Full steam ahead!

Success story

windream

MANAGING DOCUMENTS

Full steam ahead!

Cologne, Luxemburg, Cyprus: windream optimizes invoice management and personnel administration of the „Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rheinschiffahrt AG"

"KD" – the abbreviation for the Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rheinschiffahrt AG – is the oldest German corporation which has permanently been quoted on the stock exchange. On the Rhine, Main and Mosel and with branches in Cologne, Luxemburg and Cyprus, the company operates a fleet of 14 ships – from the nostalgic paddle wheel steamer named "Goethe" for convenient river voyages to the supercatamaran named „MS RheinEnergie", which is unique all over Europe and which can transport more than 1,650 passengers. Of course, the complete fleet must be managed adequately. In the IT-sector, the KD corporation is supported by the windream partner ags situated at Essen, Germany.

Optimized invoice management with windream

The business activities of the KD corporation do not only concentrate on shipping, but also on touristy services on board the ships.

A basic demand in this business is to manage all invoices efficiently. Thomas Günther, Finance Manager of the Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rheinschiffahrt AG at the Cologne based headquarters is in charge of this job. He demanded three main objectives that should contribute to speed up internal business processes and expansions in foreign countries as well: a) optimisation of invoice management and approval, b) cost reduction concerning internal and external paper archives and c) the installation of a central electronic archive and unified business processes. Further on – these were important criteria – a seamless integration of the new ECM-system into Microsoft's DynamicsTM NAV ERP-system and an easy and short implementation should be possible, too. And how should this be managed? – "With windream!", recommended ags andreas gruber software gmbh from Essen. The company had already been supporting KD in all questions of IT-services since 1997 already. Thus, ags is quite familiar with the internal system environment of KD.

About Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rheinschiffart AG (KD)

The Köln-Düsseldorfer Deutsche Rhein-schiffahrt AG was already founded on June 11, 1826, as the "Preußisch-Rheinische Dampfschifffahrts-Gesellschaft" in Cologne. It represents the oldest German corporati-on which has continuously been quoted at the stock exchange. Worldwide, no other shipping company has built and operated so many ships like KD. Until today, the Köln-Düsseldorfer is market leader on the Rhine and – at the same time – the leading company in the development of new types of ships. Further information on KD can be found in the internet under **www.k-d.com**.

ERP-integration already available

ags had already developed a "ready to use" and Microsoft certified software interface named move)arc, which connects the Mi-crosoft DynamicsTM NAV ERP-system to the windream ECM-system. Because of this, KD quickly decided in favor of windream.

After a short period of eight weeks only which included installation, configuration, tests and trainings, windream and move)arc went into productive use in 2007. Today, the shipping company uses the windream ECM-system at all three branches – Cologne, Luxemburg and Cyprus – for optimised invoice management. Besides the respective windream clients and a central ECM-server, the company also uses the windream integra-tion kit for terminal servers. Further on, the KD branches also use windream DocView, the document preview application which can read more than 250 file types – from office documents, PDFs and TIFFs up to complex construction plans. Users who want to read the documents need not install the original software of the associated file types.

The move)arc ERP-interface

With move)arc, ags has developed a standardised interface between Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV and the windream ECM-system. With this windream integration into the ERP-soluti-on, a top class product is available which combines modern order management (purchase and sales) with the powerful windream ECM-system. All documents created with Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV are saved in windream and can be retrieved and viewed directly from the Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV software. The technology used is based on Microsoft's SQL database server.

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Heterogeneous documents in the HR department

windream and move)arc are not only used for invoice management in the finance department, but also in the "Operations" division which is responsible for internal personnel management. The types of documents which KD administers with windream in this sector are very heterge-neous: Contracts, licences and certificates of the staff e.g. for reaches of rivers, radar, radio, first aid, assurances, visa and passports.

Key facts:

✓ Optimization of invoice management processes

✓ Cost reduction by avoiding paper archives

✓ Installation of a central electronic archive

✓ windream integration into Microsoft Dynamics™ NAV

✓ Implementation of the move)arc ERP/ECM interface by windream partner ags

Workflow in finance...

The workflow is as follows: Incoming receipts are first equipped with a barcode in the finance department and are then digitised via the "Kofax Capture" scan software. The documents which have been scanned are saved in a defined directory of the windream drive. Then, the assigned barcode is used for indexing the associated document in windream. The contents of the directory in which the documents scanned with Kofax Capture are saved is imported into the invoices book of arrival of the ERP-system every day.

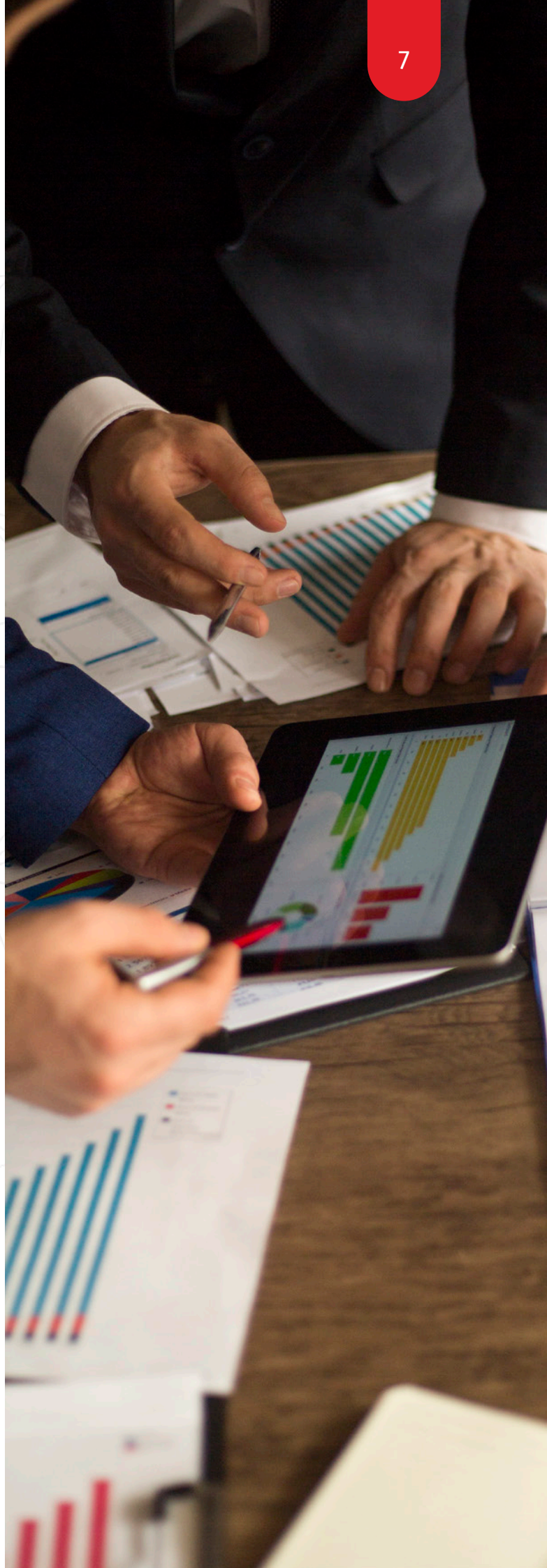For this purpose, ags has developed a specialised module which automises this process by browsing the windream directory regularly for new documents and by forwarding incoming invoices to Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV. Then, the invoices are assigned to an account, and an approval process will be executed in several steps. During the complete processing phase, the authorised KD staff has full access to the documents saved in windream. After an invoice has been processed completely and after the business process has been finished, the document will finally be indexed and archived in windream compliantly.

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...and in HR management

Personnel-related information is adminis-tered in a similar way. In order to admi-nister the staff, the ERP-software provides a separate tab page with which barcodes can be generated and processed. In order to assign a specific paper document to a member of the staff, the barcode is printed and attached to the document. Then, the document is digitised via scanner and Kofax Capture and archived in a defined windream folder. Just like in finance, the barcode also serves for indexing the document captured in the personnel de-partment, as it now allows a unique assign-ment between document and employee.

Here and similar to the finance depart-ment, a special ags program routine checks the system on new documents for ERP-acquisition. If new documents have arrived at the determined folder, the receipts will be indexed by the system and archived in windream.

About ags andreas gruber software GmbH

ags gmbh is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner with more than 20 years of expertise in the development of economic software solutions. The long and successful membership was honored by Microsoft with the acceptance of the President´s Club, which is joined by less than 300 members worldwide only. ags develops ERP, warehouse management and document management solutions which are based on Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV and windream and which are implemented in industrial companies and in service and trade as well.

ags branch solutions certified by Microsoft expand the Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV standard solutions by functions for different application sectors. applications are:

- move)log® – the complete warehouse administration system
- move)trans® – a versatile solution for the transportation branch
- move)fleet® – the fleet management software
- move)arc – the interface between windream and Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV

The company has been a close windream partner for more then ten years now. In this long period, ags has become a renowned windream integrator for ERP-solutions ags in the internet: **www.ags-online.de**

No Comparison to earlier times

The IT-system can execute the processes described automatically on the basis of the move)arc interface module, and manual interruptions by KD users are reduced to a minimum. This saves much time, space and money – especially when considering the background that the receipts were still archived as paper documents in earlier times, when paper stacks had still to be sorted, copied and distributed to several paper archives manually. These hard times are over now!

Thomas Günther, KD's manager in charge of controlling, is very satisfied with the ERP/ECM integration: „ags has integrated windream into our Microsoft DynamicsTM NAV software very efficiently. The expansion of our company in foreign countries is also supported in an ideal way with windream."

Your contact at windream

If you are interested in more detailed information on integrations, solutions or products from the windream world, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Allow yourself to be convinced and decide in favor of windream!

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