THE BIG MOVE: MISSION COMPLETED.

Houston is well-known for historic missions. Since 1961, it has been the hometown of the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, responsible for the flight control of US manned space programs such as the Space Shuttle, Apollo and Gemini. State-of-the-art technology, years of training and rigorous preparations were the critical success factors of more than 160 space flights.
NEW VIRTUALIZATION TECHNOLOGY MINIMIZES TESTING EFFORT

Phase 2, which began immediately after Phase 1, was no less strenuous: the business-critical IT landscapes had been successfully migrated. But now the team had to tackle the remaining systems and decommission and dispose of the legacy assets in order to allow Shell to put the building on the market for sale. “This meant handling an IT volume that was five to six times greater. But we had far less time than in the previous phase,” emphasized Kiest. “So we thought about how we could migrate the maximum number of services with the leanest possible process.” They were assisted by an innovative network technology recommended by T-Systems colleagues in Germany: Cisco’s Overlay Transport Virtualization. This solution enabled T-Systems to migrate 550 virtual servers for a huge number of dynamic cloud-hosted applications and services without having to change their IP addresses. This greatly reduced the effort on Shell’s part for testing and approval. “It was a great piece of advice and a prime example of our transatlantic teamwork, as well as our strong business partnership with Cisco,” attested Kiest.

The move went smoothly. But there was still work to be done. The T-Systems team turned to the hardware that was new surplus to requirements – 7,200 servers, storage devices, tape libraries, server enclosures and other assorted IT assets. They had to be either sold off or disposed of. By late June 2016, this task too was completed, and the legacy data center was handed over on time to Shell’s Real Estate department.

A MIX OF TRANSITION AND TRANSFORMATION

T-Systems has now been hosting Shell’s IT infrastructure from the new data center for around six months. And as John Kiest explained, this has done more not just to improve the availability and reliability of IT services: “This was not just a simple transition: it meant transforming infrastructure, improving efficiency and being ever ready for future changes and technology disruptions. For example, we implemented new storage networks and tape libraries, and we shifted a large number of applications from the legacy EWS 2.5 to the new DSC 3.0 platform.” Shell Supplier Services Platform Manager Douie Nadeema also expressed her appreciation for the results of the migration program: “The Houston IC Accelerated Exit Migration Program was a very successful one, especially from a business continuity point of view.”

The complicated multi-million migration was completed without any major mishaps. That’s an excellent outcome for Shell and T-Systems. As Kiest pointed out, “From the outset, we had said that failure is not an option. And through constructive cooperation, transparent governance and communication at all levels, plus clearly defined escalation paths, we succeeded.” It is an experience that should stand T-Systems and Shell in very good stead with other programs of this type. High on the agenda is the ongoing activity to consolidate data center resources in these large data centers in the European Global Data Center in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

THE HOUSTON IC ACCELERATED EXIT MIGRATION PROGRAM WAS A VERY SUCCESSFUL ONE, ESPECIALLY FROM A BUSINESS CONTINUITY POINT OF VIEW.

Dougie Nadeema,
Manager Shell Supplier Services Platforms
and ITSO representative on ERP E1 (Run Better)

7200 Servers, storage devices and other hardware assets had to be decommissioned

69 IT landscapes had to be migrated from the old data center to the new one

220 Professionals of T-Systems managed the big move

THE Houston West data center – new home of Shell’s IT.

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