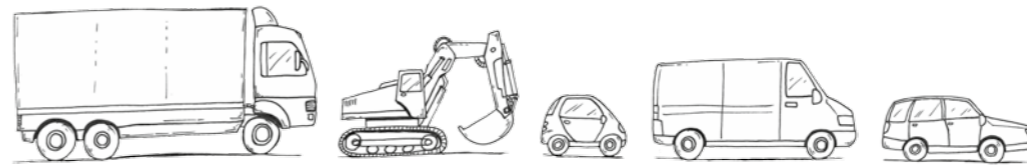




The “auto-gration” eStandard

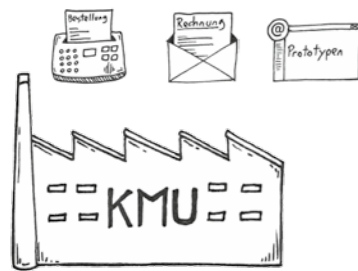
Advantages and implementation aids for the automotive industry



Helps optimise own administrative processes

CURRENT SITUATION:

Many small and medium size automotive suppliers do not exchange data with their business partners digitally that relates to their procurement and finance workflows. Instead, they use conventional means such as email, fax or post. This was demonstrated by a market study carried out by the funded project CAR4KMU. Yet a suitable interface is already available and is recommended by the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA): auto-gration. Details: Market study on the current situation available as a PDF for download: www.auto-gration.info/px111



THE SOLUTION:

The auto-gration interface is based on an initiative by the European Union and is recommended by the VDA. Using a web service, it offers communication between the different IT systems of the business partners. Auxiliary functions convert the information from current systems in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) into the format required by auto-gration. Only very small investments by the enterprise are required, as only a single interface needs to be set up to communicate with other enterprises via auto-gration. The existing IT systems can remain in use as normal.

Helps reduce labour costs



For safely exchanging messages, the auto-gration Konnektor – a powerful and easily configurable interface server software – is used. Konnektor is an “open source” product and particularly suitable for SMEs because it offers a cost-effective start to integrating business processes electronically.

RATIONALE:

auto-gration defines more than 18 messages in XML format, such as AvailabilityRequest & AvailabilityResponse, Order & Response, DeliveryInstruction, Invoice and Prototype Message, to ensure an appropriate customised depth of information. For the majority of messages, implementation recommendations by the VDA or the Organisation for Data Exchange by Tele Transmission in Europe (ODETTE) already exist. A unique feature to date: In addition to delivery, ordering and invoicing messages, prototype messages can also be exchanged. For each message, a short description, explanations for its use and references to existing application recommendations are provided. These will be maintained by the partners of the funded project CAR4KMU beyond the project end.



Makes repetitive keying-in of identical data unnecessary



Reduces risks of errors because data is not entered manually

Use the guide for a structured start:

The funded project CAR4KMU has developed a guide providing you with an overview of the advantages and basics of auto-gration. The guide is equally useful for SMEs and large enterprises in the supply chain and aftermarket. It helps assessing whether an implementation of auto-gration in your enterprise makes sense and is commercially viable. Processes supported by auto-gration are introduced using examples. The guide details systematically the auto-gration messages, for which completed recommendations already exist, i.e. by the VDA. The 3-phase model – developed based on best practice examples – provides a step-by-step explanation of what you need to consider when implementing auto-gration.

You can download the complete guide as a PDF here www.auto-gration.info/px111



FROM THE GUIDE:

The profitability

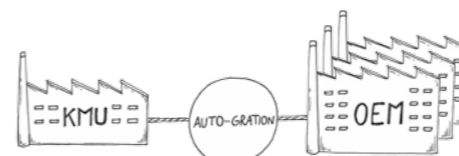
With auto-gration, you can directly save on labour costs for keying in data. Make use of the Return-on-Investment (ROI) calculator to check the profitability and monetary benefit for your particular application. (evtl. Bild 4) You can find the ROI calculator in the guide or as an online tool on: www.auto-gration.info/tx111

Reduces costs of data processing and data mapping

The integration capability

To implement a digital interface with business partners, your company must meet several requirements. As a rule: If you are using a modern merchandise management system, auto-gration can easily be integrated.

TIP: Use the “Integration Capability” checklist in the guide developed by the CAR4KMU project for your assessment.



Low costs due to open source product

The 3-phase model:

- **Phase 1: Starting situation**
Determine the starting situation, check the technical requirements and processes and match the messages.
- **Phase 2: Installation**
Install and configure the auto-gration Konnektor.
- **Phase 3: Commissioning**
After successful tests, commission the system, produce the documentation and train your staff.

TIP: Use the “Processes, Messages, Communication” checklist developed by the CAR4KMU project for structured processing of the 3 phases!

Improved supplier rating

Better starting point for negotiations

All materials and aids at a glance:

On www.car4kmu.de and www.auto-gration.info, the funded project CAR4KMU offers the following comprehensive materials and aids to help you access the digital supply chain using auto-gration:

- Two introductory videos explaining auto-gration in minutes
- An informational flyer both in German and English
- Subject-related presentations for use in your enterprise
- A market study with testimonials
- An implementation guide with checklists, including the 3-phase model
- ROI calculator
- Six training modules, e.g. for installing and configuring the auto-gration Konnektor

Ensures competitive edge

ABOUT CAR4KMU:

It is the mission of the funded project CAR4KMU to enable SMEs to participate electronically in the global automotive value-added chain by eliminating media disruptions. CAR4KMU promotes the comprehensive use of the auto-gration eBusiness standard to help SMEs in their efforts to optimise their business processes. *Funded by: German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy*
Project sponsor: German Aerospace Center (DLR)

Project partners:

