

Seamless migration to Azure Cloud and saved in excess of €200,000 per year

Cloud migrations can be notoriously complex and technically challenging, especially when you are a large enterprise such as Thyssenkrupp Elevators & it involves a business critical ERP system. Thyssenkrupp Liften were unhappy with their existing Oracle ERP based solution. The system was expensive, costing in the region of €300,000 a year, and lacking the flexibility and support needed. A sister company had developed a bespoke ERP system, and it was suggested that adapting this alternative solution would alleviate their issues. At the same time, thyssenkrupp were in the process of transitioning to Azure and decommissioning their data centres. This provided the perfect opportunity to go straight to the cloud.

Navigating unpredictability

The path of Cloud migrations are not always linear. In this case, there were multiple technical obstacles to navigate while meeting a hard go-live deadline:

- At its core this was a straight migration - deploying the existing code on a new Azure environment – however adapting to the new business meant that changes and additions were required. New functionality critical to go-live resulted in additional integrations, data and code changes
- The Azure infrastructure was being used to host many thyssenkrupp services, needing careful coordination, and wasn't available in the early phases of the project
- Accessing data from the current ERP system proved to be difficult, causing delays to the data migration. Full data access was only possible late in the project, putting pressure on go-live
- This was just one project of many for thyssenkrupp. They needed a partner they could trust to work autonomously and creatively

Industry

Industrial Engineering

Location

Holland and UK

Revenue

€42 billion

Benefits and Results

- ✔ Reduced single point of failure risk
- ✔ Improved flexibility
- ✔ Saved excess of €200K

“Zuhlke were highly reliable with great communications, with huge structure and flexibility. Their speed to react to change was impressive.”

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Thinking on our feet to deliver!

Zühlke's approach tackled these challenges head on:

- Prior to the Azure environments being ready, Zühlke provisioned temporary development environments. These enabled Zühlke to make progress and run early validation tests. thyssenkrupp could view this progress and carry out their own testing
- When it was found that existing data could only be accessed as CSV reports, Zühlke produced a tool which quickly imports these CSV files, while maintaining data integrity
- The build and deployment pipeline were fully automated, minimising manual effort and technical risks by creating smooth deployments to the shared Azure environment
- The ERP system was rebranded with a complete reskin; the end result looked bespoke to its new owners
- Zühlke introduced the benefits of an Agile approach to deal with the shifting nature of the project. thyssenkrupp saw real value in working collaboratively in short iterations, and using effective prioritisation to stay on track

A true partnership delivers results

An excellent working relationship with open communication meant that questions were raised, and potential issues resolved quickly. This solid relationship was particularly important as the go-live deadline approached and the data migration came together.

Thyssenkrupp were delighted with the output of the Zühlke team. Our cloud experience and proactive approach meant that we were able to provide a solution to all the encountered problems. The system went live on time with no major issues, bringing these benefits:

- Saved in excess of €200k per year net in Oracle licenses
- Streamlined business processes, actively directing software improvements and Thyssenkrupp were now in control
- Reduced contractual overheads and system complexity by lowering number of software vendors and technologies
- Fast, timely and reliable deployments of new software and features
- Ability to react quickly to changing priorities through agile approach



Multi Cloud



Legacy Integration



Cloud DevOps and Automation



Cloud Security and Governance