

CASE

Siemens Finance Shared Services

Automated handling of more than 800,000 invoices



“We support Siemens business processes around the world with innovative solutions.” This is the vision of Siemens Finance Shared Services (CF R FSS) – Siemens intra-company service provider. And OpusCapita is its partner. Their partnership focuses on relieving the local Siemens operating companies in northwestern and southwestern Europe of the work of processing a steadily growing volume of supplier invoices.

For Siemens, shared services are an instrument to be used specifically to increase the productivity of its operating units: services that can be provided more effectively, quickly and economically from a central service center are bundled across national boundaries. This practice reduces costs, increases process efficiency and frees the affected operating units to focus on their strategically important business goals.

In implementing this shared services model, Siemens takes advantage of the knowledge and skills of part-

“For us OpusCapita is a trusted business partner that has demonstrated great flexibility and professional project management in international outsourcing initiatives that take place in complex corporate and supplier environments. OpusCapita consultants respond quickly to every customer requirement with the right solution.”

Tobias Weber, Project Manager, Siemens Finance Shared Services

ners who are specialists in particular fields. This is why OpusCapita is supporting invoice management in the shared service centers in the United Kingdom, India, Czech Republic and Portugal, where accounting services are provided for the local operating companies in northwestern and southwestern Europe. Here, OpusCapita takes on the role of a service provider, contributing to high speed, efficiency and quality along the entire process chain, from the receipt of supplier documents such as invoices, credit notes or reminders to the central further processing of invoice data in the ERP systems.

In 2014, more than 800,000 invoices from Siemens companies in fourteen European countries were processed in close cooperation with local partners. The documents are scanned, analyzed using OCR and checked to make sure that they are legally correct before being forwarded via EDI to the SAP-based ERP system. If no connection to SAP is available, the invoices are first scanned and converted to PDF files. Then a simple file transfer protocol (SFTP) is used for forwarding, indexing and workflow-supported transfer to the SAP systems. Karin Springer from Project Management at Siemens Fi-

OpusCapita

“The OpusCapita solutions mean that our local units don’t need to spend time handling inbound supplier documents anymore. Instead, document handling takes place as part of an end-to-end process with seamless data transfer to our ERP systems for further processing.”

Karin Springer, Process Owner, Siemens Finance Shared Services

Siemens Finance Shared Services is responsible, among other things, for the southwestern European region: *“Through standardization and automation, OpusCapita contributes to greater cost-effectiveness and efficiency along the entire process chain, from invoice receipt to processing in SAP.”*

OpusCapita’s Managing Director Christian Scherf knows what really matters: *“We need to ensure a high de-*

gree of accuracy in meeting Siemens’ central requirements, keep a constant eye on all the processes through end-to-end monitoring and respond proactively to possible sources of problems in the service flow.” And for several years now, he and his staff have been delivering proof of the success of this approach in interaction with the customer’s user departments. So it’s not surprising that OpusCapita has meanwhile won itself the status of a

trusted business partner at Siemens Finance Shared Services.

The challenge

- » To ensure the rapid, automated processing of supplier invoices, all incoming documents have to be digitalized and the information they contain has to be loaded into an ERP system for further processing in a manner that is EDI-compliant. Supplier documents that are incorrect or not accepted have to be rejected and returned. OpusCapita was entrusted with the organization of this process for fourteen countries in northwestern and southwestern Europe.

The solution

- » Siemens uses OpusCapita solutions featuring state-of-the-art technology because they enable a high degree of automation and, at the same time, extensive flexibility. This affects the incorporation of country-specific factors and adherence to compliance requirements as well as handling of large volumes with end-to-end transparency. Siemens receives the supplier data from OpusCapita for further processing in its ERP systems in conformity with the prescribed EDI standard, independently of any pre-processing or special features.

Siemens Finance Shared Services

Siemens AG (Berlin and Munich) is a leading international technology company that has stood for technological excellence, innovation, quality, reliability and internationality for more than 165 years. The company is active in over 200 countries with a focus on electrification, automation and digitalization. In the fiscal year 2014, which ended on September 30, 2014, Siemens’ revenue from continuing operations totaled €71.9 billion and its net income amounted to €5.5 billion. At the end of September 2014, Siemens had around 357,000 employees worldwide. Siemens Finance Shared Services, which is active around the world, provides global transactional services for Siemens AG in the areas of vendors, customers and asset accounting, payment transactions and banking, main accounting, preparation of financial statements and reporting. At its facilities in Europe, North America, South America and Asia, Siemens Finance Shared Services processes an annual load of approximately eight million incoming invoices and other documents from external suppliers – the majority of which are still delivered on paper.