

Consumer Products

# Feeding international appetite for Italian foods

Gruppo Veronesi

To support ongoing business growth, Gruppo Veronesi moves mission-critical business systems to high-performance virtualized infrastructure powered by Lenovo ThinkSystem SR850 V2 and SR630 servers.



Lenovo

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## Who is Gruppo Veronesi?

Gruppo Veronesi is a vertically integrated group of food production companies headquartered in Verona, Italy. Covering the entire value chain from end-to-end, the company operates multiple specialist businesses, from the production of animal feeds to the preparation and distribution of fresh and cured meats to retailers across the country.

With a portfolio of brands including Veronesi, AIA, and Negroni, the organization employs more than 9,000 people at 23 production sites in Italy, exports to more than 70 countries, and generates annual revenues of €3.13 billion.



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## The challenge

As part of operational excellence, Gruppo Veronesi performs thorough tests and inspections at every point in its supply chain—helping to ensure that its products are safe, healthy, and of high quality. This approach empowers Gruppo Veronesi to deliver great-tasting food made in the traditional Italian way. Ensuring complete supply-chain integration requires all group companies to work together seamlessly, using digital solutions to help orchestrate its complex, interconnected business processes.

Lorenzo Didonè, CIO at Gruppo Veronesi, explains: “Companies across Gruppo Veronesi depend on 24/7 access to our business systems. Any unplanned downtime has the potential to increase our costs significantly, so availability is a top priority.”

Gruppo Veronesi is growing steadily and is focused on scaling out its operations to deliver higher volumes of products to a growing number of customers around the world. In response, demand for the company's mission-critical business systems is also rising.

“We host our business applications in a virtualized environment running at an on-premises data center,” continues Didonè. “Our previous data center infrastructure was fast approaching capacity. To accommodate future expansion of the company, we decided to look for a scalable infrastructure that could meet our long-term requirements, and at the same time provide the high performance and reliability we need to support global growth.”



**“Our previous IT environment was also based on Lenovo servers, and our positive experience with the platform was one of the factors that led us to select Lenovo again.”**

**Lorenzo Didonè**

CIO, Gruppo Veronesi

# Room to **grow**

After a thorough review of solutions from several leading vendors, Gruppo Veronesi chose Lenovo ThinkSystem SR850 V2 and SR630 servers as the foundation for its new IT infrastructure.

The solution comprises eight Lenovo ThinkSystem SR850 V2 servers deployed in a stretched virtual cluster across two data centers, with four hosts at each site supporting the company's mission-critical business systems. In addition, Gruppo Veronesi uses two Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630 servers to manage and archive backups.

“We are very impressed by the performance of the Lenovo ThinkSystem solution—it offers us all the headroom we need to grow for the foreseeable future,” explains Didonè.

## **Hardware**

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR630  
Lenovo ThinkSystem SR850 V2

## **Software**

Lenovo XClarity Administrator

## **Services**

Lenovo Professional Services  
Lenovo Migration Services  
Lenovo On-site Deployment Services  
Lenovo Project Management Services



Didonè continues: “We also greatly appreciate the ability to manage the entire environment from a single point of control using Lenovo XClarity Administrator, which will significantly reduce our IT management requirements.

“From start to finish, the implementation project went very smoothly. Lenovo Professional Services worked side-by-side with our IT team from the early planning stages to the final deployment, and the whole project was completed in a matter of months. In addition to the physical installation, Lenovo Professional Services supported us with the network integration, migration, and project management. And Lenovo will continue to support us by providing regular system health checks over the next five years. We’re in very safe hands with Lenovo.”





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“As CIO, I’m always involved whenever there is a technology issue—with our platforms, processes, or vendors. Throughout this project, I never heard of a single issue with Lenovo; everything worked perfectly.”

**Lorenzo Didonè**  
CIO, Gruppo Veronesi

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## Results

After working with Lenovo to deploy the infrastructure platform, Gruppo Veronesi seamlessly migrated its virtual machines to the new cluster.

“The go-live was straightforward, and Lenovo helped us transition to the new platform with almost zero impact on our business users,” comments Didonè. “Our new solution boosts our compute resources by 200%. And because we’ve switched to more energy-efficient systems with greater per-core performance, we’ve achieved that improvement while reducing power consumption in the data center. Increased compute density is also helping to reduce our software licensing requirements—adding up to significant cost-savings.”

As Gruppo Veronesi continues on its business growth journey, it is confident Lenovo provides the optimal IT platform to support its ambitions.



200% boost in  
compute resources



Reduces power  
consumption



Cuts software  
licensing costs





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“The feedback from our business users has been excellent—everyone is very happy with the performance of the new Lenovo solution. From an IT operations perspective, day-to-day management is simple. And when the time comes, the solution will be easy to scale, too.”

**Lorenzo Didonè**  
CIO, Gruppo Veronesi

# Why **Lenovo**?

After many years of successful collaboration—and the company’s strong performance during the solution evaluation phase—Gruppo Veronesi was certain that Lenovo remained the right partner.

“Our relationship with Lenovo has grown and deepened over the years, and we’ve built up both an excellent understanding of their technology and a good relationship with their people,” says Didonè. “Lenovo offers us the ideal balance of price and performance, and the new efficiencies we’re gaining by automating management tasks with Lenovo XClarity Administrator make the solution even more cost-effective for Gruppo Veronesi.”





# How Do You Support Ongoing Business Expansion?

Creating room to grow and reducing costs  
with Lenovo ThinkSystem servers.

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