

# PDS OPENS UP ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR CRAFTSMEN AND CONSTRUCTION TRADE



Bild: Carsten Heidmann

The degree of digitalization is becoming a significant competitive factor for businesses in the construction trade. With the integration of smart INVOICE into its ERP solution, pds GmbH can now share the advantages of AI-based process automation with its customers in the construction trade, allowing them to clearly differentiate themselves from the competition. The fully automated processing of accounts payable documents supports pds customers by delivering significant efficiency and annual cash discount gains.



**PARTNER**  
pds GmbH

**COUNTRY**  
Germany

**HIGHLIGHT**  
AI-based document reading optimizes P2P process for craftsmen's business and construction trades

**PRODUCT**  
smart INVOICE

pds opens up the advantages of digitalization for craftsmen and businesses in construction trade.

Their comprehensive industry solution 'pds Software' covers all trade and business processes. It covers calculations, digital purchasing, warehouse management, resource planning, right through to service and maintenance. It also covers measurement and billing and delivers fully comprehensive financial and human resources management support. With mobile apps and the pds Cloud, the company brings digitization to the point of service delivery - directly at the customer's plant or external construction sites.

Within this type of industry, the volume of incoming documents is considerable and incoming invoices are significant in number and page count due to picking and multiple items.

Manual processing of these documents can quickly cause a bottleneck, so quick processing to speed up invoicing is a key requirement. Subsequently, if prices and quantities of purchased materials are not recorded and checked, then invoicing to the customer cannot take place.

## CHALLENGES FOR PDS SOFTWARE

- ✓ Automated document reading is an essential prerequisite for the digitization process
- ✓ The quality of document reading sets the baseline measure for all automation
- ✓ A large customer base with a high cumulative volume of documents
- ✓ Variation of the supporting documents in both design and scope

*"By integrating smart INVOICE into our pds software, our customers in the craftsmen's business and construction trades benefit from state-of-the-art AI technology at enterprise level."*

JÖRG BILZ

MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
PDS GMBH

On the one hand, this is detrimental to cash flow, and on the other, delayed payment of vendor invoices means that agreed cash discounts are given up as a return.

### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

For automatic and digital document reading, pds was looking for a powerful software component to integrate into its own ERP solution. Because the quality of the document reading determines the possible degree of automation of the entire solution, pds decided to look for the most technologically advanced product on the market.

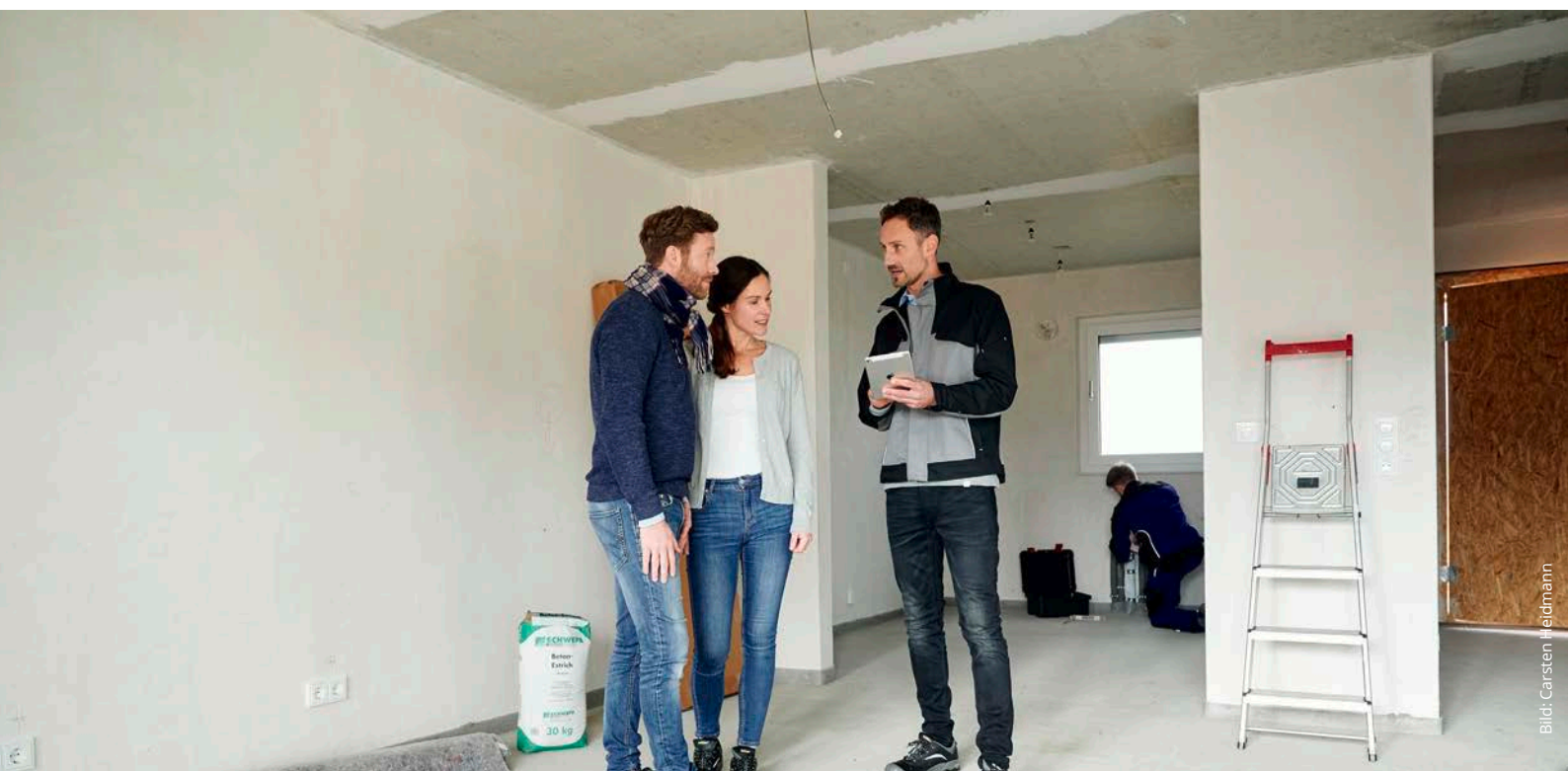
The choice fell on smart INVOICE from Insiders Technologies, which achieved the best possible recognition rates using innovative AI technology,

mastered the enormous range of layouts and formats without any problems, and convinced them with its simple setup and continuous self-learning.

### AUTOMATIC DOCUMENT READING REPLACES TIME-CONSUMING AND LABOR-INTENSIVE WORK

Thanks to smart INVOICE being integrated into the pds software, the incoming invoice data no longer needs to be entered manually.

The solution automatically reads invoice data such as vendor, invoice number and date, purchase order references, cost center, cost unit, tax rates, and totals, as well as the individual item data - and checks them for plausibility.



## BENEFITS FOR PDS SOFTWARE

- ✓ Enriching the software solution with state-of-the-art AI technologies creates competitive advantages
- ✓ The best possible read quality allows extensive process optimization
- ✓ OEM or cloud-based SaaS licensing simplifies use and scales to fit any size of customer
- ✓ Excellent service and partnership cooperation with German manufacturer

In cases of doubt, employees can validate or complete the read data via color coding in an editing mask, fully integrated into the pds software. The read documents and data are then transferred to the invoice receipt book for further processing.

If new suppliers are added, the system needs minimal support for the first invoice receipts, as it learns quickly in the background and can subsequently deliver high-quality results.

smart INVOICE can also accept, read and check electronic invoices in all relevant formats - such as ZUGFeRD or X-Rechnung in Germany.

In the purchasing department, incoming invoices can be linked to the order transactions generated

## BENEFITS FOR END CUSTOMERS

- ✓ Significant reduction of effort in the processing, verification, and approval of vendor invoices
- ✓ For hundreds of pds customers, more than 85% of receipts are posted digitally without manual intervention
- ✓ Digital accounts payable processing and mobile service recording allow timely invoicing and optimize cash flow
- ✓ Measurable gains using discounts and project conditions

in the ERP system. The software automatically checks whether totals and items in the invoice match the purchase order or goods receipt.

If the check is positive, the digital approval workflow is started. A fully automated process can be activated as an option, which posts the invoice automatically and sets a temporary payment block until final approval.

Due to the quality of the document reading, pds software customers quickly achieve rates of 85% or more of fully automated processing.

### CLEAR, MEASURABLE BENEFITS FOR CUSTOMERS

Automated document reading opens the door to digitization of the entire process - from ordering to payment. This makes the individual steps much more efficient, and it is always apparent where a transaction is within the processing pipeline.

The overall time required to process incoming invoices drops dramatically, offering two real benefits.

First, the company's own invoicing to the customer can take place much more quickly, e.g., on the day the service is performed. This is because invoices for required spare parts and materials have already been processed, significantly improving the company's cash flow.

Secondly, the timely payment of accounts payable invoices means that cash discounts can be fully utilized.

*"The power of smart INVOICE differentiates us tremendously from the competition: intelligent document reading immediately makes the benefits of AI-based automation tangible for our customers in every demo."*

JÖRG BILZ  
MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
PDS GMBH



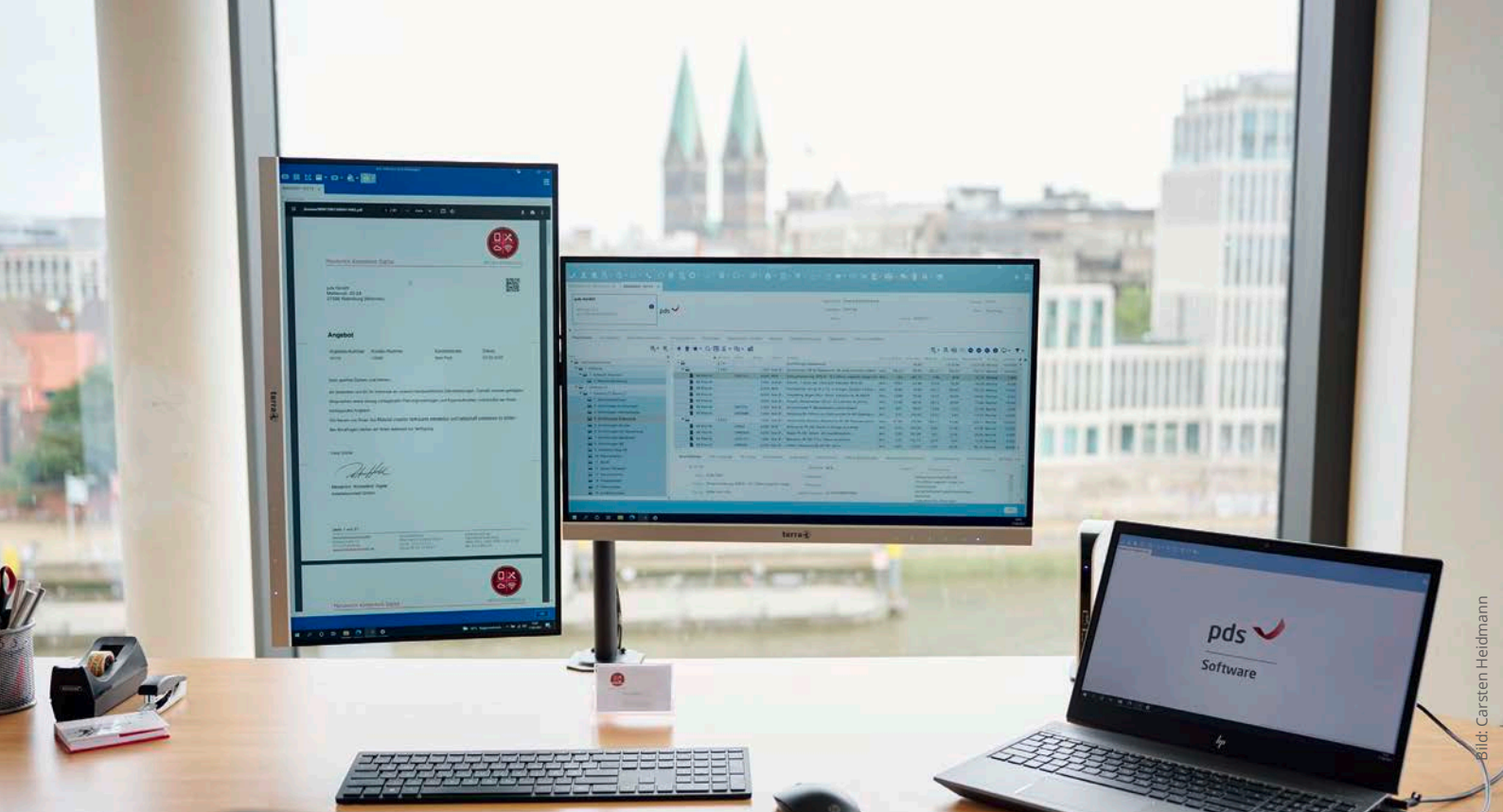


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## THE SUCCESS STORY CONTINUES

Currently, pds processes around 3 million invoices yearly for its customers, efficiently and largely automatically with smart INVOICE. This number is increasing rapidly.

In the summer of 2023, the company plans to switch to the Insiders Cloud Service for smart INVOICE and will benefit from even easier scaling, faster access to technical innovations, and optimal configuration by the manufacturer.

The team at Insiders Technologies continues to impress pds with their high level of competence and client management.

This is supported by their "spirit of partnership" approach, based on a clear partner strategy. As a German manufacturer, Insiders Technologies also offers partners and customers in the region

unique flexibility. pds appreciates Insiders Technologies' continuous improvement process and the flexible design of the licensing model particularly.

pds are delighted with the collaboration and the new possibilities for AI-supported process automation and are currently examining the use of further components from the Insiders Technologies product portfolio.

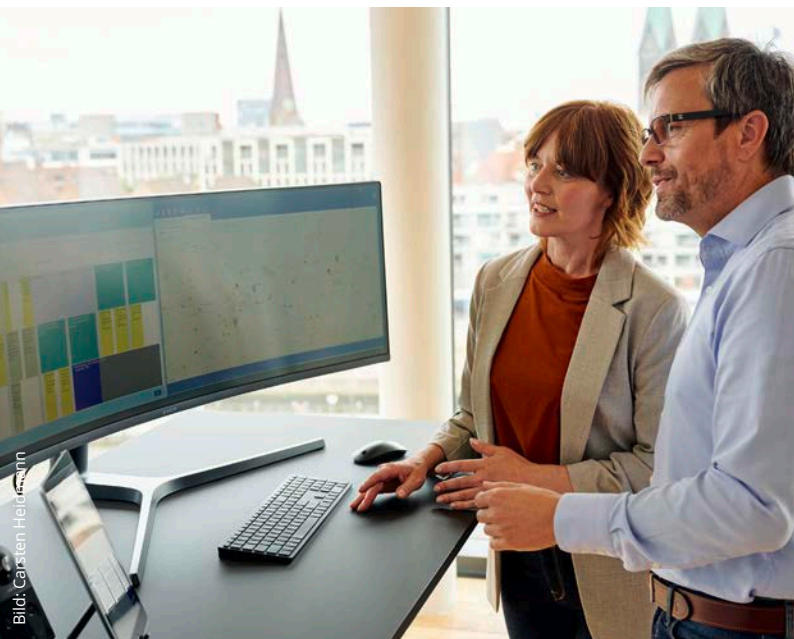


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## KEY FACTS

- ✓ pds Software has fully integrated smart INVOICE
- ✓ Currently, around 3 million incoming invoices per year are processed with AI support
- ✓ State-of-the-art enterprise-grade AI solution - affordable and easy to use for midmarket customers



## SMART INVOICE: OPTIMIZED AND FAST AP PROCESSES

smart INVOICE is the standard product for automated accounts payable processing. It captures and validates all relevant invoice data and matches it with the corresponding order and goods receipt information. With smart INVOICE, structured invoice data can be exported to any process automation, accounting, or ERP system - all AI-based and fully automated.

[insiders-technologies.com/de/p2p-automation](https://insiders-technologies.com/de/p2p-automation)

## ABOUT THE PARTNER PDS GMBH

With almost 50 years of experience in the industry, pds GmbH develops digital solutions for craftsmen's business and construction trades for all processes. From costing to ordering, inventory management, service orders, resource planning to invoicing, and the option of holistic financial and human resources management. As a result, pds software can cover all requirements for craftsmen and the construction trade. Already more than 45,000 users manage their business processes with pds software - digitally, via mobile apps, or in the cloud. Around 180 employees and a broad partner network support customers nationwide.



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## ABOUT INSIDERS TECHNOLOGIES GMBH

Insiders Technologies is a technologically leading and market-established provider of software for Cognitive Process Automation. More than 3,500 customers from all industries rely on the innovative solutions of the product house from Kaiserslautern to optimize their document-centric business processes. As the most successful spin-off of the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence (DFKI), Insiders has made it its mission to transform cutting-edge AI into real customer benefits. Thanks to the latest Deep Learning technologies, the software solutions understand heterogeneous content, extract business-relevant information, automate transactions and shorten response times. In doing so, the technological pioneering spirit and agility are a guarantee for continuous innovations and products on the pulse of time.



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