

Press Release

Order-X: The hybrid format for digitized order processing has been published

The hybrid formats Order-X and Factur-X facilitate a consistent Purchase-to-Pay workflow, for both humans and machines

The Forum National de la Facture Electronique et des Marchés Publics Electroniques (FNFE-MPE) and the Forum electronic invoice Germany (FeRD) have published Order-X, the equivalent to the already established Franco-German development of the hybrid invoice format Factur-X, also known as ZUGFeRD. Order-X and Factur-X are based on the same data model, thus allowing for a continuous workflow from the creation of orders to invoicing.

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For a year now, the experts of the FNFE-MPE and FeRD have been working intensively on developing Order-X. The new hybrid format for digitalized order processing has now been published, after a month-long public review process, after implementing the feedback and after putting the final touches to it. Order-X is the new hybrid format for the digitalized workflow of creating and processing orders. It is built on the same semantic data model as the hybrid format for electronic invoices, Factur-X, in Germany better known as ZUGFeRD. On the one hand, both contain an XML structure as defined by the syntax of the UN / CEFAC Supply Chain Reference Data Model (SCRDM). On the other hand, they are presented in a user-readable form in PDF-A/3 format, allowing the attachment of the structured XML representation. The SCRDM data model provides a standard framework supported by UN/CEFACT, which significantly simplifies and accelerates cross-border transactions.

Order-X complementing Factur-X: The fully digitized supply chain coming to life

Like Factur-X, Order-X is a so-called hybrid format, i.e. it can be read and processed by both humans and machines. The XML structure dedicated to IT processing is embedded into a human readable presentation of the order in PDF format, with the same order information. The main advantage of such a hybrid format is it allows to replace traditional simple PDF or paper orders exchange by PDF orders with structured data for automated processing by companies which are willing or able to do so, especially SMEs. In addition, it is now possible to establish a seamless and collaborative process from order to invoice, in conjunction with Factur-X (ZUGFeRD), as both formats are based on the same XML structure. Consequently, this will not only accelerate and automate these processes significantly, but it also reduces risks, by reducing manual interaction to what is strictly necessary, i.e. incident and dispute management.

As already known from Factur-X, Order-X, too, provides several data profiles, to guide the adaptation of management systems to produce or integrate these data in a structured form. The scalability of Basic, Comfort and Extended profiles provide an easy and pragmatic way to address the more or less complex requirements of different companies. In addition, Order-X supports 3 types of messages needed for the ordering process:

- ORDER, sent by the Buyer to the Supplier.
- ORDER_RESPONSE, sent by the Supplier to the Buyer, to accept, reject or to propose changes. In case of the latter, confirmed by an ORDER CHANGE
- ORDER_CHANGE, sent by the Buyer to the Supplier.

The new Order-X is now available for Download

The following documents are provided in the → [ZIP-file](#) (in English):

- 01 - Process specification Order-X
- 02 - PDF XMP Example for PDF-A/3 compliance on Order-X
- 03 - Profile descriptions (Excel) of the 3 profiles Basic, Comfort and Extended
- 04 - XSD, UML and Schematron description files for the 3 profiles Basic, Comfort and Extended
- 05 - Sample Order-X files for the different profiles
- 06 - Logo Order-X

A successful collaboration: FNFE-MPE and FeRD stretching across borders

The Forum for electronic invoicing Germany, the „Forum elektronische Rechnung Deutschland“ (FeRD) is the national platform for associations, ministries and companies, promoting e-invoicing in Germany. It was founded under the auspices of the Working Group for Economic Administration, the Arbeitsgemeinschaft für wirtschaftliche Verwaltung e.V., on March 31st, 2010 in Berlin, supported by a number of federal and regional ministries, the chancellor’s office and some of the industry’s umbrella organisations as well as trade associations. The forum’s purpose is to raise the acceptance and the spread of e-invoicing in Germany. It is tasked to look at this under various aspects, including technical questions, business and economy-related facets as well as legal viewpoints. It will prepare, coordinate and realise fitting measures to foster the fast and easy implementation of e-invoicing. www.ferd-net.de

The French National Forum for e-invoicing and marketplaces and public e-procurement (FNFE-MPE) was founded in January 2012; since April 2016 it operates as an association. Its task is to enable extensive consultations between public and private actors in France, engaged in the provision of electronic invoices and electronic public procurement, as well as to promote cooperation with national forums of other EU member states. The FNFE-MPE is a force for proposals in the definition of regulations, public policies and possible incentive measures contributing to its objective. It participates in European standardization works, in particular in the establishment of the EN 16931 standard and its implementation in Factur-X / ZUGFeRD hybrid invoice standard. The FNFE-MPE consists of more than 80 members, companies, associations, industry representatives, professional associations, service providers, software manufacturers, experts and consultants, and represents France in the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum for Electronic Invoicing (EMSFEI). It fosters and promotes the adoption of standards and best practices for the provisioning of electronic invoices in companies of all sizes and sectors. <http://fnfe-mpe.org>

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