Internet, or a structured electronic invoice with a special exchange format sent directly between computers. In order to work their best and be properly prepared for the future, companies must be able to respond appropriately to this multiplicity and introduce suitable processes. It makes sense to outsource the technical and organizational challenges this presents to a service provider specializing in multi-channel solutions and then establish a standardized and fully electronic process within the company.

#### The partners: Tessi Solutions and Swisscom's Conextrade

Tessi Solutions has been a successful provider of electronic invoice processing for many years. To round off its portfolio, in 2010 Tessi Solutions entered into a partnership with Conextrade, Swisscom's trading platform. Conextrade also offers solutions for invoice processing, but the joint project showed that the partnership provided many advantages for customers by allowing each partner to concentrate on its particular strengths. Swisscom's size and importance gives it recognition and a presence throughout Switzerland. It also has a large customer base, and the name Swisscom stands for top quality. Tessi Solutions contributes its special expertise in the areas of scanning, document management and workflow. In addition, as a small, agile company with an international presence, Tessi Solutions is able to offer excellent quality together with cost advantages.

### Conextrade trading platform

Swisscom's Conextrade trading platform is a central hub for purchasing industrial and consumer goods and for all billing processes. It brings the benefits of electronic cross-company processing to a large number of users, allowing them to improve reliability and processing times and reduce costs dramatically.

[www.handelsplatz.conextrade.com](http://www.handelsplatz.conextrade.com)

### The combined solution

Conextrade and Tessi Solutions offer a solution for vendor invoice processing that allows invoices to be received via a variety of channels, such as structured e-invoices, PDF files and paper invoices received through the mail. Receipt and initial processing is performed either by Conextrade or Tessi Solutions, depending on the incoming channel. Regardless of the source of the invoice, the customer receives delivery to its specific workflow application, with verification, archiving and processing performed in accordance with its specific requirements. It can therefore concentrate fully on the contents of the invoice without dealing with the complexity of multiple incoming channels.

The partnership between the two service providers is aimed at quality, efficiency and flexibility. Thanks to streamlined decisionmaking and a practical approach, it is often possible to implement solutions in a few months (paper invoice scanning) or even a single month (purely electronic invoice exchange).

### Satisfied customers

Past experience speaks for itself. A number of well-known Swiss companies that are using Conextrade and Tessi Solutions to process their incoming invoices – in some cases since 2010 – are very satisfied with the solution and the savings they realize. One of these companies is Alpiq InTec, which processes 400,000 invoices a year.

The solution is independent of the sector involved. The focus is currently on companies in the industrial, financial, telecommunications and energy sectors. Cross-border cooperation also functions optimally, as Tessi Solutions has a presence in almost all European countries and can digitize invoices received for its customers there. Further processing can take place in the customer's own country or a more cost-effective location, such as Warsaw – complying in all cases, of course, with local statutory requirements. Conextrade comprehensively covers the country-specific statutory provisions in the electronic area in more than 50 countries.

### The future

More companies are showing great interest in a solution to simplify their invoice processing, which is why the customer base is growing continuously.

Both Tessi Solutions and Conextrade are strong, established companies and their partnership is aimed at the long term. Customers can therefore be assured that once implemented, solutions will be operated for the long term and they will not be confronted by the need for an unexpected change in provider. •



#### Keywords

Swisscom's Conextrade electronic trading platform

#### Sectors

All

#### Products and Services

Electronic invoices

The Swiss branch of the French company, Tessi S. A. was established following the acquisition of RR Donnelley Switzerland.