



Zijerveld optimizes quality and efficiency of accounts payable processes

Zijerveld is a leading player in the Dutch and European cheese market. To support its continued growth, Zijerveld has invested in its accounts payable processes to streamline and optimize it. In partnership with Medius, Zijerveld has streamlined its invoice processing and increased its control over AP processes.

Invoice Processing **on the Go**

The Zijerveld family business has been a leader in the cheese market for over a century. The company has grown to be the main supplier of a comprehensive range of Dutch and foreign cheeses and related products.

Zijerveld offers innovative concepts in custom packaging, with different compositions, with its own logistics provider handling the distribution. Zijerveld covers a whole world of cheeses for a range of market segments.

As such, this makes Zijerveld a valued supply chain partner for both retailers and wholesalers. The organization shares its knowledge of one of the Netherlands' most famous export products through its kaas.nl web portal, which is packed with mouthwatering images and stories about cheese.

In 2013, Zijerveld was acquired by FrieslandCampina. Zijerveld occupies an autonomous position within the group, meaning it has kept its own identity and location in Bodegraven.

To support ambitious targets, the cheese company now also needs to further modernize its support processes, such as finance and IT. They've already implemented Infor M3 ERP system to that end, which has proven its value, particularly in the food industry.

Digitization and automation of incoming Invoices

As part of this modernization plan, Harrie Scholten took the lead in further digitizing and streamlining Zijerveld's processing of incoming invoices. 55,000 invoices arrive each year, of which approximately 40,000 are classified as vendor invoices.

Scholten is responsible for creditor and debtor management in his role of Finance Manager. He says, "Until recently, our accounts payable (AP) process involved many manual tasks. We printed incoming invoices, stored them in a file and presented them to the relevant budget holders for approval.



Optimization of **accounts payable processes**

Zijerveld had a largely manual AP process, which was both time-consuming and prone to errors. They spent a lot of time searching for and locating invoices.

As a result, it was tricky to maintain oversight and control over the AP process. In addition, a significant portion of vendor invoices were actually paid directly, without involving the purchase department at all. That meant price changes for raw materials weren't being processed promptly.



We found that we could optimize multiple aspects of our accounts payable processes. Besides more efficient invoice processing, these would also allow us to improve the process quality and our control over it. Zijerveld explored the market, looking for solutions with which to digitize and automate our invoice processing.

Harrie Scholten, Finance Manager

Proven compatibility with Infor M3

infor M3

If we consider the requirements identified by Zijerveld, one thing stands out: seamless, immediate compatibility with Infor M3. "We definitely didn't want any worries about creating or maintaining links between the AP solution and our ERP system.

"Basically, the goal was a single, integrated platform for automated invoice processing, procurement and ERP. We also looked at capture rates. We

aim to maximize the number of 'touchless' invoices going forwards; invoices that are processed without manual intervention."

Scholten adds: "The Medius AP Automation solution offers proven compatibility with Infor M3, and met our functional wants and needs. The intuitive user interface was particularly impressive. After a good demo, we decided to go for Medius,"

Effortless, touchless invoicing

Medius' Connect Infor M3 connector ensures seamless interaction between Medius solutions and Infor M3 systems. Medius Connect is both powerful and flexible and is available pre-packaged for every Medius solution; Medius AP Automation in Zijerveld's case.

Medius AP Automation eliminates the need for time-consuming tasks such as invoice registration and coding. Medius automates the entire invoicing process, from their arrival to registration in the ERP system. The software detects and extracts the invoice's relevant data.

Then, it automatically compares this to purchase

orders, goods receipts or contracts using a wide range of information sources such as line items or totals.

Thanks to artificial intelligence and machine learning, the AP solution gets 'smarter' as it does more. As a result, the number of touchless invoices continues to rise. At the time of writing, the touchless rate stands at 55%. That number may seem low but given the variety of units of measurement used by Zijerveld, it is quite an achievement.

Finally, Medius AP Automation archives the original invoices automatically, making these easy for Zijerveld's staff to retrieve and check.



No more paper invoices

Scholten notes that the implementation proceeded very smoothly, especially considering that everything had to take place digitally and remotely due to Covid-19.

The complexity proved quite manageable and did not cause their IT department too much trouble. "We chose to deal with the expense invoices first, after which we moved on to setting up the processes for vendors.

"Medius's consultants were very helpful during the process optimization. We work with an entirely different model now, and almost 100 employees rely on Medius solutions.

While a new way of working will always cause some

hesitancy, it's clear that everyone is very happy with Medius AP Automation. Employees appreciate that they can look up and process invoices on their phones, for instance.

There are no more paper invoices in circulation, which has improved their efficiency. Invoice processing has become much faster, freeing up employees to do work that adds value to the business. Zijerveld works closely with their suppliers, and now, they can reassure them quickly in the if there's uncertainty about a payment's status. Also, if an invoice fails to take the right price agreements into account, it's quick to resolve.

Scholten also praises Medius's reporting options. As part of FrieslandCampina, Zijerveld is expected to submit its financial accounts in good time. Because of Medius, Zijerveld's monthly accounts are now done by the end of the next business day. Reporting data is also used to further increase the proportion of touchless invoices.



It may sound contradictory, but by putting Medius in control, we've actually improved our own control over our AP processes.

About Medius

Managing AP and finance should be about strategy, not stress. You shouldn't have to sift through endless emails, PDFs or paper to get invoices confirmed, coded and paid, so you can (heaven forbid) go home. You shouldn't have to scramble to pay suppliers and keep them happy or cross your fingers no surprises land in your inbox that jeopardize the numbers you've presented to the boss and the board. You shouldn't have to worry about a fake invoice subjecting you to fraud. And you certainly shouldn't have to fret about finding a solution that is actually a solution - one that doesn't add expensive consultants and costs instead of speed and simplicity.

Let's replace all that worry and wondering with calm and confidence. Medius links all of AP together - from invoice capture and processing all the way through payment. With one look at a demo, you'll see how Medius takes you beyond basic automation and minor improvements to let Artificial Intelligence (AI) do most of the work for you, so you can get done, go home and rest easy. You'll know exactly what's paid, what's pending, and that your forecasts are spot on. And you won't have to worry about implementation and ongoing administration costs, because you'll start seeing the value immediately and the innovation won't stop. To learn more, visit medius.com.



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