



Shortage of skilled staff in procurement

The efficiency revolution via process mining
for the chemical industry

Today, the chemical industry is facing a double challenge: a growing shortage of skilled workers and the need to increase efficiency in end-to-end processes. In this challenging environment, process mining is proving to be an essential tool not only to address bottlenecks in HR management, but also to significantly increase efficiency in specialist divisions.

Challenges in Procurement:

The purchasing department within chemical companies faces particular challenges resulting from the complexity of the industry. Purchasers not only have to understand the technical requirements and specifications of products, but also ensure that the materials meet the required standards. Selecting reliable suppliers with strict quality standards is another challenge, as is managing the price volatility of chemical raw materials. Long-term supply contracts are essential to ensure a reliable supply chain. At the same time, managing innovation and coping with the complexity of global supply chains play an equally important role. Last but not least, buyers must also consider sustainability aspects in order to identify suppliers that support socially and environment-friendly policies. Overall, the procurement activities in the chemical industry require careful consideration of technical, regulatory, financial and sustainability factors to ensure supply chain efficiency and achieve business objectives.

Shortage of skilled workers is an issue:

The current situation on the labor market is not only coming to a head in the chemical industry - highly qualified personnel is becoming a scarce commodity. These staff shortages have a direct impact on the efficiency of purchasing processes. Recruitment is becoming more challenging, existing employees are increasingly overburdened and staff turnover is also making day-to-day operations more difficult. This is where process mining comes into play not only as a solution to make up for the lack of qualified specialists, but also to increase efficiency within the procurement department.

Process mining as a key technology, driver of innovation and game changer:

Process mining is a constantly evolving method that aims to uncover hidden workflows in business processes. Using real event logs, such as those generated by information systems, business processes can be mapped and visualized in detail. Based on this event data, patterns can be identified and deviations, exceptions and workarounds can be uncovered. Therefore, process mining enables the visualization and analysis of processes based on actual activity data captured during the execution of business processes.

Automation of routine activities - more efficiency, less manual effort:

In an environment where speed and precision are crucial, process mining makes it possible to automate routine tasks within the purchasing process. From order processing to supplier evaluation - recurring, time-consuming activities are made more efficient and take up less employee time. This automation not only increases efficiency, but also reduces the workload of existing employees, who can concentrate on more demanding tasks and strategic aspects.

Identification and elimination of bottlenecks - streamlined processes, less employee strain:

The shortage of skilled workers often leads to bottlenecks in purchasing processes, which can result in delays and inefficient workflows. Process Mining analyzes process flows down to the smallest detail and identifies potential bottlenecks. By removing these impediments, companies can not only increase process

performance, but also reduce the strain on existing staff. This not only enables tasks to be completed more quickly, but also creates a less stressful working environment overall, which has a positive impact on employee satisfaction.

Efficient risk management – fewer errors, less workload:

The shortage of qualified personnel increases the likelihood of errors and non-compliance in purchasing processes. Process mining enables efficient risk management by identifying potential risks in real time and taking appropriate preventative measures. Preventing errors not only increases efficiency, but also avoids the additional workload that would result from correcting errors.

Cost efficiency through process optimization - achieving more with fewer resources:

Process mining not only helps to increase overall efficiency, but also achieves cost efficiency by optimizing procurement processes. Fewer manual interventions not only mean less personnel expenditure, but also reduced operating costs. This is crucial in times when companies need to achieve more with fewer resources. An optimized cost structure gives companies greater flexibility to make strategic investments and improve their competitiveness.

Reducing the cash-to-cash cycle time - more efficient processes, more liquidity:

The efficiency gains made possible by process mining result in a shorter cash-to-cash cycle time. By accelerating procurement processes, it is possible to convert raw materials into marketable products at a faster rate. This has a positive effect on the company's liquidity, as capital can be released more quickly and used for strategic investments. Particularly in times of high interest rates, a short cash-to-cash cycle time is of considerable importance for the productivity of liquid funds and the international competitiveness of the chemical industry.

Reduction of lost sales through more efficient processes:

Streamlined procurement processes, supported by process mining, not only reduce costs but also reduce the risk of lost sales. Faster response times, more precise order processing and an improved supplier relationship help to minimize lost sales caused by delays or errors. This preventative measure is becoming increasingly important in a market where speed is synonymous with competitive advantage.

Conclusion - Increasing efficiency in response to the shortage of qualified personnel:

At a time of shortage of skilled talent in the chemical industry, it is becoming clear that process mining is not just a technology tool, but a transformative force for procurement departments. By automating routine activities, identifying and eliminating bottlenecks, efficiently managing risk and optimizing processes, companies can not only successfully meet the challenges of the labor shortage, but also usher in an era of sustainable efficiency and cost effectiveness within procurement. Process mining is thus becoming an indispensable tool on the way to a successful and sustainable chemical industry.

Utilize process mining for your business success:

Process mining models your business processes the way they are reflected in your information systems. Leveraging the potential for efficiency increases and at the same time addressing the shortage of qualified personnel is a huge opportunity to gain competitive advantages that others do not have. In addition to in-depth industry expertise, msg industry advisors have extensive process know-how, which enables us to provide you with tailor-made solutions. This enables you to quickly implement process mining as a key technology with a high degree of precision and effectiveness.

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