

Harnessing smart factory solutions to build the next generation of eco-friendly electric vehicles.

How **Aiways Auto** is disrupting the transportation market. As a brand-new start-up breaking into the ultra-competitive automotive market, ALWAYS aims to close the gap with technology. By moving to a scalable, secure and high-performance IT infrastructure from Lenovo, ALWAYS keeps its smart factories running 24/7.

Lenovo Infrastructure Solutions
for The Data-Centered

Lenovo

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Background

Founded as a start-up in 2017 and headquartered in Shanghai, China, ALWAYS is a designer and manufacturer of electric cars. With an annual production capacity of 300,000 units, ALWAYS operates factories in the cities of Shangrao and Changshu, research and development (R&D) sites across China and Europe, and a laboratory in Detroit, USA.

As the climate changes, eco-friendly forms of transportation will be vital to keep the world moving. In the years to come, electric vehicles (EVs) will play an increasingly important role—and in China, newly formed start-up ALWAYS aims to shake up the EV market with its new range of cars.

Tony Hang, CIO at ALWAYS, explains: “The global automotive market is one of the most competitive industries in the world, with a small number of well-established players holding large market shares. To disrupt the EV space, we must drive every aspect of our operations—from R&D to manufacturing and logistics—in an efficient, agile and highly innovative way.”

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Challenge

To help achieve these goals, ALWAYS relies on data-driven solutions. On the manufacturing floor, smart factory technology enables the company to build cars rapidly and to demanding quality-control standards without sending costs soaring. And under the hood, telematics, artificial intelligence and machine learning solutions deliver autonomous driving capabilities for customers.



“Because we depend on our IT infrastructure for almost every aspect of our operations, unplanned downtime is simply not an option. With our existing data center infrastructure reaching end-of-life, we looked for a future-ready platform.”

Tony Hang
CIO, ALWAYS



“As our business grows, so does our need to ingest, store and process data—and by choosing Lenovo solutions, we gain the ability to scale our environment quickly and cost-efficiently,” concludes Hang. “In the long term, we feel strongly that our Lenovo solutions will contribute to a lower total cost of ownership. Most importantly, we now have the solid IT foundation we need to grow, evolve and innovate our operations using data.”

Tony Hang
CIO, AIWAYS

Why Lenovo? High performance and rock-solid reliability

After considering a number of leading infrastructure vendors, ALWAYS selected Lenovo to deliver a new, state-of-the-art data center solution. The new platform consists of 12 Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 servers connected via Lenovo B6505 Fibre Channel switches to two Lenovo ThinkSystem DM5000H Unified Hybrid Storage arrays. Virtualized with VMware vSphere, data from the company's primary site is synchronously replicated to a disaster recovery environment using SnapMirror, with regular snapshot backups performed with SnapVault technology.



“Our deployment was originally due to take place just as the COVID-19 crisis was hitting China, which pushed back the original project timeline. Throughout the process, the Lenovo team was extremely helpful and flexible, and worked with us to complete the project as soon as the government restrictions on work and travel were lifted.”

Tony Hang
CIO, ALWAYS

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Results

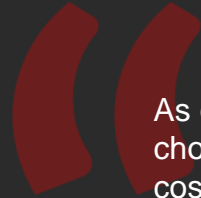
Today, Lenovo solutions support 95 percent of ALWAYS' intelligent manufacturing systems, including R&D, logistics, quality control and process management. With rock-solid reliability from Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 servers and Lenovo ThinkSystem DM5000H storage, the company gains peace of mind that its global business will run smoothly 24/7.

✓ Significant improvements in stability

✓ Accelerated growth

✓ Increased Cost-efficiency

✓ Improved ability to scale quickly



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Tony Hang
CIO, ALWAYS

What will you do with datacenter infrastructure solutions?

ALWAYS relies on data-driven solutions to empower their Data-Centered to build the next generation of eco-friendly vehicles.

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