



Axpo is More Sustainable with the Italian Cloud Provider Notalia

Axpo is Switzerland's largest producer of renewable energy and an international leader in energy trading and the marketing of solar and wind power.

Industry

Energy-Utilities

Strategic priorities

Multi-Cloud

Partner

Notalia is an Italian public cloud provider that offers businesses and government entities the tools to safely process and store data. An AGID, CISSP, and SWIPO-certified company, Notalia ensures the physical, regulatory, and legal residency of data processed in Italy with a focus on industries where data sensitivity is of particular concern.

VMware footprint

- VMware vCloud Director
- VMware NSX

Working in partnership with Notalia and VMware, Axpo Italia successfully improved its technological and application infrastructure, resulting in clear benefits to security, operational continuity, and data protection.

Axpo: sustainable, innovative energy solutions

The Axpo Group generates, trades, and sells energy for over three million people and thousands of companies. It has achieved success by valuing sustainability and reliability, developing innovative solutions and services throughout the entire energy chain, from production to supply for the end consumer. Founded in Switzerland and operating in more than 30 European countries, in the United States and in Asia, Axpo is one of the leading energy companies in Italy. Its 5,000 employees combine experience and expertise with a passion for innovation.

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Reliable and scalable infrastructure on the cloud

The transformation project was launched in 2019 and led Axpo Italia to adopt a new technological and application platform. Massimiliano Licitra is one of the main drivers of this transformation and plays a dual role within the company's management: he is responsible for IT systems as well as operations, two areas that are becoming increasingly interdependent in industrial enterprises, which are constantly evolving toward system automation.



“Considering the need to manage large numbers, minimize costs, and increase efficiency, it’s important to give people the tools they need to be agile and productive,” Licitra explains. “My focus is first and foremost on internal staff. The second, equally-important aspect, is the ability to provide customers with services that are unaffected by instability in application and infrastructure, guaranteeing constant functionality and efficiency over time.

“We thought long and hard about how best to organize our infrastructure to be as flexible, scalable, and reliable as possible. With the VMware-based Netalia cloud, we found the best platform to enable our services both in terms of available technologies and security ensured by the provider,” says Licitra. “Two fundamental factors in our decision to choose the Netalia/VMware cloud were the capacity for direct system control and the personal support and guidance provided to us by Netalia’s experts at every step of the way—not to mention the ability to monitor costs at all times and the guarantee of the highest levels of service performance and reliability.”

Expertise beyond the cloud

Due to the size and complexity of the project, it took several months to complete the migration of Axpo Italia’s technological infrastructure to the Netalia cloud, all without any impact to business continuity.

“We chose VMware to build our entire national cloud infrastructure,” says Michele Zunino, CEO of Netalia, “not only for the inherent reliability it affords our services but also the certainty that our systems and applications would be fully compatible with our customers’ systems.” Time, costs, and reliability are all key elements that have guided the steps and transformations in application and infrastructure. The systems migrated to the Netalia cloud support included both business applications—where the value of the cloud is clear in terms of reliability and compliance—and web portals available to customers, for which the Netalia cloud provides essential scalability and security to manage unexpected peaks in usage.

Evolution in the areas of application and infrastructure led to the implementation of the network in virtual mode using the VMware NSX* component. Throughout the migration, Netalia and Axpo have worked closely together to ensure a transparent transition at every stage.

The best technology requires a service component

“We invested in excellent partners and technologies like Netalia and VMware and achieved our goal,” Licitra says. “We’re in a stabilization phase, but as with all industrial processes, continuous renewal is critical and therefore our operations never stop.”

The benefits include a new application configuration with greater efficiency and performance, as well as more reliable and secure systems. System administrators now also have the advantage of controlling and monitoring the virtual infrastructure and easily automating the most common tasks. Thus, the infrastructure is highly flexible and scalable with regard to fluctuations in demand and anticipated customer growth. “It’s a journey that has changed Axpo a lot in terms of business and technology,” says Fabio Nicora, Head of Security and Infrastructure at Axpo Italia. “Cloud migration is an important change for our control and monitoring capabilities in relation to technology as well as business processes.”

“The cloud is the fundamental vector of innovation for many industries and the energy sector is no exception,” Licitra adds. “If you want a product to be stable, efficient, and functional, the best technology always requires an element of service, guidance, and support. All these features were clear to us in Netalia and VMware and we look forward to continuing our development, innovation, and digitalization together.”

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