

# The future of EDI in 2025

Understanding the limits of legacy systems and the innovative technologies transforming supply chain connectivity





## Introduction

In a rapidly evolving business landscape, supply chain operations require agility, speed, and clarity for success. Yet, many organisations remain tethered to outdated systems that were built for a different era.

These legacy technologies, such as on-premise Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) solutions, now present more obstacles than advantages. Organisations are unable to keep up with market demands, regulatory changes, and evolving customer expectations.

This whitepaper explores how EDI technology has evolved, why legacy systems are limiting business growth, and how Transalis is doing EDI differently through its scalable, cloud-based approach.

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# Why legacy EDI no longer serves business

**EDI has been the backbone of digital supply chains for decades, but traditional implementations are showing their age.**

Legacy systems tend to be rigid, expensive, and difficult to maintain. They often rely on on-premise infrastructure, in-house expertise, and limited customisation options.

One key example of this strain is the discontinuation of SAP Hana. As SAP phases out support for its earlier ERP platforms in favour of its cloud-first S/4HANA solution, many businesses are finding their legacy EDI integrations no longer compatible or supported. This forces expensive migrations, costly re-engineering, or risky temporary fixes.

Similarly, suppliers reliant on legacy platforms face longer onboarding times and less flexibility in responding to partner requests. Integration with modern APIs, web portals, or cloud-native systems is often lacking, placing these organisations at a competitive disadvantage.



## Case Study

### The sunsetting of SAP Hana

As SAP prepares to end mainstream maintenance for its legacy Business Suite 7 systems by the end of 2027 (extended support available until 2030), businesses reliant on on-premise ERP and EDI infrastructures are under increasing pressure to modernise.<sup>1</sup>

The shift to SAP's cloud-first S/4HANA platform presents significant integration challenges. Existing EDI workflows often require major reconfiguration<sup>2</sup> :

- Partner profiles must be rebuilt
- IDoc structures need to be updated
- New output management tools are required

Migration complexity can be a significant operational hurdle. If this transition is not managed carefully, with every existing process considered, then technical disruptions are inevitable. Understandably, these subsequently lead to failed document exchanges and, ultimately, supply chain delays.

For businesses still dependent on legacy EDI, now is a critical moment to reassess.

Organisations must now seriously consider switching over to a more agile, cloud-native solution that minimises disruption and provides long-term security for supply-chain operations. Otherwise, they risk their brand reputation and even their commercial longevity.



According to CIO<sup>3</sup>, most S/4HANA projects experience timeline overruns of **30% or more**, and nearly two-thirds of businesses report issues with implementation quality.

# The long-term risks of standing still

## **Relying on unsuitable EDI technologies is more than a mere technical concern; it's a strategic liability**

Businesses that fail to modernise face a cascade of hidden costs: slow trading-partner onboarding, frequent errors from manual interventions, poor visibility and tracking of transactions, and mounting compliance risks.

### **For example...**

In recent years, large-scale EDI providers have acquired smaller EDI businesses<sup>4,5</sup>, inheriting fragmented customer bases and inconsistent service models. To ensure consistency of the service provision, they have rationalised their services and withdrawn support for less profitable segments. This has left many customers facing abrupt changes to service levels, support structures, and integration options, often accompanied by annual price increases.

The example highlighted above reflects a broader shift across parts of the EDI market: that providers are streamlining for internal efficiency, at the expense of their customers. For affected businesses, this results in growing dissatisfaction, as they face increased costs, reduced functionality, and a more profound sense of being tied to a vendor.

In a market where agility, responsiveness, and control are paramount, legacy EDI can silently undermine operational excellence and customer satisfaction.







## A fresh take on EDI: Scalable, Cloud-Based, and Customer-Led

**As digital transformation accelerates across the supply chain and businesses as a whole, the expectations of EDI systems have evolved.**

Overall, the core motivations for businesses remain unchanged. Today's supply chain leaders are still looking for automation solutions that offer efficiency, transparency and visibility. What has changed, however, is the need for these solutions to withstand the test of time. EDI must empower businesses by providing agility and scalability as market conditions shift.

There is also a growing demand for autonomy. Businesses want to manage their own connections, respond quickly to new partner requests, and adapt their EDI environment without waiting on third-party timelines or paying for professional service hours each time a change is needed.

This marks a significant departure from the legacy model, where providers controlled the infrastructure, dictated the pricing model, and offered limited room for customisation. The future of EDI belongs to providers who enable rather than restrict.

## Doing EDI differently

Transalis offers a fundamentally different approach to EDI, one that puts businesses back in control.

Our new product bundles, Web Connect and Enterprise Connect, are designed to meet the demands of today's fast-paced and highly competitive commercial environment. Unlike traditional EDI providers, we don't impose VAN charges or cap message volumes. Both of these products grant our customers full control over their EDI solution, selecting the exact number of connections they require for efficient supply chain operations, without limitations.

Both bundles are cloud-based self-service solutions, giving customers the real freedom to configure and maintain their own EDI connections or API integrations.

Using our intuitive platform and onboarding support, users can activate new trading partners or adjust existing connections entirely independently. Transalis' trusted technologies facilitate the message exchanges quietly in the background.

Gone are the days of off-the-shelf solutions that only partially meet business needs or sit largely underutilised. With Transalis, businesses gain flexibility without compromise, visibility without complexity, and the ability to adapt their supply chain operations at speed and at scale.



### Web Connect:

Is ideal for businesses with large networks that need a fast, easy way to connect to trading partners via a secure web portal. Benefit from rapid onboarding with support from a dedicated UK-based service team.

[Find out more](#)

### Enterprise Connect

Is built for larger organisations managing high volumes of data or complex ERP integrations. This bundle supports bespoke workflows and API integrations.

[Find out more](#)

For customers using Enterprise Connect, our DataTrack add-on provides an additional layer of transparency and control. It delivers real-time visibility into transaction flows, enabling teams to identify issues, track document status, and optimise performance across integrated supply chain systems. This level of insight is especially valuable in complex environments where multiple systems and partners interact.

In short, we're redefining what a good EDI solution should be: simple, scalable, and built around your business.





## Conclusion

As this whitepaper has shown, the risks of standing still with legacy systems or inflexible vendors are real and growing. But for those ready to embrace change, there are significant opportunities to modernise.

Transalis is enabling a new era of EDI, where businesses take back control, scale on demand, and gain the visibility they need to operate with confidence.

## The next move is yours

Book a no-obligation intro call with our expert team. We'll carry out a free EDI health check of your current setup and show you how Transalis will transform your supply chain operations.

**Speak to a specialist**



# References

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[Transalis.com](https://transalis.com) | [email sales@transalis.com](mailto:sales@transalis.com)

UK Sales 0845 123 3746 | International Sales +44 1978 369343

