IRISXtract™

Betting on the Right Horse: The DOUGLAS Group is successfully using **IRISXtract™ for Documents** to automatically capture invoices

I.R.I.S. - perfection in partner business!

The DOUGLAS Group, with headquarters in Hagen, Germany, is one of Europe's leading trade enterprises. They successfully operate in five business sectors together with their subsidiary companies Douglas (perfumery), Thalia (bookstore), Christ (jeweler), Appelrath-Cüpper (fashion), and Hussel (confectionery).

In the Spring of 2002, the DOUGLAS Group's two internal service providers, DOUGLAS Corporate Service GmbH (DCS) and DOUGLAS Informatik & Service GmbH (DIS), decided to use I.R.I.S. AG's Solution Package Accounts Payable, based on **IRISXtract™ for Documents**, to automatically capture and process purchase invoices. DOUGLAS Corporate Service and DOUGLAS Informatik & Service have put together a model project for automatic purchase invoice processing within six years.

"Back then, automatic invoice processing was a joke among many of our colleagues and supervisors - they said it would never catch on. Today, we have an internal service department with ten employees, all working hard to ensure that the I.R.I.S. system correctly captures and processes 1.2 million invoices every year," boasts Petra Wagner, DMS Department Manager at DCS.

The system has grown…

…and continues to grow. What began as the installation of the Solution Package Accounts Payable to facilitate automatic capture of about 250,000 accounts payable vouchers for 83 Thalia bookstores, has since evolved into a capture solution for almost every enterprise in the DOUGLAS Group. *"IRISXtract™ is so flexible and easy to expand; it hasn't had any problems keeping up with the rapid growth over the last few years."*

International Expansion

Over the last few years a number of I.R.I.S./DOUGLAS solution 'copy cats' have emerged at the national and international level. The internal DOUGLAS capture system sparked the interest of the French perfumery division in 2004, and this was echoed by both Spain and Portugal in 2006.

The DOUGLAS Group introduced country-specific adaptations, e.g., invoice documents, in order to integrate the system abroad and, most importantly, created an ERP solution by linking the system to SAP for Retail. **IRISXtract™ for Documents** works with a variety of interfaces, so the adaptations were easy to make.

Client Growth - 'Super Client'

"The business abroad is now one of nine clients in the I.R.I.S. system. When the system started, we only had one single productive client - the Thalia Group, and their purchase invoices. Now we run a total of nine different clients," explains Michael Brock, DIS Project Leader for optical archiving and DMS. *"Most of those grew organically as we added additional tasks. For example, we have a 'jewelry client' that represents Christ's distinctive invoice capturing requirements, and a 'handwritten client', responsible for capturing handwritten cash reports filed for Hussel. One client, our 'Super, or Context client', is now the heart of the I.R.I.S. Solution Package. The client is set up to be so flexible that it can process both commercial invoices and cost accounts, and create documents for use within Germany or overseas,"* Michael Brock continues.

Success Story

I.R.I.S.
Document to Knowledge™
PRODUCTS & TECHNOLOGIES

Document Understanding Solutions™

Handwriting Recognition for Hussel

There are almost 300 Hussel specialty stores in Germany and Austria. A handwritten cash report is written and submitted to DCS daily in each store. That is 7,200 reports per month, each one theoretically written by a different person. Every single one of these reports has been captured by I.R.I.S. handwriting recognition software since 2004. With a recognition quota of over 85 percent, the system practically speaks for itself.

Electronic Testing and Approval Process

The approval process is an important, yet sometimes complex component of financial accounting, particularly when it comes to processing invoices. Purchasers, as well as department and area managers, have to release certain accounting processes. Depending on how strict a workflow is, every single transaction may have to be approved by multiple employees. DOUGLAS has been using PCs for this process since 2005. That is when they started using Maxflow, a system solution created by WMD, an I.R.I.S. partner, and based on SAP Business Workflow. The system controls the processes surrounding testing and approval for the large majority of invoices processed by DOUGLAS. Electronic access to the data is particularly important for the management teams, who are now able to approve invoices 'on the go'.

The pilot project began in 2005 at the jewelry chain Christ. Today, the electronic testing and approval process is not only used by Christ, but also by the perfumery Douglas within Germany and also by certain sections of the DOUGLAS corporation overseas. Petra Wagner confirms: *"We have been able to anchor and expand our automatic invoice capture services within the head office to the point where no one doubts us anymore. We are now able to actively support any DOUGLAS Group expansions, and are on our way, step by step, to unifying, effectively directing, and optimizing the Group's processes."*

Outlook

"We have achieved so much already, but we still have a long way to go. Our 'to do' list continues to grow, particularly as we receive more and more requests from the DOUGLAS corporation," concludes Petra Wagner. *"And it's not just new service options; we are also looking at new markets, such as Russia and the Baltic area,"* adds Michael Brock. *"One thing is for sure: We bet on the right horse with I.R.I.S."*

www.irisxtract.net

QUOTE

"Today, we have an internal service department with ten employees, all working hard to ensure that the I.R.I.S. system correctly captures and processes 1.2 million invoices every year."

**Petra Wagner,
DMS Department Manager at DCS**

IN BRIEF

End customer:
DOUGLAS Informatik & Service GmbH

Adopted products:
IRISXtract™ for Documents, Solution Package Accounts Payable

Processed document type:
Invoices, accounts payable vouchers, cash reports

Volume:
1.2 million invoice receipts a year

Branch:
Trade

IRISXtract Contacts

I.R.I.S. AG
Heussstrasse 23
52078 Aachen, Germany
Tel: +49 (0) 241 920350
Fax: +49 (0) 241 9203550
info-de@iriscorporate.com

I.R.I.S. UK
88 Wood Street
10th, 11th and 14th Floors
London EC2V 7RS, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 208 528 1532
Fax: +44 (0) 208 528 1001

I.R.I.S. Inc.
955 NW 17th Avenue, Unit A
Delray Beach, FL, 33445/USA
Direct Tel: 800 447 4744 ext. 690
oder   +1 (561) 404 2690
Office main: +1 (561) 921 0847
Office Fax: +1 (561) 921 0854