



Just in Time: From the AS/400 Directly to the Cloud

The progress of digitization at HANSA-FLEX and the international service industry demand that the SAP systems of the company be available around the globe – a prerequisite for significantly increasing the operational efficiency.



„Flexible and safe hydraulic system solutions are our recipe for success. Constantly maintaining a professional and collaborative partnership, we were able to upgrade our entire in-house SAP operation on a very tight schedule at the end of 2019, convert it to new database technology, and – flexibly and securely in equal measure – migrate it to the Microsoft Azure Cloud. In time, scope, and budget with Arvato Systems who – thanks to the service provided – have also been granted the contract for the managed service of SAP basis administration.“

Christian-Hans Bültemeier
Commercial Director HANSA-FLEX AG

Status Quo

HANSA-FLEX initially analyzed the status quo. The analysis centered on the question of whether it is possible to ensure the 24-7 availability of the SAP systems by operating them in the virtual private and/or public cloud in the future as well. The extent to which operating SAP systems in the private and/or public cloud would pay dividends for the digitization strategy of HANSA-FLEX was also investigated, without any prejudice on the outcome.

HANSA/FLEX

The Customer

- HANSA-FLEX AG, headquartered in Bremen, is Europe’s leading system provider in the fields of fluid technology, hydraulics, and pneumatics.
- Today, HANSA-FLEX – which was founded in 1962 – is a value-added partner to high-performing companies of all sizes.
- With its more than 4,200 employees and over 150,000 purchasing customers from 42 countries, HANSA-FLEX generated annual revenue in 2019 of around 470 million euros.

Industry

- Manufacturing: Technical Wholesale & Services



Vision

HANSA-FLEX wanted to meet the regulatory requirements of the GDPR without expanding its own computing infrastructure and without extending the leases for the on-premises hardware used. At the same time, the company wanted to increase its variability and flexibility with regard to the SAP hardware infrastructure, managed SAP basis services, the contractual structure, operating costs, and cost allocation. In doing so, the previously used AS/400 system was to be replaced by a futureproof cloud-based system. The goal was to finish the migration by the end of 2019 to have enough time for the additional expansion phases of the digitization strategy.

Solution

HANSA-FLEX defined its requirements of the IT service provider based on the results of the status quo analysis. The provider needed to have enough qualified references in the fields of public cloud (Microsoft Azure), virtual private cloud (VPC), and the operation and migration of complex and highly integrated SAP application architectures. Additionally, one of the requirements was that the employees of the IT service provider demonstrate certifications in SAP and Azure.

The tight schedule was also a decisive factor: the project was approved on October 2, 2019, began on October 8, 2019, and conversion took place precisely on December 30, 2019. The change from IBM DB2 to SAP HANA-DB, and to ASE for preparation for S/4HANA, had to take place between Christmas and New Year's Eve.

Our Services

HANSA-FLEX opted for Arvato Systems for the realization of the complex migration project. The IT service provider works with leading cloud providers (Azure, AWS, Google, IBM) and supports operation in both the private cloud as well as the public cloud. In addition, it has many years of experience with multicloud environments.

Thanks to the support from Arvato Systems, the great dedication of the project team, and a perfect partnership, it was possible to carry out the migration from SAP R/3 ECC on schedule – including the required SAP presystems. An upgrade from SAP R/3 ECC EPH to EHP8 SPS 13 was carried out directly as part of the DMO process. Along the way, Arvato Systems completely replaced the AS/400 system and installed a modern cloud-based environment. Over the course of the project, Arvato Systems checked 1,260 test cases in only 15 days and assessed the compatibility of 4,700 items with HANA-DB.



Overview of the Case

Task

- Cloud migration of SAP R/3 ECC systems
- Cloud migration SAP BW on HANA
- Cloud migration SAP HCM to ASE
- Replacement of AS/400

Technology

- Microsoft Azure
- Microsoft Azure NetApp Files

Result

- The SAP system environment was migrated to the cloud on schedule and the old AS/400 system was replaced. The production facility was therefore able to increase its performance and speed – all while reducing operating costs.



Customer Benefits

Due to the high priority of the project and the optimum collaboration of all parties involved, the migration was carried out successfully within the specified time frame.

HANSA-FLEX immediately benefits in several ways from its first modern and precisely documented system landscape:

- Flexible SAP system environment scalable to its needs
- Increase in performance and speed
- Reduction in operating and other costs
- No complicated hardware leases

The plan for the next phase of the project is to migrate additional on-premises systems in the short term.

Conclusion

Thanks to the support from Arvato Systems, HANSA-FLEX managed to migrate the SAP system environment to the cloud, safely and on time, and to replace the old AS/400 system. The production facility was therefore able to increase its performance and speed – all while reducing operating costs. Together with Arvato Systems, HANSA-FLEX has therefore successfully taken the first step in the realization of its digitization strategy and can now begin working on the additional steps in expanding the strategy.



How Can We Inspire You Today?

About Arvato Systems

Global IT specialist Arvato Systems supports major companies through digital transformation. More than 2,800 staff in over 25 locations epitomize in-depth technology expertise, industry knowledge and focus on customer requirements.

Working as a team, we develop innovative IT solutions, transition our clients into the Cloud, integrate digital processes and take on IT systems operation and support. As a part of the Bertelsmann-owned Arvato network, we have the unique capability to work across the entire value chain.

Our business relationships are personal; we work with our clients as partners, so that together we can achieve long-term success.

You have questions, need information or a contact?
Get in touch with us.

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