

Order-X - A common standard for electronic orders in Germany and France

FeRD and FNFE-MPE extend technical cooperation

31.05.2020 - Eschborn - With Order-X, the Forum for Electronic Invoicing Germany (FeRD) and the Forum National de la Facture Électronique et des Marchés Publics Électroniques (FNFE-MPE) are working on the development of a common standard for electronic orders (e-ordering"). This will soon make ordering processes quicker and easier.

E-Ordering: Module and driver of the digitalized supply chain

More and more companies are digitalizing business processes in order to gain more time for value-adding and strategic processes and to counteract cost pressure. The ordering process is an essential component of the supply chain. The customer's purchasing department creates and sends purchase orders to the supplier. The supplier's sales department receives and processes these orders as sales orders.

For a comprehensive digitalization of business processes on the customer and supplier side, the existence of an electronic standard data format (e-order) with high acceptance and usability is a building block for a successful digitalization of the entire process chain. The "Order-X" standard complements the electronic invoice formats ZUGFeRD or Factor-X in this respect: it uses identical data structures, exploits the advantages of a hybrid format (PDF and XML with order data) and is therefore also suitable for use in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and public institutions.

ZUGFeRD/Factor-X as a blueprint for the structure of Order-X

With the hybrid formats ZUGFeRD and Factor-X, solutions have been developed especially for SMEs that are at the beginning of electronic invoice exchange and are not yet able to fully process structured data. Decisive for cross-border acceptance is the use of internationally recognized and renowned standards and the possibility of a lean and cross-industry business data exchange. With Order-X this proven and tested philosophy is also used in the area of orders. Like ZUGFeRD/Factor-X, Order-X consists of the following two components:

- 1. PDF file:** The visual representation of the order is easily readable for humans (an ISO standard PDF/A-3 file is used).
- 2. XML file:** The order data in structured form (XML) is automatically processed by systems (XML according to Cross-Industry Order (CIO) of UN/CEFACT SCRDM - Supply Chain Reference Data Model).

In the course of development, the FeRD and the FNFE-MPE are closely coordinating with other national and international organizations (including the Coordination Office for Secure IT Standards (KoSIT), CEN, UN/CEFACT, PDF Association) in order to achieve the greatest possible acceptance and synergies with already ongoing initiatives and projects on the topic.