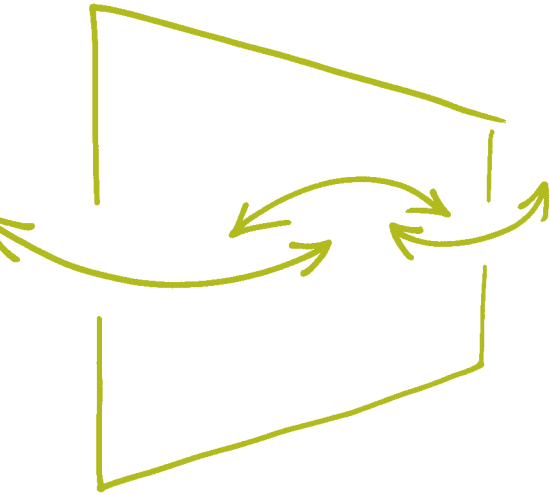


Reducing the risk, cost and complexity of global electronic invoicing



In this Solution Overview you will learn:

- How to reduce corporate risk and exposure by complying with electronic invoicing tax regulations
- How to improve operational efficiencies and contain costs by automating both buyer and supplier electronic invoice processes in accordance with country-specific tax regulations
- How to eliminate the need to support multiple solutions across different geographies

Benefits of this solution:

- Reduce the risk of non-compliance with tax regulations through secure signing and validation services and transparent auditing
- Reduce costs through the automation of manual invoice processing, archiving and auditing
- Simplify the technology management requirements of delivering cross-border electronic invoicing, with a choice of on premise or on demand deployment

Sterling e-Invoicing

Executive Summary

Today's organisations have complex business collaboration networks within which they need to connect, communicate, and collaborate with their trading partners. These networks consist of an increasing number of partners, across more industries, and in more countries across the globe than ever before. Most countries apply a tax to the value that is added to goods and services at each step of the economic chain, and use the invoice as the key document for calculating and auditing this "value added" or VAT tax. However, each country applies its own regulatory requirements for electronic invoices which significantly increases the complexity of compliance for multi-national companies, and introduces costs and risks to your business. Sterling e-Invoicing™ reduces the risk, cost and complexity associated with cross-border, tax compliant electronic invoicing by automating manual invoice processing, archiving and auditing in accordance with tax regulations for multiple countries.

Sterling e-Invoicing helps you adapt to the complex, ever-changing business and technical regulations associated with international electronic invoicing. It automates business processes and tax compliance, using global integration standards to support buyer and supplier compliance in a single solution, while also maintaining conformity with tax regulations for multiple countries.

Companies seeking to reap the benefits of electronic invoicing face a complex matrix of country-specific requirements. Our holistic approach to enable compliance makes it easy. Through a structured methodology resulting in a Compliance Map™ that is continuously updated to reflect changes in requirements, we can help you put in place straight-through processing and effective audit tools based on

"The steamroller is in motion, and it is only a matter of time until e-invoicing becomes a mandatory requirement, wherever you are, whether you are a supplier or a seller."

Gartner, Inc. Cost Savings Finally Make the (European) E-Invoicing Steamroller Pick Up Speed, by Paolo Malinverno, 14 April 2009.

localised e-signature processes. Sterling e-Invoicing consists of pre-built components that seamlessly integrate with your technical and business infrastructure to insulate your company from the complexity of country-specific regulations.

The Sterling Commerce solution is powered in part by TrustWeaver™, a recognised leader in the e-invoice market. TrustWeaver collaborates with industry leaders, expert lawyers,

consultants, and tax authorities to develop and maintain compliant, multi-country electronic signature support for electronic invoices. The partnership combines the tax compliance domain expertise of TrustWeaver™ with the world class integration capabilities and experience of Sterling Commerce.

Sterling e-Invoicing is a comprehensive service, offering support for a wide range of signing and validation mechanisms that are recognised by local tax authorities in a broad range of countries. Our solution can rapidly integrate with various internal applications such as enterprise application integration (EAI), enterprise resource planning (ERP), tax solutions and archiving systems, as well as external trading partners, to apply and validate electronic signatures. Our unique features—including support for multiple certificates, and a variety of signature formats—can easily be mixed and matched to enable compliant, electronic invoicing for large, heterogeneous groups of businesses.

Going green

There is another, more unconventional, benefit of electronic invoicing. By eliminating the use of paper, you are not only reducing processing costs, and improving efficiencies; you are also conserving natural resources, and managing the impact your business has on the environment. Going green is not a fad—people today are genuinely concerned about environmental issues, and how corporations are addressing those issues. Sterling e-Invoicing can help you improve operational efficiencies, the environment, and your corporate image.

Business and technical process efficiency

Many companies have developed distributed technical and business departments that are forced to think and act locally, rather than globally. This results in inefficient business and technical processes, which leads to increased risk and costs associated with electronic invoicing. Sterling e-Invoicing enables companies to develop a global, cross-organisational view of electronic invoice tax compliance issues that allows regional departments (CFO/Accounts Payable/Account Receivable, IT, Procurement, Legal, Sales, and Tax) to support uniform technical and business processes in accordance with corporate objectives.

Sterling e-Invoicing

Issue	Capability	Benefit
Reduce tax compliance risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure signing and validation services Regulatory monitoring through a network of local law firm and tax authority relationships Electronic archiving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guarantees the authenticity and integrity of electronic invoices in accordance with tax legislation Constantly updates signing and validation services to ensure compliance Accelerates the audit process, making it simpler and quicker for both companies and their tax authorities—better information visibility helps minimise the risk of compliance issues
Reduce invoice processing, archive and audit costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automation of invoice process through receipt/issuance, processing, archiving and audit Automation of both buy-side and sell-side invoicing, plus support for 'on-behalf-of' signing and validation Electronic archiving 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduces the costs and data errors associated with manual, paper-based processes Enables maximum penetration of electronic invoicing across buyer and supplier communities Eliminates storage costs of paper invoices and reduces costs associated with tax audits
Simplify technology management requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-country, cross-border e-invoicing Choice of flexible deployment options—on premise or on demand 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminates the need to implement multiple, country-specific e-invoice compliance solutions requiring regional support Allows companies to optimise the technology and resource requirements to best suit their organisation's needs

Country Coverage

Sterling e-Invoicing enables out-of-the box electronic invoice tax compliance for multiple countries. Invoices are processed according to compliance regulations of the appropriate countries involved with the transaction. This is particularly important when companies

handle a significant number of cross-border transactions where the regulations of both buyer and supplier countries must be considered as part of the validation process to help ensure that the electronic invoice is legally binding for both parties.

Current Coverage*			
Austria	Finland	Latvia	Slovakia
Belgium	France	Lithuania	Slovenia
Bulgaria	Germany	Luxembourg	South Africa
Canada	Greece	Netherlands	Spain
Cyprus	Hungary	Norway	Sweden
Czech Republic	Ireland	Poland	Switzerland
Denmark	Israel	Portugal	United Kingdom
Estonia	Italy	Romania	United States

**Additional country support will be added on a regular basis. Contact your Sterling Commerce sales representative for the latest country list.*

The information provided herein is not intended to be legal advice, but merely conveys general information related to certain legal issues. You should not rely upon any information contained herein for any purpose without seeking advice from a duly licensed attorney in your jurisdiction. The services described will only be provided pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the Sterling Commerce standard agreement for such services.

About Sterling Commerce

Sterling Commerce, an AT&T Inc. (NYSE:T) company, helps companies optimise and transform their Business Collaboration Network quickly, easily and securely so they can accelerate revenues, reduce costs and protect their enterprise. Sterling Commerce provides more than 30,000 customers worldwide with applications and integration solutions to connect, communicate and collaborate with their customers, partners and suppliers. Learn more at www.sterlingcommerce.co.uk.