Bouwgroep Dijkstra Draisma (BGDD) is a Dutch construction business and pioneer in sustainable building. By adopting VMware Workspace ONE™ the company is driving the digital transformation of the sector. It enables project teams to work off digital files, wherever the location, in a manner that is secure and consistent.

Bouwgroep Dijkstra Draisma (BGDD) is a family-owned construction business, based in the Netherlands. It has a focus on sustainable building, using industrial processes to improve efficiency and impact on construction projects. The company has more than 300 employees and annual revenues of €140m. It is active in more than 70 construction projects throughout the Netherlands.

Challenge

The Dutch government has committed to some of the world’s most ambitious environmental targets. It wants to eliminate reliance on natural gas by 2050, in favour of 100 percent carbon-neutral electricity. In the same year it wants to have cut greenhouse gases by 95 percent, relative to 1990 levels.

Hitting these targets will require the widespread changes in the economy. It will need all sectors to make substantial changes to the way they work, and what they produce.

The construction sector will be critical. If the Dutch population is to live sustainably, it is estimated 210,000 homes will have to be built or modernized each year if the country is to meet energy targets. Not only will these homes have to be sustainable, they will also have to be built sustainably.

Bouwgroep Dijkstra Draisma (BGDD) is a family-owned construction business working on projects across the country. It is using sustainable industrial processes to transform the way homes are designed, built and constructed. Its pre-fabricated houses, built in BGDD’s Dokkum factory, can be assembled on-site in a day. The company was judged the most sustainable builder in the Netherlands in the Sustainable Building Awards 2016.

Process efficiency is a key element to BGDD’s success, both in its factories and offices, and on remote construction sites. All contractors are required to work with Building Information Modelling (BIM), a shared ‘single version of truth’ throughout all projects. The BIM will include the latest designs, plans and progress reports throughout a project lifecycle. In addition, BGDD staff need to access AutoCAD, NVIDIA or Windows files from any location.

The incumbent Citrix solution had grown unfit for purpose. “500Mb 3D modelling files were taking minutes to open, which was unacceptable,” says Alex Boorsma, Head of IT and Team Leader Administration, BGDD. “We needed to deliver any application to any device. We want to ensure our construction sites are digital workspaces.”
BGDD EMBRACES DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION TO MODERNIZE DUTCH CONSTRUCTION SECTOR

“Replacing or adding a device is also effortless. You step into a multimedia store, purchase a new device and you can immediately log in with your Workspace ONE profile.”

ALEX BOORSMA
HEAD OF IT AND TEAM LEADER ADMINISTRATION
BGDD

VMWARE FOOTPRINT
• VMware Horizon
• VMware Workspace ONE

PARTNER
FONDO

Action
BGDD was already a user of VMware Airwatch® for mobile device management. Working with Fondo, BGDD’s long-term IT partner, and VMware partner, Boorsma began exploring an upgrade to VMware Workspace ONE.

Workspace ONE delivers a secure, password-free single sign-on (SSO) to Windows, native, cloud and web apps on any phone, tablet or laptop — all through a single app catalogue. In addition, it would allow BGDD to consolidate management silos across mobile devices, desktops, and rugged devices. It also allows for the addition of further connected devices, and BYOD.

After detailed analysis, Boorsma elected to move completely from a Citrix environment to a full VDI environment on VMware. “It was a tough choice, but a strategic one,” he explains. “We wanted a new digital infrastructure that works for today – and will be ready for the future.”

To meet BGDD’s requirements a combination of VMware Workspace ONE, powered by AirWatch, and VMware Horizon® was finally chosen. This required the integration and management of the existing and new VMware elements. Prior to the decision, Fondo, in collaboration with VMware, went through BGDD’s existing environment and its new requirements. This ensured the solution would begin operations from a single vision. Fondo was then responsible for advice, partial implementation and coordination.

Impact
Today, BGDD employees have access to the latest project information on-site. Around 100 users have secure access to desktops in on-site offices, enabling them to view and update the latest BIM or AutoCAD files, with a consistent look and feel. Design teams, based in the head office, can quickly access large AutoCAD, 3D modelling or NVIDIA files through new thin clients, or from a home PC if necessary.

In addition, files can be viewed from mobile devices or company-issued tablets. It means BGDD’s head office is updated on the progress of every project, and staff can work across multiple locations. For the first time the company has unified endpoint management.

“In contrast to the traditional design and construction process, we work in one model during the BIM process,” says Boorsma. “In this model, all data that is needed for the design, construction and management of the structure is linked. We work with all parties involved in the building to be realized, such as client, architect, consultants, contractor and installer.”

In data terms, sites are also more secure. Access is GDPR compliant, and BGDD is more confident in understanding who has access to what data. All corporate and project data remains in the BGDD data center. If a laptop is lost or stolen, apps and data can be deleted remotely. This level of security management keeps BGDD in line with Dutch and EU regulations. BGDD is now compliant with ISO 27001 Information Security and ISO 90001 Quality Management.

VMware Workspace ONE also makes it easier to manage a diverse estate of devices. It enables BGDD to manage the complete device and app lifecycle with easy onboarding and configuration, device and data security, asset inventory and management, remote support and troubleshooting.

With Workspace ONE, says Boorsma, a BGDD administrator can install software updates and new apps over the air, eliminating manual user tasks and downtime by having to bring the device to IT: “Replacing or adding a device is
“It was a tough choice, but a strategic one. We wanted a new digital infrastructure that works for today – and will be ready for the future.”

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BGDD

also effortless. You step into a multimedia store, purchase a new device and you can immediately log in with your Workspace ONE profile. This really is a more modern way of managing.”

In itself, the Workspace ONE solution is also contributing to BGDD’s sustainable credentials. With digital files being easier to access, there is less paper on site. Being able to view and share 3D digital models means decision making is quicker.

Looking Ahead
Workspace ONE also paves the way for greater on-site connectivity. Longer term, work sites may have to report real-time emissions, be they carbon, noise or pollution. BGDD will be able to connect and manage a range of IoT monitoring systems to worksites. These will improve reporting, and also deliver the data on which the company can test new innovations. More accurate data, and better analysis, should make the company - and the construction sector, smarter.

“We do not wait to see where the demand is,” says Boorsma. “Our focus is to proactively develop smart and sustainable building systems and products. It’s important we always show that we understand the world around us. This knowledge and experience is expanded every day.”