# ERPConnect

ERPConnect bridges the gap between Kanban and SAP-System

*„ERPConnect is the ideal connection between our two system worlds: Stable, transparent and flexible all at once.“*

Stefan Reuss, Head of the IT & Technology Department, Würth Industrie Service GmbH

## The company

Manufacturers today are faced with the challenge of guaranteeing high material availability and, at the same time, keeping capital commitment as low as possible. Optimal processes in the area of purchasing and logistics are therefore particularly important. Würth Industrie Service GmbH specializes in dealing with this challenge. They offer industrial customers not only a C-part assortment



of more than 420,000 articles, such as screws, assembly and joining technology and tools, but also logistical and planning services, such as scanner-supported shelving systems or just-in-time provisioning using Kanban container systems.

## Challenges

In order to coordinate the constantly growing number of Kan-ban containers and control all warehouse and logistics processes Würth Industrie Service has developed its own warehouse and logistics software capable of meeting the company's exacting and specific requirements. To ensure that all articles can be dispatched to best suit the customer's needs, inventories and warehouse technology regularly optimized and statistical data kept up to date, data exchange must take place between the Würth Solution KMS (Kanban Management System) and the SAP system (ECC 6.0 Unicode) employed in different departments. Thus, for example, the sales department registers additional orders in SAP. These orders along with orders received by EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) or internet must then be transmitted to the subordinate Kanban Management System. The accounting department also operates SAP and requires various pieces of information from the warehouse system, in order to be able to recognize inventory differences based on goods movements. The warehouse management system reports consumption figures in SAP to material management, providing the basis for the disposition of materials. Complaints may also be processed in SAP. All follow-up activities performed in the warehouse, such as the controlling of goods, blocking of shelf positions, etc.,

## Overview of solutions

### The company

Würth Industrie Service GmbH was founded in 1999 and is responsible within the Würth Group for supplying industrial customers. From its company site in Bad Mergentheim, more than 800 employees at the C-part supplier provide more than 420,000 articles for industrial customers on an international scale. Besides the extensive standard assortment (screws, assembly and joining technology, tools, and chemical products) the strength lies in customer-specific operational supply and service concepts and special parts.

### Challenges

- Parallel use of SAP and in-house developed warehouse and logistics system
- No suitable SAP tool is available for linking both systems
- Data exchange procedures between SAP and Kanban systems are time consuming and error-prone

### Solutions

Certification of the SAP interface on the basis of the »SAP certified integration with SAP NetWeaver« with .NET Assembly ERPConnect.

### Advantages

- Process acceleration due to considerable time savings
- Process optimization due to avoidance of data inconsistency
- Enhanced customer satisfaction thanks to improved service quality

### Data source

SAP ECC 6.0 Unicode

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are implemented by the warehouse and logistics system. As SAP does not have a suitable interface for communication between the two systems, data exchange was previously conducted by text file. However, this process was found to be too time-consuming and error-prone. Würth Industrie Service therefore decided to seek its own alternative procedure.

## Solution

The company found the solution with the help of Theobald Software GmbH, a specialist for SAP interfaces with many years of experience in the design and development of SAP connectors, located in Stuttgart, Germany. The .NET Assembly ERPConnect 4.0 enables the development of stable SAP interfaces without complex infrastructure or extra middleware. For each type of SAP object a separate API is available in order to make the design and implementation of the interfaces as comfortable as possible (e.g. function modules, SAP queries, IDocs, RFC servers, BW cubes, etc.). Certification as a »SAP certified integration with SAP NetWeaver« guarantees customers smooth integration with SAP products.

## Advantages

With ERPConnect, Würth Industrie

Service transfers orders in real-time from SAP to the subordinate Kanban system. Simultaneously, data from the KMS (Kanban Management System) can be directly accessed from SAP, for example for use in purchasing. Presently over 300 employees use the interface within the scope of their daily work. »Using the ERPConnect we have achieved a level of process optimization that has further improved the quality of our services«, explains Stefan Reuss, Head of the IT & Technology Department at Würth Industrie Service. An important factor for the choice of ERPConnect interface technology was its adaptability: »We have to make changes virtually every month, for example new attributes have to be assimilated which until then were not part of the orders«, says Reuss. »With ERPConnect this is no problem at all, as the IT department can implement the required additions or changes to the links within a very short time – in fact without the need for external consultancy.« This is made possible by Theobald Software's product philosophy, which seeks to ensure that all connections are as user-friendly as possible – something reflected not only in intuitive operati-

on, but also in comprehensible documentation and extensive additional materials, such as the knowledge base with numerous examples and articles. Should technical problems still arise in spite of this, Support Service is available via hotline or ticket system. On account of the good track record of ERPConnect, Würth has decided on another interface from Theobald Software: Xtract IS is to allow data evaluation within the existing SQL Server environment, something which SAP cannot provide.

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*„With ERPConnect we have been able to make processes faster and more reliable and thus enhance the quality of our services."*

Stefan Reuss, Head of IT & Technology Department, Würth Industrie Service GmbH

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