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INDUSTRY

Plastics processing

GEOGRAPHY

Lohne, Germany

CHALLENGES

Future-proof the transformation from VDA (German Automotive Industry Association standards) to EDIFACT (Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport), while simultaneously converting to OFTP2 standards and migrating from an on-premises system to a secure managed private cloud — all designed to optimize the global B2B supply chain, particularly in the automotive supply sector.

SOLUTION

Axway Managed Cloud Services for B2B

RESULTS

- With Managed Cloud Services for B2B, Pöppelmann implemented a central communications and transaction hub within the company based on a secure managed private cloud for customers, partners, and locations worldwide

- With a focus on the automotive industry, future-proofed modernization from VDA to EDIFACT of secure and fully automated electronic data exchanges

- From kick-off to go-live, no technical problems and Axway experts readily available

PÖPPELMANN

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CUSTOMER CASE STUDY

Pöppelmann

Axway Managed Cloud Services for B2B

Pöppelmann is one of the leading manufacturers in the plastics processing industry. Pöppelmann partners with companies in more than 90 countries in the machine and apparatus construction sector, automotive, electro, solar, food, chemical, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, medical, surface technology and fitting industries.

Triple orchestration: EDIFACT, OFTP2, and the Cloud

As one of the leading manufacturers of plastics and a renowned supplier of automotive components, Pöppelmann must fulfill the high EDI requirements of its partners and customers in order to remain competitive. "The de facto standard for EDI in the German automotive industry – the VDA standard, or XML-EDI for short – has proved its worth over many years, but it is increasingly reaching its limits. With EDIFACT, we can adequately serve the growing demands of our customers," declares Peter Kellermann, the lead on EDI at Pöppelmann.

Like many other companies, Pöppelmann focused on the update of VDA to EDIFACT before switching to OFTP2 (Odette File Transfer Protocol 2). OFTP2 is the second generation of the IT protocol OFTP for data transfer; and unlike FTP, file transfers that have already started can resume in the event of a connection interruption and full reception from the target computer can be confirmed. Pöppelmann has repeatedly developed sustainable solutions over the course of its long company history. It was only logical to manage the entire EDIFACT process and the OFTP2 conversion with a secure cloud.

Three reasons to opt for Axway: automotive/B2B know-how, professional EDI management, and the flexible cloud portfolio

Pöppelmann had three key reasons for working with Axway. First, the plastics supplier had increasing inquiries from customer and partners, and wanted to meet high demand. Second, the outdated VDA standard needed modernization to EDIFACT in order to meet future high standard criteria in the automotive sector. Third, the predetermined OFTP2 conversion would ideally take place with the migration from an on-premises system to a managed private cloud. Axway met all three challenges with operational, error-free, and productive solutions.

B2B direct to ERP via Axway: mapping made easy

Within the framework of a B2B supply chain, it is essential that partners and IT systems exchange business data both securely and reliably. Either users are in a position to generate or process EDIFACT messages, or a converter is connected to convert the data accordingly. An editor can be used to create mapping tables that are fed to the converter.

With Axway Managed Cloud Services for B2B, Pöppelmann was able to optimize its complex production and supply processes for maximum flexibility, efficiency, and quality. Even a slightly delayed EDI message could mean a penalty payment from Wolfsburg or Munich. Therefore a stable B2B solution without downtime and with maximum performance is vital. This applies above all to the KAPSTO® and K-TECH® automotive segments.

Thanks to Axway, Pöppelmann is positioned to map eight to 10 new partners per month, and during live IT operations directly into the in-house ERP — with up to 15,000 messages a month. At the beginning of 2020, this process will be successfully completed for more than 250 partners, some that have phenomenal amounts of data.

The managed private cloud: full control and maximum security

A private cloud environment guarantees full control and maximum stability for companies that process sensitive or business-critical data. With a managed private cloud protected at all times by Axway real-time monitoring, a company hardly has to take care of anything itself anymore.

With the previous on-premises solution, Pöppelmann found itself insufficiently equipped to meet future requirements for globally operating producers and manufacturers. Many customers could simply not link to the local IT system to the desired degree.

With the know-how and expertise of Axway, however, desired requirements were realized professionally, promptly, and to Pöppelmann's complete satisfaction: the update from VDA to EDIFACT, the OFTP2 conversion, and the migration to a secure managed private cloud.

Pöppelmann is now able to easily use the most modern cross-industry standard criteria for global electronic data exchange to connect to new customers in an instant, and to always have a reliable IT partner at its side with Axway.

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The greatest business benefit of Axway B2B is the overall package of technology, reliability, and professionalism, both internally and externally. All our EDI processes run reliably and error-free. We made the right choice choosing Axway.

EDIFACT is a cross-industry international standard for the format of electronic data primarily used in B2B supply chains and is the de facto standard for automotive manufacturers. It was thus all the more important that companies like Pöppelmann modernize to this particular EDI standard at an early stage and with the corresponding know-how.

Why move to an Axway Managed Cloud Service for B2B? $\longrightarrow$