Successful spin-off

Migration to AWS and private cloud and taking over application management for SAP, non-SAP, and PLM

> **"With their migration expertise, particularly their extensive SAP competency, T-Systems guided us safely and reliably through the spin-off."**
>
> Thomas Buck, Senior Vice President Information Technology, Vitesco Technologies

Vitesco Technologies is a leading international developer and manufacturer of modern powertrain solutions for sustainable mobility. With its smart system solutions and components for electric, hybrid, and combustion engines, Vitesco Technologies makes mobility clean, efficient, and affordable. Its product portfolio includes electric engines, electronic controllers, sensors, and actuators, and solutions for exhaust gas after treatment. In 2020, Vitesco Technologies generated revenue of around EUR 8 billion and employed nearly 40,000 people at around 50 locations. Vitesco Technologies is headquartered in Regensburg in southern Germany and wants to play a leading international role in vehicle electrification. To achieve this goal, the company is pursuing a clear strategy with a focus on sustainability. Until 2019, Vitesco Technologies was a unit of Continental AG. Continental then decided to consolidate its expertise for powertrain technology in a separate company. A new industry heavyweight was born. The spin-off was finalized in 2021: the company had to stand completely on its own. This also affected the IT systems, which are key for the value creation of the company. As a strategic IT partner, T-Systems supported Vitesco Technologies in building its IT landscape and has taken responsibility for the business-critical IT systems.

In addition to application management and SAP system operations, this also involves operating and further developing the Windchill system for PLM (product lifecycle management), which runs in the AWS cloud. A joint data privacy concept ensures that all services are performed privacy-compliant pursuant to Schrems II, even under the best-shoring approach.

At a glance

- Create an IT foundation for Vitesco Technologies (Continental spin-off)
- Disaggregate data, SAP systems, and PLM system from Continental's IT landscape
- Low business impact thanks to minimal downtime
- Establishment of a separate private cloud landscape
- Migration of the Windchill PLM system to the AWS cloud
- Assumption of application operations and management
- End-to-end responsibility for SAP delivers benefits for IT governance
- Fulfills data privacy requirements pursuant to Schrems II

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The reference in detail

The challenge

As part of the Continental Group, Vitesco Technologies had been using the company's existing SAP, non-SAP, and PLM systems since it was founded. The spin-off required changes here. As such, the first key task involved disaggregating the systems and data needed for Vitesco Technologies' business activities from the Continental network and migrating them to a separate platform. However, the transfer of such large data volumes makes system downtimes unavoidable. A typical volume of 10 TB requires around two to three days of downtime. Minimizing this downtime – for both Continental and Vitesco Technologies – was a primary objective of the project, along with ensuring that Vitesco Technologies could get up and running quickly and permanently. After all, during downtimes, neither Vitesco Technologies nor Continental could continue production, manage suppliers, or accept orders – which directly impacted business.

The solution

As the operator of Continental's SAP systems, T-Systems already knew the platforms very well. The project partners decided to copy the complete systems, including data for Vitesco Technologies, to a separate private cloud landscape on a 1:1 basis. T-Systems designed this infrastructure with a separate firewall landscape directly from the start, in line with security requirements and with its own IP address range.

As a result, the course for a subsequent, simple separation was laid at a very early stage. In the private cloud, the systems for the core functions to meet the needs of Vitesco Technologies were provided within two days. Thanks to optimized overall project planning, the runbooks for migration, with its over 100 individual processes, were developed and practiced meticulously.

The result was minimum downtime for the actual migration. Continental's data was successively removed while Vitesco Technologies was already using the new systems. The T-Systems team took a similar approach for the PLM system, the only difference being that another migration step to the AWS cloud followed. In addition to core operations, T-Systems also took over application management for the SAP, non-SAP, and PLM systems, with incident and change management. When designing the application management, the team used a privacy-compliant best-shoring approach with a detailed analysis of the arising tickets. As such, Vitesco Technologies gets all its SAP services from a single source, from core operations to application management. This means all support requests arrive at one service desk and Vitesco Technologies gets consolidated reporting based on standardized processes. A high level of automation increases the efficiency of operations and ongoing enhancement of the SAP systems.

Customer benefits

With end-to-end responsibility for the SAP systems, Vitesco Technologies captures vast benefits for ongoing IT governance and systems integration – with a highly streamlined IT team. Every facet of future developments in the system landscape can be anticipated at an early stage, giving Vitesco Technologies a high level of planning security. The optimized overall concept with established best practices minimized the risks and impact of the migration. Downtimes were minimized for both Vitesco Technologies and Continental, ensuring that the migration only had a minuscule impact on business activities. At the same time, the application management concept with its best-shoring approach fulfills data privacy requirements pursuant to Schrems II and minimizes the costs for ticket resolution.

Further advantages:
- T-Systems' SAP expertise ensured a smooth and seamless migration
- Rapid provisioning of new infrastructure capacity from the private cloud
- Continuous further development
- Fulfills legal requirements for system separation