

IN OCR FOR ANYDOC® SOUDRONIC AG HAS FOUND A SOLUTION FOR ARCHIVING ITS SUPPLIER DOCUMENTS.

At A Glance

SOUDRONIC AG

Industry

Manufacturing

Challenge

Incoming order confirmations and supporting documentation had to be printed and filed into ring binders, stored locally for at least 2 years, then held in storage for another three. Misfiled documents disappeared and retrieving critical documents was laborious.

Solution

Soudronic installed OCR for AnyDoc to automatically index and output purchase orders and contracts directly into their document management system, improving the speed and accuracy for accessing critical documents.

Benefits

- Documents can now be retrieved in exponentially less time.
- Labor and physical storage costs have been reduced.
- Staff members now focus on more critical business tasks instead of spending hours on tedious filing.
- Physical space once used for storing paper documents has been converted into new workstations.

Future

Based on the success of the AnyDoc solution, Soudronic plans to completely eliminate its paper archives.


Soudronic AG, a world leader in the manufacturing of production machinery, needed a solution to digitize its supplier information. The OCR for AnyDoc solution simplified their existing process and is saving money.

Soudronic AG

Soudronic AG was established in 1953 and now employs over 700 people throughout the world, of whom 520 are based in Switzerland. The company is a world leader in the manufacturing of machinery to produce three-piece tinplate containers, lids and bases. Soudronic production lines turn out products ranging from food packaging containers, aerosol cans and tinplate drums. The Soudronic product range includes cutters, welders, seam protection systems and drum assembly machines. At its plant at Neftenbach in Switzerland, Soudronic also manufactures complete production lines for high quality car body parts for the automotive industry. These implement the most up-to-date resistance welding and laser welding technologies. Soudronic has branches in mainland China, Germany, France, Hong Kong, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, Singapore and in the USA. Soudronic's headquarters are based at Bergdietikon, Switzerland.

Manual vs. automatic

Procuring materials at the right time and of the right quality is a key process at Soudronic. Before OCR for AnyDoc was implemented, all the documents had to be printed out and filed in ring binders, together with the incoming order confirmations and supporting documentation sent by the suppliers. The Purchasing Department kept the relevant documents in paper form for two years or more. They were then stored in a cellar storeroom for a further three years. For orders to be completed correctly, it is crucial that the purchase order documentation is monitored carefully. And the product liability commitments within the various markets and production machine maintenance service provided by Soudronic also mean that it is crucial to be able to access important purchase ordering documentation quickly and accurately. Access to important information in the paper-based storage system was very laborious and if a document happened to be incorrectly filed, it disappeared, never to re-emerge.



“OCR for AnyDoc can be implemented with no additional programming, and this greatly reduces maintenance costs.”

While the actual ordering and materials resource management procedure was extensively automated with a corresponding ERP system, Soudronic also needed a document archiving system to cope with the rapidly increasing volume of documents.

Martin Weibel, document management project manager at Soudronic, evaluated a number of products to digitize and automatically extract data from paper documents.

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Mr. Weibel said, "It was the user-friendliness and ease with which we could design forms that caused us to decide on OCR for AnyDoc. With its integral functionalities covering most situations, OCR for AnyDoc can be implemented with no additional programming, and this greatly reduces maintenance costs. We also liked the AnyDoc software licensing model. While other suppliers base their license costs exclusively on volume, AnyDoc Software offers a licensing procedure not based on volume, but rather on the number of workstations installed. That is particularly attractive for companies handling larger volumes."

Since installing OCR for AnyDoc, Soudronic has been filing their purchase order/contract documents in the document management system (DMS). Documents produced on the ERP system are transferred directly to the DMS.

The advantages for Soudronic AG

With the help of this integral solution, Soudronic was able to considerably reduce the arduous work involved in archiving paper documents. The time taken to access crucial documents has been reduced many times over, and the process is much simpler. The existing digital archive is now actively utilized, which itself provides further cost savings.

With the AnyDoc solution in place, Soudronic has taken a major step towards achieving its aim of dispensing with its paper archive system by 2006. The space cleared in the purchasing office has been used for new workstations – and this is an additional cost savings. A further advantage is staff satisfaction, because qualified members of staff no longer have to spend tedious hours filing, and can concentrate on their main tasks.

