



KEM ONE Migrates its IT Infrastructure to the Public Cloud

A chemicals company specializing in rock salt extraction and chlorine production, **KEM ONE** is Europe's second largest PVC manufacturer. With six production sites in France and Spain, it employs 1,300 people and generates turnover of more than EUR 900 million.

Industry

Manufacturing

Strategic priorities

- Multi-Cloud

Partner

A major player in consulting, technological integration and innovation, **TeamWork** was founded by its current CEO in Geneva in 1999. Its 900 employees work in four main business lines: management consulting, SAP business solutions, data analytics and technology platforms.

VMware footprint

- VMware® Cloud™ on AWS
- VMware HCX®
- VMware vSphere®

KEM ONE, the second largest PVC manufacturer in Europe, wanted to renew its aging IT infrastructure which was divided between two data centers in the Lyon region. Jean-Yves Pottier, head of IT infrastructure at KEM ONE, led the project to modernize the chemicals company's information system with the help of VMware and VMware partner, TeamWork.

“Our IT infrastructure comprised two aging data centers in the Lyon region, five kilometers apart and made up of Unix and HP systems. The cost of renewing and maintaining this on-premises equipment was becoming prohibitive and the infrastructure team, made up of three people including myself, was clearly insufficient to tackle all the challenges. Our IT environment urgently needed modernizing,” says Pottier.

After in-depth consideration, the option of renewing the existing IT equipment at the KEM ONE sites was permanently rejected in favor of the public cloud. The company invited bidders to tender to find a solution to meet its needs. This needed to include both hosting in a public cloud—without committing the company to the laborious rewriting of its applications—and incorporate all the necessary virtualization technologies, while obtaining support from a high-quality service provider to carry out the migration.

“Both the VMware experts and the TeamWork project team have demonstrated their expertise and readiness to tackle any challenge. I am very satisfied with our migration and not simply the technical aspects.”

Jean-Yves Pottier, Head of IT Infrastructure, KEM ONE



“The migration to VMware Cloud on AWS was completed in a few months, thanks to the VMware solutions and support from TeamWork. We have saved 26 percent on our infrastructure costs and have improved our agility, all without a moment’s impact on our 900 users.”

Jean-Yves Pottier, Head of IT Infrastructure, KEM ONE

Real-time migration of 280 virtual machines

The chemicals company chose VMware Cloud on AWS and VMware HCX, with support from the services company, TeamWork. The decision to entrust the project to these companies was based on several legal, technical and financial factors. Firstly, KEM ONE needed to comply with legal requirements imposed by General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the company’s management. Secondly, KEM ONE needed the ability to migrate the 280 existing virtual machines in real time from its existing VMware vSphere environment to the cloud with VMware HCX. And finally, in terms of budget, the organization needed a FinOps approach to optimize VMware Cloud on AWS hosting costs.

A simple, fast and economical migration in “lift and shift” mode

“Our applications weren’t originally designed for cloud native migration. However, our objective was to migrate to the cloud as quickly as possible with minimal downtime and avoid impacting the 900 users of our ERP,” says Pottier. As KEM ONE already had VMware vSphere virtual infrastructure in place, it opted for a simple, fast and economical migration, in “lift and shift” mode.

With VMware HCX, the migration only took a few months, with less than 15 minutes of downtime for the 900 SAP users. The impact on the company’s applications was minimal, as it was able to rebuild its ESX clusters very easily on VMware Cloud on AWS and without changing the IP addresses, which generally increases risk and extends migration times. “Migrating to the cloud partly depends on the bandwidth available to the hosting provider and shouldn’t be underestimated,” explains Pottier, who had to manage volumes of up to 2TB on some mail servers.

A 26 percent infrastructure saving

The move to VMware Cloud on AWS also enabled KEM ONE to replace the old database system installed in its data centers with the SAP HANA in-memory cloud database, before migrating its ERP natively to AWS EC2, in a second phase.

Another advantage for the company was the 26 percent savings achieved compared with its old on-premises infrastructure costs. “The FinOps mechanisms put in place enable us to precisely monitor changes in our cloud infrastructure costs. Since VMware Cloud on AWS offers a diverse range of solutions and it is very easy to add resources, we can be aware of the financial impact,” explains Pottier.

Looking ahead

“Both the VMware experts and the TeamWork project team have demonstrated their expertise and readiness to tackle any challenge. I am very satisfied with our migration and not simply the technical aspects. The cloud provides us with the new agility to rapidly add additional infrastructure components according to our development teams’ needs and the budget to be allocated, which is now very easy to calculate,” says Pottier.

