What is EDI?

EDI (Electronic Data Interchange) is the computer-to-computer exchange of business documents in a standard electronic format between business partners.

By moving from a paper-based exchange of business documents to one that is electronic, businesses enjoy major benefits such as reduced cost, increased processing speed, reduced errors and improved relationships with business partners.
EDI in SSAB

In the EDI language, a single business document (a file typically), such as an order response or invoice, is called a “message.”

SSAB has selected five message types which are used with customers:
- Forecast, orders, order response, delivery note and invoice
- Customer can select which messages they want to implement
- If customer requests some other message type it must be handled case by case

Why EDI?
- Better data quality – automatic process, no manual data inputs, easy to trouble shoot
- Improve data security – invoices and orders are sent in a secure environment
- Environmental friendly – paperless since strictly digital, lower CO2 emissions
- Lower operating costs – no printing, postage and much less administration
- Higher business efficiency – employees can focus on other value adding tasks
- Faster business cycle – transactions in only a few minutes, no manual work needed

AVAIBLE 24/7
EDI organization

- **EDI Board** – Prioritizes EDI development within SSAB
- **Customer connectivity manager** – Coordinates EDI development within SSAB

**EDI Project manager**
Appointed to lead and manage specific EDI implementation projects

**Business Owner**
Customer responsible sales person who is responsible for business decisions needed during implementation

**EDI Development Team**
Integration experts and developers

**EDI Project Team**

**Customer EDI Responsible**
Responsible for managing customer side of implementation

**Customer Business Owner**
Responsible for business decisions needed in implementation in customer side (scope, business process changes etc.)

**Customer EDI Development Lead**
Coordinates the development work. Internal or external resource

**EDI organization**
**EDI process**

**Phase**
- EDI Request
- Technical Analysis
- Agreement
- Development
- Go-Live

**Action by who**
- Business Owner
- EDI Project Manager
- EDI Project Team
- EDI Project Manager

**Output Document**
- Technical analysis in PPT
- Agreement in Word
- Communication and application agreement in Word

**Request comes in from the customer or SSAB contacts a potential customer, who may be an EDI connectivity customer.**

The EDI Project Manager does a technical analysis and describes the material and information flow and needed messages in the proposed solution.

Business owners from both SSAB and the customer sign an agreement to proceed.

The EDI Project Team starts the actual implementation work, which is documented in a project file.

The appointed EDI Project Manager verifies that the solution is ready for go-live using a checklist.
EDI project phases

Technical Analysis – capturing the technical needs and requirements
When the EDI project is verified by the customer connectivity manager an EDI Project manager is appointed in SSAB. The Project manager will gather all required information and do Technical Analysis.

The technical analysis will serve as material to initiate the actual development and all necessary information and parameters needs to be gathered from both customer and SSAB.

A technical analysis document will be created and shall contain information about:

- IT technical architecture, material flow, information flow, messaging architecture, customer master data, EDI technical elements, master data / business transaction, system changes, testing, work estimates and costs and project planning.

Agreement – official commitment between SSAB and the customer to start executing the EDI connection project
To start an EDI project can take a varied amount of time depending on the complexity and availability of resources. Therefore it’s important to state an agreement with customer to get the commitment needed to be able to accelerate the EDI process.

After the technical analysis an agreement between customer and SSAB must be approved and signed by both customer and SSAB before any EDI development will start.

The aim of this agreement is that both parties commit to the project in terms of resources and time allocated.

The agreement contains information about contacts, resources and project plan.

Development – the actual implementation work starts
Typically, the customer and SSAB are responsible for their own costs to develop, implement and run the EDI service on the purchaser and supplier side of the defined common interface.

Project is followed-up:
- Monthly follow-up with project managers and customer connectivity manager to see how projects are proceeding.
- Are we following project plan? Any deviations.
- During the development test messages are sent between customer and SSAB:
  - Internal end users participate in the testing and help for example creating test orders.
  - Users learn the new process by participating the testing.

Go-Live – the solution is verified and ready to be put into production
The appointed EDI Project Manager verifies that the solution is ready for go live using a checklist.

When project is finished an official project closing meeting is conducted:
- In closing meeting both parties accept the implementation work and ensure that there are no open topics.
- Meeting is documented in written memo which is saved to project documents.
- Conduct lesson learnt session or questionnaire
  - Collection of information about how the project went.
  - What worked, what didn’t work.
  - How to improve the process.

Business is involved to make sure that messages are coming through etc.

Hand over to the support organization
- Go through with support organization new messages so that they can start monitoring.

Technical Analysis
Agreement
Development
Go-Live
Support after project closing

For customer and external partners in case of problems please use following email address when the EDI connection is up and running
edisupport@ssab.com

Technical choices today

**Transport used:**
- OFTP/2, SFTP, (FTP)

**Messages used:**

- **EDI (Electronical Data Interchange)**
  - EDI is the computer-to-computer exchange of business documents in a standard electronic format between business partners.
  - The most common documents exchanged via EDI are purchase orders, invoices and advance ship notices.
  - There are several EDI standards in use today, including ANSI, EDIFACT, TRADACOMS and ebXML.

**EDI broker**
External partner that handles messages transforming and mapping messages.

**VAN (Value Added Network)**
A provider of EDI as a service. EDI VAN is an outsourced network that enables you to exchange EDI documents with your business partners and it offers multiple formats for the EDI translation.