



SUCCESS STORY

Managing orders via AX4

Schmitz Cargobull integrates all suppliers

Schmitz Cargobull AG has 45 sales offices and a presence in nearly every country in Europe. Providing markets what they need, when they need it requires the close collaboration of some 150 suppliers. Schmitz Cargobull introduced the AX4 logistics platform back in 2002 to streamline the order management process, which had become tedious for everyone involved, and to improve its own supply chain performance.

Challenge

Schmitz Cargobull works with suppliers both small and large. The company needs a solution that can accommodate both the diverse structures and the varying systems of these suppliers and integrate them through a single centralized interface. To optimize both its supply chain performance and its receiving processes, the solution should be able to monitor the on-time performance of its suppliers and simplify its goods receipt process with a barcode-supported inbound check system. The IT solution needs has to adapt to the SAP system and eliminate manual tasks along the entire process chain. Another goal is to implement supply chain event management (SCEM) that will generate proactive alerts of any deviations from the normal processes.

»We work with a diverse field of suppliers both large and small, so we need a solution flexible enough to accommodate all kinds of system requirements.«

Peter Schmitz
Chairman of the Board,
Schmitz Cargobull AG

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Solution

Instead of transmitting orders individually, Schmitz Cargobull links its SAP system to the AX4 platform. All orders are then transmitted to the appropriate parties through a centralized interface, eliminating the need to re-enter the data into the supplier's system. Suppliers then use their AX4 web account or an interface to return order confirmations, shipping notices, and final delivery notes to Schmitz Cargobull. The company can now simply continue processing the appropriate documents in SAP.

AX4's barcode printing feature is yet another benefit: Suppliers apply the printed barcode to outbound shipments. Then, Schmitz Cargobull only needs to scan the barcode when it receives the goods. This accelerates the time-consuming process of checking incoming goods. For better planning precision, the platform incorporates an SCEM solution that compares ordered quantities to confirmed quantities and notifies the appropriate parties if there are any deviations in the shipping process.

Success

AX4 links all suppliers through one centralized platform, ensuring that orders are passed along quickly and directly. Data is exchanged automatically, centralizing the order management process and eliminating inefficient communication channels. The result: heightened cost-effectiveness, enhanced reliability, and greater transparency throughout the supply chain. AX4 compares target data to actual data, notifies all involved parties early on if any changes are made as the order is processed and warns if certain responses are not received. This way, Schmitz Cargobull was able to significantly accelerate order replenishment times.

»AX4 lets us check the on-time performance and shipping statuses of any supplier at any time. This in turn allows us to continuously improve our own supply chain performance.«

Peter Schmitz
Chairman of the Board,
Schmitz Cargobull AG

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