

Comarch EDI at Intermarche (SCA Poland)

Intermarche is a European general supermarket chain operating in nine European countries.

In Poland the stores are mainly located in small and midsized towns. The first Polish musketeer under this sign opened an Intermarche store in Zielona Góra in 1997. Since that time the number of stores increased to over 160 locations.



Situation before EDI implementation

Intermarche in Poland has over 160 stores supplied by 2 logistic centers, which send and receive hundreds of documents every day. Managing orders and invoices of that number in paper version meant serious problems with effectiveness and correctness of data. Traditional document flow demanded a lot of manual work generating high costs. Moreover, additional losses connected with supplies not provided because of lost orders resulting in lack of products on the shelf and lost sales, motivated the company to implement electronic data interchange (EDI).

Solution

EDI project at Intermarche was launched in 2008. The plans included introduction of electronic documents – orders and e-invoices (together with corrective invoice) – with 400 suppliers.

To streamline electronic documents interchange monitoring process, the chain decided to use **Comarch EDI Tracking** solution. This tool offers full overview of the status of sent and received documents. Additionally, with implementing e-invoice and the necessity to store data electronically, **Comarch EDI E-Invoicing** was also provided.

In compliance with the Minister of Finance Regulation, e-invoices are stored in electronic form for a required period and in appropriate conditions. The process of connecting suppliers of Intermarche chain included a set of documents – order and e-invoice.

To raise the quality of data transferred in e-invoices, two additional tools were used, operating within Comarch EDI system, namely:

- ▶ **Comarch EDI Validator** – verifying data correctness in e-invoices in terms of structure and content (incl. calculations)
- ▶ **Comarch EDI Double** – verifying documents duplicated by the sender system

At the end of 2011, the average number of documents sent by Intermarche reached 8000 a month for connected suppliers (ca. 260 companies). In the case of received invoices the number exceeded 3000.

Comarch EDI Platform provides Intermarche with various reports based on data from electronic documents in the form of **Comarch EDI Reporting** module, that is:

- ▶ Document flow
- ▶ Document quality
- ▶ Report of omissions in invoices

Situation after implementation of the project

By implementing EDI project with Comarch EDI, Intermarche achieved a number of benefits, including direct costs of document management (e.g. reducing manual labor of entering data, cost of print, cost of sending the documents and their storage), as well as additional benefits resulting from increasing the quality of the data in transferred documents. Within the project, connecting further suppliers and broadening the range of documents is planned.

Benefits

Implementation of data interchange at Intermarche brought about the following benefits:

- ▶ Minimizing the cost connected with received documents, especially invoices (reduction of manual labor of entering data, cost of archiving, searching the data, verifying correctness)
- ▶ Full control of the documents transferred – from sending to receiving by a partner
- ▶ Streamlining the supply process through quick and exact transfer of logistic information
- ▶ Raising the data quality in exchanged electronic documents

Conclusion

Comarch's comprehensive and flexible approach coupled with very good cooperation from Intermarche, enabled quick implementation of electronic document interchange processes. The project brought about significant benefits both in terms of orders, deliveries, and invoicing, and also the process itself can be closely monitored.

The Client's opinion

"Launching EDI communication based on our own IT infrastructure would have meant costly investments in equipment and communication infrastructure and long implementation process. Full outsourcing model offered by Comarch allowed us not only to limit investment costs, but also guaranteed fast launch of the system.

"Thanks to sharing access to web versions of Comarch EDI Platform with our smaller suppliers, we can exchange electronic documents with all partners," **says Tomasz Ciok, Junior Logistics Specialist at Intermarche.**

More information

Details of Comarch EDI offer can be found on www.comarchedi.com and www.services.comarch.com

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