

Powerful business support

Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC) wanted to work smarter and faster. FlexPod was the key to speeding up critical SAP applications.

“ FlexPod gives us outstanding improvements in SAP performance, with reports running in minutes instead of hours. ”

– Phanos Kolokotronis, IT manager and CIO, Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC)

Privatization and restructuring were bringing many changes to the Electricity Authority of Cyprus (EAC). With greater competition on the horizon, the company needed to push its efficiency to the next level.

Challenges

- Increase speed and efficiency of SAP applications
- Reduce operating expenses for IT support
- Standardize data centers on single solution

Serving over half a million customers, the EAC is currently the only electricity utility on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. The electricity energy market has been open since 2004 but, until now, no new entries of other independent power producers have been made. Currently, the Government is changing the market rules in order to facilitate entries of Renewable Energy Sources.

“We’ve always worked hard to give our customers the best possible service,” says Phanos Kolokotronis, IT manager and CIO at EAC. “As we move towards privatization, we will need to push our speed and efficiency to the limits to continue providing the most competitive pricing and agile customer services.”

EAC uses SAP applications for almost every area of business, from materials and warehouse management to enterprise resource planning, finances, and human resources. By improving performance of these SAP applications, EAC realized that it could boost productivity and help departments run smoother across the organization.

Case Study | Electricity Authority of Cyprus

Size: 2,300 Employees

Location: Nicosia, Cyprus

Industry: Electricity



The FlexPod environment, built around Cisco® Unified Data Center solutions and NetApp storage, gets the most out of SAP applications.

Solutions

- Standardized data centers on FlexPod solution utilizing Cisco Unified Computing System™ (UCS®) servers, Cisco networks, and NetApp storage to improve performance of SAP applications

Deliver power, visibility, and scalability

The validated FlexPod platform supports high-performance virtualized environments and scales quickly. Cisco UCS Manager delivers visibility into all components from a central monitoring location.

“The way that FlexPod pulls everything together in a single package makes IT support a lot easier,” says Kolokotronis. “We want to invest in products that will grow with us over the long term, which is why FlexPod built on Cisco and NetApp solutions will be our standard moving forward, for the next six years.”

Boost performance of SAP applications

The powerful Cisco UCS blade servers at the compute core of the FlexPod environment increase performance of all SAP applications. “We knew that Cisco would give us excellent SAP performance, but we didn’t realize how much better it would be,” says Kolokotronis. “One report used to take 24 hours, and now it completes in much less time, while the closing of monthly financial periods is considerably faster. Imagine how much more managers can get done with reports that fast!”

Rapid deployment and easy migration

Working with recommendations from Cisco and SAP and the support of Logicom Solutions, EAC set up the FlexPod environment and completed its migration of SAP applications in only a month—much faster than the expected migration time of two to three months.



Cut costs over time

By standardizing on the high-performance FlexPod platform, EAC expects to reduce total cost of ownership and decrease operating expenses up to 40 percent over the next six years.

Peace of mind with reliable backups

With a new disaster recovery site built on FlexPod, EAC is improving business continuity efforts. Backups that used to take 40 hours can now be completed in only 45 minutes, getting systems up to speed faster than ever.



Results

- Increased performance of SAP applications, enabling reports to run in a few hours versus one day
- Reduced total cost of ownership with 40 percent decrease in operating expenses expected in six years
- Decreased backup time from hours to minutes

Setting the foundation for future growth

Through its approval and tendering procedures, EAC will enhance its Cisco infrastructure with additional projects, such as collaboration and virtual desktop solutions.

“The power and performance that we get from FlexPod, supported by the Cisco UCS servers, open the doors to many new services and applications,” says Kolokotronis, “By working faster and more efficiently, we plan to be the first choice for energy in Cyprus for years to come.”



Products & Services

FlexPod

- Cisco UCS B200 M3 Series Blade Servers
- NetApp FAS3250
- VMware

Data Center

- Cisco UCS 5108 Blade Server Chassis

Routing and Switching

- Cisco Nexus® 7004 Switches
- Cisco Nexus 2248TP Switches
- Cisco Nexus 2232 PP Fabric Extenders
- Cisco Wireless Access Points

Fabric Interconnects

- Cisco UCS 6248UP Fabric Interconnects

Network Management

- Cisco Unified Computing System Manager

Operating System

- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 6.5

Database

- Oracle

Backup

- Symantec NetBackup Appliance 5230 Series with deduplication
- Oracle StorageTek SL150 Tape Library

Applications

- SAP ECC6
- Oracle Customer Care and Billing
- Esri GIS
- Aspect Contact Centre software

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