

EDIZONE

BLUEZONE

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a dark red sleeveless top and light blue jeans, is sitting on a dark blue couch. She is smiling and looking at a silver laptop on a white table in front of her. Her hands are on the keyboard. The background is a bright, slightly blurred indoor setting with a window. The overall tone is professional and positive.

SUCCESS STORY:  
**CATENSY'S CHAIN DRIVE SYSTEMS**

## EDI-ZONE makes electronic data interchange at Catensys ready for the future

How a scalable, flexible solution for electronic data exchange puts Catensys' end customer business on a secure footing - cloud-based and automated.

Catensys manufactures chain drive systems for vehicles with combustion and/or hybrid engines. In addition to drive chains, the systems include sprockets, guide rails and tensioning systems. Catensys is one of the leading global suppliers in its field. The German specialist for chain drive systems, which emerged from a division of the Schaeffler Group, has been on the market with its expertise and experience for over 30 years. Catensys employs over 600 people at nine locations worldwide. They work closely with customers, from systems engineering, development, testing and feedback analysis through to product design. Catensys holds more than 150 patents and is a partner to major car manufacturers in Europe, the USA and Asia.



## CATENSYS

chain drive systems

<b>Company:</b>	CATENSYS Germany GmbH
<b>Industry:</b>	Automotive
<b>Products:</b>	Chain drive systems for vehicles with combustion and/or hybrid engines
<b>Turnover</b>	150 million EUR (2023)
<b>Employees:</b>	600+ (2023)
<b>Headquarter:</b>	Erlangen (Bavaria)
<b>Project:</b>	Introduction of a new, modern solution for electronic data interchange (EDI)

## 01.

### THE INITIAL SITUATION

---

Catensys is one of the world's leading suppliers of chain drive systems. The German specialist for the chain business, which emerged from a division of the Schaeffler Group, has been on the market for over 30 years. After the spin-off from Schaeffler, the new independent company Catensys focused on continuing the existing customer business as smoothly and efficiently as possible - e.g. through processes for electronic data exchange. Processes were to be standardized and thus brought up to date.

BLUE-ZONE GmbH - together with its implementation partner All for One Group SE - has launched the cloud-based software solution to make Catensys' chain business sustainable, flexible and scalable. With EDI-ZONE, Catensys has made electronic data exchange with business partners fit for the future as part of its own end customer business.

## 02.

### THE PROJECT

---

Following the carve-out of Schaeffler, the new, independent automotive supplier Catensys was faced with the challenge of using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) to map the existing customer business on a 1:1 basis and continue it on a sustainable basis. EDI enables the electronic exchange of business documents such as orders, delivery bills and invoices between business partners.

With EDI-ZONE, the system for digitized, comprehensive processes (e.g. ERP integration, process automation, monitoring), customer requirements were to be optimally met. The goal was clear: to connect all existing Catensys end customers to the new system as quickly as possible. BLUE-ZONE GmbH was to use its expertise - through automated processes, monitoring and the processing of a wide variety of message formats - to ensure that Catensys' customer business ran smoothly.

## 03.

### THE RESULTS

---

The project was launched in spring 2022. The new IT solution was launched in less than four months. In addition to security and reliability (secure data transfer of sensitive business data), the focus was on reducing costs and error rates within EDI.

Over 80% of all Catensys' contractual partners in Europe, the USA and Asia are now connected to the new cloud-based IT system. More than 300 processes are mapped in the EDI cloud. BLUE-ZONE GmbH and its implementation partner All for One Group work directly with the specialist departments. Together, they are the crucial link in the process chain that holds everything together: They create the environment and the framework conditions and are the link between the specialist departments (the key users) and the external partners. In the course of the successful project, the processes were automated so that the specialist departments at Catensys can concentrate on their core business: Customer satisfaction.

## 04.

### THE HIGHLIGHTS

---

- Creating trust: scalability, flexibility and reliability are at the forefront for everyone involved in the project
- Agile project team: A small, flexible team (5-10 people) ensures that the system is available and numerous customers are involved in less than four months
- Good cooperation: A collegial relationship with the specialist departments enables close exchange and communication at eye level
- Make it easy: Onboarding the IT solution can be set up with ease (e.g. workshops for key users)
- Fast, seamless, cloud-based: The software solution can be effortlessly integrated into the existing ERP system

## 01.

**THE INITIAL SITUATION**

In 2022, a new, independent automotive manufacturer was born: Catensys. The medium-sized company, which emerged from the Schaeffler Group's Chain Drive Systems division, has been successful on the market ever since. The German specialist Catensys is one of the world's leading suppliers of chain drive systems. Following the spin-off from the Group, the focus was on continuing the existing customer business as smoothly and efficiently as possible - e.g. through automated processes for electronic data exchange. Processes were to be standardized and thus brought up to date. And as quickly as possible in order to provide optimum support for day-to-day business. In the interests of the specialist departments at Catensys - and the automotive supplier's end customers.

BLUE-ZONE GmbH - together with its implementation partner All for One Group - has launched the cloud-based software solution in order to make Catensys' traditional and successful chain business sustainable, flexible and scalable. With EDI-ZONE, Catensys has made electronic data exchange with business partners in the course of its end customer business fit for the future.

## 02.

### THE PROJECT

The strategic goal at Catensys was clear: to establish an independent, modern, reliable, secure and scalable IT landscape in the new company as quickly as possible. This was particularly important for day-to-day business with the end customers, the major car manufacturers. The focus was on ensuring the proven, reliable and automated transfer of data via EDI as quickly as possible using a dedicated platform. Also to establish Catensys as a reliable business partner with stable logistics processes on the market.

Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) enables the electronic exchange of business documents such as orders, delivery bills and invoices. "In spring 2022, we were faced with the challenge of mapping the previous core business 1:1 in a new IT infrastructure in just a few weeks. This can only be done optimally with automated workflows and processes," says Björn Bodenstein, Global Head of IT at Catensys. "In BLUE-ZONE GmbH, we have found a partner that understands business processes down to the smallest detail and has implemented a cloud-based EDI platform in the shortest possible time, which could be seamlessly integrated into our IT landscape."

With EDI-ZONE, the system for digitized, comprehensive processes (e.g. ERP integration, process automation, monitoring), customer requirements were to be optimally met. The challenge: to connect all existing Catensys end customers to the new system in the shortest possible time. BLUE-ZONE GmbH was to use its expertise - through automated processes, monitoring and the processing of a wide variety of message formats - to ensure that Catensys' customer business ran smoothly.

# 03.

## THE RESULTS

Secure, reliable, efficient: EDI-ZONE makes Catensys' core business even more successful. The project was launched in spring 2022. The new cloud-based IT system was launched just four months later. The majority of Catensys' business processes with end customers (e.g. Audi, BMW, Ford, General Motors, Porsche, VW) are now digitalized. Over 80% of all Catensys' contractual partners in Europe, the USA and Asia are now connected to the new software solution. More than 300 processes are mapped in the EDI cloud. The plants in Germany, Slovakia, the USA and China use EDI-ZONE to exchange data with customers, partners and suppliers.

BLUE-ZONE GmbH and its implementation partner All for One Group work directly with the specialist departments. Together, they are the crucial link in the process chain that holds everything together: They create the environment and the framework conditions and are the link between the specialist departments (the key users) and the external partners. Keeping their backs free, creating understanding, rectifying errors, fulfilling customer requests - the role and responsibility of the team at BLUE-ZONE GmbH was multifaceted. In addition to secure, reliable data transfer, the focus was also on reducing costs and error rates during the launch of EDI-ZONE.

Thanks to EDI-ZONE, Catensys was not only able to automate data conversion and improve communication with business partners, but also increase its own competitiveness. "We are now better positioned in our IT portfolio than ever before: more modern, more efficient and more flexible. So that our specialist departments can concentrate on the essentials: Customer satisfaction." summarizes Bodenstein.

# 04.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS

### + FLEXIBLE, SCALABLE SOLUTION

The project team from Catensys and BLUE-ZONE GmbH - together with their implementation partner All for One Group - was lean and agile in order to launch a solution with maximum flexibility in record time. In close cooperation with the specialist departments (e.g. customer service, logistics, sales, key account, materials management), new customer requirements for the IT system could be met during ongoing operations.

### + INCREASE COMPETITIVENESS

Day-to-day business should become more efficient through optimized processes thanks to EDI-ZONE: The new IT solution reduces costs and minimizes manual effort at Catensys, allowing the specialist departments to concentrate on strategic tasks. The flexible integration of business partners enables fast and secure data exchange, which saves time and resources internally.

## THE ADVANTAGES OF EDI-ZONE

### + SEAMLESS ERP INTEGRATION

Simple and transparent: EDI-ZONE users benefit from seamless integration of the EDI system with all ERP processes. This enables the perfectly coordinated conversion of messages. Users from the specialist departments can view and check information directly via EDI messages. These are linked to the corresponding ERP document in the document flow. Users therefore navigate seamlessly from the process to the message and have maximum transparency with high usability.

### + OPTIMIZED MONITORING

Fast and helpful: users can identify anomalies more quickly during message exchange and rectify them themselves. Cumbersome technical processing by IT and possible loss of information are now a thing of the past. 24/7 monitoring via a dashboard and direct support from experts at BLUE-ZONE GmbH and implementation partner All for One Group make troubleshooting a breeze.

### + SUSTAINABLE PROCESSES

Conserving resources for the environment: every order confirmation, every delivery bill and every incoming invoice that the company receives on paper or by email must be viewed and processed by employees. In addition, there is an extensive mapping library with custom-fit, ready-to-use mappings - tailored to individual requirements.

### + IMPROVED PROCESS CONTROL

The evaluation of data using Business Intelligence methods enables improved process control thanks to constantly available and up-to-date data.





**"At Catensys, we wanted to significantly increase our process security, reliability and efficiency. It was clear to us that we could only achieve this in data exchange with business partners through automated processes. Thanks to the agile team at BLUE-ZONE GmbH and the optimal software solution, we are now better positioned in our IT portfolio than ever before: more modern, more efficient and more flexible."**

---

BJÖRN BODENSTEIN // GLOBAL HEAD OF IT, CATENSY



## CONTACT PERSONS



**BLUE-ZONE GMBH**

Am Oberfeld 1  
D-83026 Rosenheim

Dr. Richard Mayr  
Managing Director  
+49 8031 61929-00  
contact@blue-zone.io



**Catensys Chain Drive Systems**

Nägelsbachstraße 33  
D-91052 Erlangen

Björn Bodenstern  
Global Head of IT  
info@catensys.com