

The Uralita Group: Optimising Customer and vendor invoice processes



Uralita is a Spanish construction materials multinational corporation with over 100 years of experience (founded in 1907). Currently, the company has operations in 35 countries. The company's strategic businesses are insulation (under the URSA brand), Iberian Plasterboard (under the Pladur and Algiss brands), tiles (under the Cobert brand) and Pipes (under the Adequa brand).

Uralita holds a leadership position in the Iberian Peninsula for light construction materials, and is Europe's third largest manufacturer of insulation. The Uralita Group includes the following companies: URSA, Pladur, Algiss, Cobert and Adequa. URSA is organised in six geographic units and one headquarters office located in Madrid.

www.uralita.com

Construction Materials
Manufacturing Industry

Configuration

- ERP: SAP

The Uralita Group, the Spanish construction multinational, has chosen Esfer to automate the accounts payable and electronic invoicing processes for its subsidiary Uralita, S.A. (URSA) and four operations in its Iberia Division. The project includes automatic integration with SAP applications for 180,000 vendor invoices and 15,000 electronic invoices annually.

The project

International scope

This scope is one of Esfer Iberia's broadest in international scope, covering 11 countries: Spain, Portugal, Slovenia, Croatia, Germany, Belgium, Italy, England, Poland, Hungary and Romania. The Esfer DeliveryWare solution has been installed in four servers at the group's headquarters in Madrid.

Automated Accounts Payable

The document automation project was done in various phases. The first stage included the automation of over 180,000 vendor invoices. Scanned and locally validated at each of the locations, they are sent to URSA's central servers located in Madrid where data is captured and stored in Esfer DeliveryWare – to ultimately send the invoices to the corporate SAP system to finalise the accounting process. In the case of invoices without purchase orders, some approval workflow processes have been implemented in the multiple cost centers of each operating unit. Once the process is complete, the invoice is transferred and recorded in the SAP system.

Implementation of electronic invoices with digital signatures, as well as email delivery and filing of the original documents

A second stage included the automatic generation of electronic invoices with digital signatures. The project's objective was to automate the generation, electronic signature, email delivery and filing of more than 15,000 electronically formatted customer invoices annually.

The solution had to be flexible enough to incorporate different formats and types of invoices, and to send electronic invoices to customers of the four operating units of the Iberian Division (including the Pladur, Algiss, Cobert and Adequa Brands) and four countries within the URSA Division (URSA Iberia – Spain and Portugal -, Slovenia and Croatia). The solution needed to be able to be integrated into the e-business platform: www.pladur.biz.

Esfer offers us a unique solution to manage incoming and outgoing invoices, so as to completely automate document processes, from the reception of vendor invoices to the delivery of client invoices. This provides us with an adjustable, expandable platform with an optimal TCO.

Gregor Miklavcic ▪ Project Manager ▪ URSA Slovenia

The implementation

Stratesys Consulting

Stratesys consulting lead the consulting as well as the project's implementation within the SAP platform. In the first stage, Stratesys focused on the Accounts Payable process by supporting the client's rollout of a new corporate e-procurement process. The entire process was automated – from data entry, validation of information, invoice entry, automatic data integration in the SAP application, through automatic storage in a document filing system. In the second stage, Stratesys Consulting implemented the process that generates electronic invoices with digital signatures and time stamps directly from the SAP system, which was instituted for some of URSA's business units and Uralita Iberia's operating units.

Environmental benefits

The Uralita Group will contribute to protection of the environment, given the prior volume of its paper document transactions. With the automaton of 390,000 financial documents (incoming photocopied invoices, outgoing and filed invoices) by the end of this project, Uralita will not only gain efficiencies in process times and a drastic reduction in errors, but it will also save:

- 32.5 trees
- 51,665 cubic meters of waste
- 7,995 kilowatts of energy
- 4,993 kilos of CO2 emissions

Esker's tool is clear and easy to use. We were able to simplify all of the Accounts Payable processes, since we had been wasting a lot of time with manual revisions as well as data entry. The cost verification results have been very positive, since we can view and confirm all of the invoices even after they have already left our offices.

Gregor Miklavcic ▪ Project Manager ▪ URSA Slovenia

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