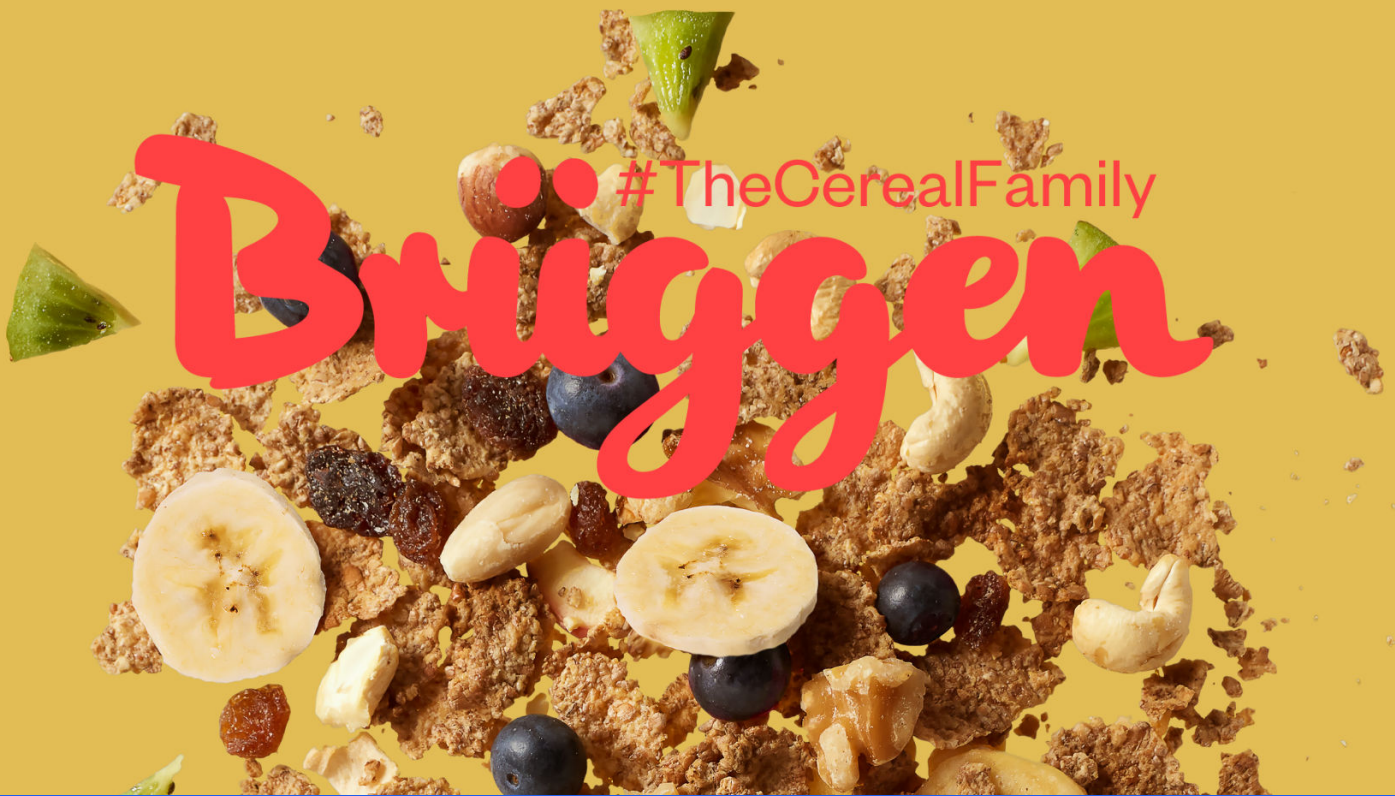




Brüggen Relies on xSuite for E-Invoicing



Company Overview

Client	H. & J. Brüggen KG
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Industry	Food Industry
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Website	brueggen.com
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Solutions	• SAP integrated incoming invoice processing for 70,000 doc./year • Receipt and processing of e-invoices in the (German) XRechnung and ZUGFeRD formats • Archiving solution
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Up to 60 percent shorter processing times, 40 to 50 percent fewer transaction errors, greater transparency and processes that can be evaluated for monthly and annual financial statements – food manufacturer Brüggem has long been aware of the overall advantages of electronic, automated accounts payable invoice processing. The company has therefore been using the xSuite solution since 2014, later adding the invoicing specialist's electronic archive. With the help of xSuite, Brüggem is now getting ready for the upcoming B2B e-invoicing obligation, which will take effect on 1 January 2025.

H. & J. Brüggem KG, headquartered in Lübeck/Germany, employs around 1,900 staff, making the company one of Europe's leading manufacturers of muesli, cereals, oat flakes and bars as well as other high-quality cereal products. The company has a total of five production sites in Germany, Poland, France and Chile. Their products are sold in over 90 countries worldwide, either under the company's own brand or under private labels for customers. Clients include national and international retail chains as well as manufacturers of branded goods and companies in the food processing industry.

Invoice Solution for international use

The company was looking for an easy-to-use invoice processing solution that fully integrates with SAP, and xSuite perfectly matched their needs. The application has already been rolled out to subsidiaries with plants in Poland and France.

In Germany, Brüggem receives 70,000 invoices per year, around 60 percent with PO reference (SAP MM). The remainder fall into the area of cost accounting (SAP FI). Today, printed invoices are the exception as nine out of ten documents arrive in PDF format via e-mail. The space required to archive old documents is therefore becoming ever smaller as the respective retention period is reached. In the near future, Brüggem will be able to close down the archive completely.

Invoices are parked by the accounting department, followed by a content-level verification performed by the relevant department. As part of this process, the transaction is assigned to the relevant cost center (account assignment) and then validated again by the accounting department. Next, there is a two-stage release workflow, with the cost center manager performing the initial check, which is then finally released by a member of the management. In principle, the same release process applies to all invoices, regardless of the invoice amount.

Improved efficiency thanks to optimized automation

According to Alexandra Beeck from Accounting at Brüggem, the solution has allowed them to reduce the processing time for FI invoices to seven days, from parking to release. This guarantees that no dunning fees are incurred and cash discount periods are not exceeded. MM invoices even take as little as thirteen minutes (using background posting, which is possible if the purchase order, goods receipt and invoice match).

Brüggem recently also completed the xSuite “health check”, which closely scrutinizes systems and processes. Among other things, this check determines the percentage of automatically captured invoice data, calculates how strongly they deviate from the optimum value and makes recommendations as to what measures can be taken to improve this rate. By means of such services, xSuite supports its customers in making the existing solution even more powerful and increasing the benefits for the company.

Ready for mandatory E-Invoicing

As assistant to the CFO, Alexandra Beeck plays a key role in setting up and supporting the “Electronic Invoice Processing” project:

“Based on our positive experience with xSuite, we are now also taking the first steps with the manufacturer to get ready for e-invoicing,” she says. “We have set up the solution in such a way that we will be able to meet the e-invoicing obligation coming into force on January 1, 2025 by gaining the ability to receive electronic invoices in the (German) XRechnung and ZUGFeRD formats.”

Structured e-invoicing will then be standard for B2B invoice exchange, which will make traditional invoice capture a thing of the past, as the data will be made available electronically – and thus in structured format.

Steffi Falckenhagen, Head of Accounting at Brüggem: “We expect that e-invoices will be received increasingly via portals in the future, and this may well be in very different formats. This, in turn, means that we will have to import these formats into our SAP system in a standardized manner. For this reason, we also took a close look at the new e-invoice exchange and conversion platform from xSuite. What is interesting for us is that the solution will also be able to handle e-invoice dispatch in the future.”

Acting as a “single point of connection”, the xSuite eDNA (electronic Document Network Adapter) platform accepts a wide variety of e-invoice formats and converts them into a standardized format. The invoices are then imported into the xSuite Invoice Monitor, where they can be captured and processed as before.

Shifting to the cloud

H. & J. Brüggem KG’s planned migration to SAP S/4HANA is still at a relatively early stage. The current SAP system is operated in the hosting partner’s data center. In principle, however, the Lübeck-based company is ready to move to the cloud. While the invoice workflow was previously operated on premises, the eDNA platform is a full-fledged cloud solution. xSuite’s cloud-first policy thus perfectly plays into the hands of the food manufacturer’s strategy. And it gives the company the greatest possible freedom on their journey to S/4HANA, because xSuite addresses the topic of invoicing in all its varieties and for all SAP deployment models.