



BATENBURG TECHNIEK FOCUSES ON SMART INDUSTRY OPPORTUNITIES



WEBSITE

WWW.BATENBURG.NL

SECTOR

SMART INDUSTRY

LOCATION

ROTTERDAM, NETHERLANDS

CHALLENGE

- Capitalise on new developments in the smart industry flexibly
- Optimum scalability to support business initiatives satisfactorily
- Stable basis for standardising ERP environments
- Robust storage for guaranteed uptime and business continuity

SOLUTION

A high-availability, automated and scalable IT infrastructure with efficient management based on VMware vCenter and vSAN.

RESULTS

- Future-proof and scalable foundation for all business activities
- Robust, redundant storage environment which is easy to manage
- Proactive management and minimal response time
- Fast, automated VM roll-out
- Auditable business continuity
- More time for innovation and projects thanks to smart automation

Batenburg Techniek is a technical service provider operating at the heart of smart industry. With some 950 specialists, the company focuses on making its clients' production, cultivation and property exploitation in industry and infrastructure smarter, safer and more sustainable. From three divisions Batenburg Techniek delivers and installs smart components and develops high-quality software to control processes. These activities impose considerable demands on the IT infrastructure, which has to be stable and flexible to be able to anticipate new developments and client requirements quickly. To secure this for the immediate future, Batenburg implemented an IT environment with VMware vSAN at its core.

As an electro-technical pioneer, at the beginning of the 1900s Piet Batenburg introduced electric lighting to Rotterdam's entrepreneurs. Since then the exchange-listed company has expanded its activities to three divisions with some 950 employees. The Trade and Assembly division conceives and delivers solutions for manufacturing, machine construction and energy infrastructure industries. Industrial Automation designs and manages efficient and safe operating systems for machine lines and production processes. Finally the Building-Related Installations division specialises in safety technology, climate-control installations and service, maintenance and management.

The Challenge

Batenburg's fifteen Dutch subsidiaries each have their own activities and target groups. Ids Dijkstra, ICT Manager with Batenburg Techniek NV: "This meant the IT environments were also set up autonomously. This made management somewhat complicated and labour-intensive, so that we were also unable to benefit much from economies of scale. We've taken significant steps in recent years in standardising the IT landscape. The central environment we installed to this end at the time, based on physical servers, a VMware virtualisation layer and traditional storage, was really at the end of its lifecycle. Although this environment was distributed across two datacentres, it was not equipped with full redundancy. That really isn't satisfactory for an exchange-listed company. We are subject to strict demands in terms of business continuity, which is also audited externally. That means we must always be able to demonstrate the stability of our environment."

In parallel with this development Batenburg was working on standardising ERP environments. Dijkstra: "The divisions used their own systems, which had an impact on the efficiency and management workload. That's why we decided to standardise two ERP systems. To gain the maximum advantage from this strategic choice, we also had to renew the IT environment. This modernisation drive was intended to produce a scalable, top-performing and highly available environment. Naturally all this also had to be easy to manage, and affordable."

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IDS DIJKSTRA
ICT MANAGER
BATENBURG TECHNIEK NV

VMWARE FOOTPRINT

- VMware vSAN™
- VMware vCenter®

PARTNER



The solution

Based on the requirements for the new IT foundation, Batenburg entered into discussions with VMware partner Intermax. “They were experienced in setting up their own vSAN environment for their own clients. Although it’s a relatively new technology, we could benefit from their knowledge and experience in the design and set-up of our environment. At the same time the collaboration offered the possibility of building up and enhancing our own knowledge.”

Batenburg chose an environment with new HPE servers and vSAN. Dijkstra: “vSAN is an elegant solution offering us the computing power and scalability to implement the central IT environment as a logical whole, and to manage it in a stretched cluster configuration. We also had the freedom to select our own hardware. This flexibility had no effect on the environment’s stability. We use standard servers on which we can easily install new VMs. We also know for sure now that our systems and processes will continue to run seamlessly if there’s a problem.”

The result

The uptime of the IT environment has improved significantly, notes Dijkstra. “We now have 100 per cent uptime. That applies not just to our core activities, but also to the Citrix workstations which run on vSAN. Some of our divisions use heavy graphical applications, but that’s also not a problem in the new situation. For all our activities, from ERP to software development, we are assured of extra reliability and performance. And although we worked out the required capacity meticulously, we can expand it rapidly when needed. The design always remains completely intact. Expansion is really just a matter of adding in servers and rolling out templates. The underlying storage is then arranged automatically. This is crucial now that we are growing fast as a company. We can now anticipate the needs of the business more flexibly. There’s also the ability to support new ideas or initiatives satisfactorily with the right IT resources. Additionally, as an exchange-listed company we can demonstrate in concrete terms in an audit that our IT environment has been set up fully so as to secure continuity.”

The improved stability and flexibility did not require more management effort – in fact on the contrary. “The combination of far-reaching standardisation and the implementation of vCenter gives us maximum control over our environment. Together with Intermax we set up everything properly in one operation, so that management occurs extremely efficiently. Previously part of the management still occurred in the physical layer, but now we do this all centrally. That gives our managers more time to devote to innovation and the ERP migration.”

View of the future

Batenburg operates in the smart industry where technical developments occur at a lightning pace. “The current environment lets us evolve with the sector in a natural way. It’s absolutely not a problem to bring in extra capacity or to renew components. We can also derive maximum benefit from new cloud developments. This way, as an organisation we can constantly capitalise to the fullest on the needs of our clients, and in many cases we can even be ahead of them.”

