

# [ Energie Service Biel/Bienne ]



Energie Service Biel/Bienne generates PDF/A-compliant document archive

## Invoice Archive now compliant with PDF/A

### Forward looking Power Supplier

Day by day, Energie Service Biel/Bienne operated by the municipality provides the city's citizens with power, drinking water and natural gas. The power plants of the municipal supplier cover approximately 20% of the power demand. The remaining 80% are supplied by third-party providers. The power portfolio offered to private and business customers also includes green electricity generated in solar, wind or hydroelectric power plants. ESB delivers natural gas right to the customer around the clock, in an environmentally sound manner and without the need for on-site fuel storage. The natural gas network of ESB stretches over 367 km. ESB also operates the water system of Biel/Bienne and Nidau, supplying 57,000 inhabitants with fresh water.

**In order to guarantee a steady energy supply now and in the future and to efficiently handle relocations, new connections, meter reading and invoicing, ESB's administrative processes must run like clockwork. This is made possible by a modern energy data management system featuring well-designed business processes, effective communication and easily accessible information.**

When it comes to business IT, Luigi Bissolotti is a 'master cook'. In his function as SAP Director, he uses his SAP systems to manage the meters of the roughly 45,000 customers, allocates facilities and supports the connection/disconnection of customers – from installing the end devices through to determining power consumption. "I'm in charge of the software and all applications in our SAP system landscape. My tasks include implementing new SAP modules or new functions in the SAP system necessary due to new legal provisions, e.g., in the area of archiving. I also do programming work and manage projects, like the adjustments resulting from the opening of the Swiss power market," explains Luigi Bissolotti.

### Forward-looking archiving in PDF/A-format

"In 2000 we introduced SAP's ISU energy modules," continues Bissolotti. "This was run as a pilot project of SAP in Switzerland. The output management system we used was LaserSoft from DETEC. Starting in 2003, we integrated the PDF module into LaserSoft, which allowed us to generate PDF files from the documents to be processed. So what we did was to create PDFs of the documents using LaserSoft and then copied them to a CD as an intermediate step towards building an effective archive. But it was not before 2008 that we set up a modern archiving system for our invoices. However, this old procedure became more and more problematic. While we did have copies of the invoices in a





Luigi Bissolotti,  
SAP-Manager with ESB

format resembling that sent to the customers, they were not in PDF/A format and thus did not comply with the new ISO norm. We needed to change this, so the first step was to search for a suitable product. We ended up selecting an archiving solution – an SAP content manager – and purchased the myPDFconvert tool from DETEC to convert the PDF files we had previously

produced with LaserSoft to PDF/A.”

## Canned data ...

The next task waiting of the ‘chef de cuisine’ was to ‘can’ the legacy data. “Invoices from five business years had piled up, with an annual average of 300,000 invoices comprising three pages each, adding up to 1.5 million invoices with a total of 5 million pages that needed to be converted,” states Bissolotti.

## ... with a long shelf life ...

“What we wanted was a solution that would serve us over the long term. Because one inherent problem of archives is that you can never be sure that ten years from now you will still have the devices or programs needed to read the documents you are creating today. So we decided to create a PDF/A archive – based on an official and internationally standardized data format for

long-term archiving. This ensured that we will be able to search and read the archived files for decades to come.”

## ... and automated processes

“We used myPDFconvert from DETEC to convert the 5 million pages to PDF/A,” says Luigi Bissolotti. “The PDF converter helped us to get our legacy data in shape for long-term archival. For output management and print preparation we use a LaserSoft setting that directly generates new PDF files in PDF/A format. For this reason no further conversion is necessary. First the documents are compiled with Sapscrip from SAP, and then LaserSoft adds a few more components, such as the barcode for the packaging machines. Next, the printing job is pre-processed and sent off to the printer, while at the same time LaserSoft automatically creates a PDF/A-compliant document for the archive,” continues Bissolotti.

## Outlook

Other forms – adding up to approximately 10,000 each year – are still archived as hardcopies. “These include, for instance, invoices for ex stock sales, maintenance of gas facilities, setting up buildings for gas delivery etc. We plan to also convert these forms into PDF/A format and archive them in a compliant manner.”

### About DETEC GmbH

DETEC, based in Ruesselsheim, is a software house that specializes in software products and services for the layouting, production and distribution of professionally formatted business documents (such as household bills, business invoices, sales orders and goods notes) – printed or in digital form.

DETEC specifically supports the professional “Business Communication” (B2B, B2C), both internal and external, for more than 400 customers, nationally and internationally. The DETEC range of products provides you with the ability to produce, format and integrate documents for multiple, often parallel, output channels (print, archiving, electronic distribution) in your output system. Further, PDF/A conform documents can be produced for archiving, and with the help of qualified partner products, electronic signatures can be created and the process workflow optimized – thus reducing costs for the user.

As of the 1st January 2009, Beta Systems Software AG has acquired all business units of DETEC Decision Technology Software GmbH and DSP DETEC Software Products GmbH. DETEC is now a 100% subsidiary of Beta Systems.

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