

# Maximum flexibility through a multi-cloud approach

Gerresheimer AG relies on a combination of managed Azure Cloud and Future Cloud Infrastructure

Reference project

gerresheimer

**“In T-Systems, we’ve found a partner who is a competent guide for navigating the cloud. With our multi-cloud approach, we have optimally positioned ourselves for the future.”**

Benjamin Benning, Global Director IT Infrastructure, Global IT, Gerresheimer AG

Gerresheimer AG from Düsseldorf has a diverse product portfolio: The company is known for its pharmaceutical packaging and medical accessories, including inhalators, pharmaceutical vials, injection systems, insulin pens, and ampules. Gerresheimer supplies businesses in the pharmaceuticals, healthcare, wellness, and biotechnology segments with these products, which are essential for many people. The company’s portfolio also includes cosmetics packaging and glass containers for the food and drink industry. Pharmaceuticals and healthcare make up the lion’s share of the company’s revenue. It employs 10,000 people and produces its products in 36 plants worldwide. The listed company generated revenue of 1.8 billion euros in 2022.

Gerresheimer AG also expanded through acquisitions, which – together with organic growth – resulted in a heterogeneous IT infrastructure that was run in-house and decentralized at 45 different sites. The company decided to consolidate its heterogeneous business IT on a uniform base and identified migration to the cloud as an opportunity – and to address sustainability aspects at the same time. The packaging specialist migrated the first systems to the Azure Cloud together with Microsoft. With the aid of T-Systems, the company developed a suitable cloud strategy, including migration and operation in a public or private cloud, depending on the system.

## At a glance

- Decentralized IT generated high internal costs and was not future-proof
- Consolidation of IT systems for improved transparency, standardized governance, and greater operating efficiency
- Design of a forward-looking IT landscape based on cloud computing (including sustainability aspects)
- Search for comprehensive cloud expertise for migration and operations
- Mapping of privacy requirements
- T-Systems was chosen as a partner to develop and implement a cloud strategy
- Multi-cloud concept: Future Cloud Infrastructure (private cloud) and Azure (public cloud)
- Assessment of the server landscape, definition and realization of the appropriate modernization path
- Operations based on suitable service level agreements
- Managed services from T-Systems for Azure Cloud and Future Cloud Infrastructure
- Reduction of operations tasks and focus on core competencies
- Access to cloud expertise
- Greater transparency and operating efficiency
- Ability to react to business developments
- Sustainability assessment proves: Reduction of carbon footprint by more than 90 percent
- Forward-looking positioning – optimally aligned with Gerresheimer’s expansion plans

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# The reference in detail

## The challenge

Implementing a central IT governance concept to improve the transparency of the IT landscape and its costs wasn't the only reason why Gerresheimer chose to migrate to the cloud. The company also reckoned that consolidating its systems in the cloud would relieve employees of operating duties and bundle these duties company-wide, improving operating efficiency. As part of this process, the company also planned to consolidate its IT partners to optimize its supplier management.

Last but not least, Gerresheimer wanted to ensure that its migration to the cloud also covered privacy aspects. Since the company prefers to manage its IT in-house, it sought a partner for managed cloud services to navigate them competently through the cloud transformation process and, subsequently, provide reliable maintenance for the cloud systems in the form of robust SLAs. A total of 900 – mainly VMware-based – systems were in focus. 50 of them were already in the Azure Cloud. That's where T-Systems came into play.

## The solution

Together with T-Systems, Gerresheimer AG analyzed the situation and ran through various scenarios. As a result, the company determined that full system migration to the Azure Cloud was not the

optimal target scenario. Based on the needs of the applications, as well as privacy considerations, the partners decided on a multi/hybrid cloud concept for Gerresheimer's future IT landscape. It became apparent that Future Cloud Infrastructure (FCI), a modern private cloud solution from T-Systems, would deliver major benefits in the migration process.

Since the vast majority of the IT systems are based on VMware technology (like FCI itself), these systems could be migrated to FCI completely as-is. This enabled Gerresheimer to quickly achieve its primary goal of platform consolidation and increased operational efficiency.

With the leeway thus gained, the process owners at Gerresheimer were able to work with the T-Systems experts to analyze the application landscape in detail and develop an optimized target vision. As part of the cloud migration framework, the partners envisioned different target scenarios for the servers – depending on the technical and privacy needs of the applications. Some would remain in their current state, while others would be migrated to new platforms: Systems with a high level of dynamism and in need of innovation will still be migrated to the Azure Cloud, where they are maintained in a standardized landing zone by T-Systems. The landing zone also features state-of-the-art security. Systems with a lower level of dynamism, which will continue to run on VMware, remain in the Future Cloud Infrastructure, where they are managed either in-house or by T-Systems – depending on how important it is for Gerresheimer to have direct access to the platform and the application.

## Customer benefit

In T-Systems, Gerresheimer has gained a strategic partner for the future of its IT systems that can support the full life cycle – from consulting and migration to managed services. Gerresheimer is not only achieving its objectives of IT consolidation and improved transparency and efficiency; with its multi/hybrid cloud approach, it is also gaining an IT landscape that adapts to the company's needs optimally. In turn, this enables the IT team to respond flexibly to business developments. The company is also reducing the number of its partners significantly with this step. Several interfaces and communication channels can be eliminated.

The managed services enable Gerresheimer to reduce its internal administrative efforts, freeing up resources for strategic IT topics. Service level agreements guarantee that business processes run uninterrupted. Last but not least, Gerresheimer is making significant gains in sustainability through its move to the cloud: the efficient utilization of IT resources – in both the private and public clouds – is reducing its carbon footprint by more than 90 percent.

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