

Manufacturing

Building a stable platform for long-term innovation

AllianceCorp Manufacturing

Malaysian contract manufacturer ACM migrated its SAP HANA landscape to Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers, gaining long-term stability and support for its mission-critical next-generation ERP systems.



Lenovo

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Who is AllianceCorp Manufacturing?

AllianceCorp Manufacturing (“ACM”) began its global journey with its flagship subsidiary, Alliance Contract Manufacturing founded in 1998 in Penang, Malaysia. ACM manufactures advanced components, modules, and system integration for capital and high-tech equipment manufacturers in domains including computer peripherals, digital printing, semi-conductors, electronics assembly, projection imaging, medical and life science equipment, electric vehicles and energy, e-commerce, and e-logistics.

With five manufacturing sites and four engineering centres across Asia, Europe, and USA, 1200 FTEs and 600,000 sq ft footprint, ACM helps more than 40 OEMs, ODMs, OBM with precision-built components, modules, and system integration that make their complex machines run.



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The Challenge

ACM was one of the first companies globally to deploy the SAP HANA in-memory database and to upgrade its SAP ERP ECC solution to the SAP S/4HANA solution. The SAP S/4HANA digital core helps the company make faster, smarter decisions that drive better customer service.

As the hardware appliances running ACM's HANA databases approached the end of vendor support, the company looked for a powerful, cost-effective, and—above all—durable replacement. ACM planned to run the same version of HANA for the next five years and wanted a vendor capable of supporting this aim.

“We wanted a HANA appliance with a strong long-term roadmap and support,” says Erik Looi, CIO. “Our strategic vision was for bi-modal IT: mode one, ensuring that we had a robust long-term platform for SAP as our relatively static system of record, so that we could innovate on top of that as mode two.”



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“As a contract manufacturer, we have customers who want to get more involved in our processes and to access more real-time information on our operations. Rather than opening up our core systems of record—which would be risky and disruptive—we are building these innovative services in a second layer. Our bi-modal approach works best if the underlying systems are completely stable and reliable. Hence, we wanted a robust, well-supported, long-term platform for our SAP HANA landscape.”

Erik Looi

CIO, AllianceCorp Manufacturing

Smooth migration to Lenovo

Following an exhaustive analysis of the market, ACM chose to migrate its entire SAP landscape—HANA databases and S/4HANA applications—to Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers.

The application instances run on Nutanix virtual machines on a five-node Nutanix cluster, while the HANA databases run on two bare-metal nodes for optimal performance; one for production, and one for test and development that also acts as a failover option. Working with Lenovo, ACM completed the migration in two weeks without any unplanned downtime.

Hardware

Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2

Creating a stable platform

One of ACM's key requirements for the new SAP infrastructure was the ability to run an older version of the HANA database. Lenovo provided on-site installation of the appropriate software and set up and qualified the HANA databases.

"I really valued the customization provided by Lenovo, which will enable us to run our mission-critical SAP HANA landscape for the next few years without the need for disruptive upgrades," says Erik Looi.

Lenovo also set up automation for the SAP HANA failover from the production to the stand-by environment, using Pacemaker clustering technology, providing an additional layer of assurance around the availability of the SAP S/4HANA landscape.

"In the event of a failure on the production server, the live workload automatically moves to the stand-by server and we temporarily pause the development and QA environments," says Erik Looi.



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“The migration of our SAP HANA landscape was handled expertly by the Lenovo team, and the ongoing support is also of the highest quality. The SAP landscape is extremely important for the smooth running of our manufacturing and customer-facing operations, so it’s great to have this level of vendor support.”

Erik Looi

CIO, AllianceCorp Manufacturing

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Results

While performance enhancement was not a direct objective for the refresh, the Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers have delivered a boost of 15 to 20% in raw performance for SAP HANA database.

More important for ACM is the fact that the Lenovo system supports the company's bi-modal IT strategy by ensuring the robustness of the core manufacturing and financial systems.

"The Lenovo ThinkSystem solution gives us the stable back-end we need to support innovation without risk," says Erik Looi.

- ✓ 15-20% performance improvement
- ✓ Robust, highly available platform for SAP S/4HANA
- ✓ Long-term roadmap and expert support
- ✓ Optimized and customized deployment model

Building a customer- centric future

As ACM's customers embrace digitalization, the company is receiving more requests for add-on services such as integration with external mobile apps. Recognizing that the desired speed of development would be unachievable in a traditional context, ACM is now looking into low-code and no-code platforms that will allow non-specialists to build software at high speed.

"We are not a software house: what we want is the outcome, not the process!" says Erik Looi. "Thanks to our adoption of bi-modal IT, we can now innovate rapidly without worrying about the impact on our core systems, which run on the exceptionally stable Lenovo hardware. We have been deploying new apps for our customers for the past 18 months, integrated back into SAP S/4HANA via APIs."



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“We want to focus on business innovation rather than on frequent updates to our core systems. The Lenovo solution helps by enabling us to maintain the current version of SAP until we see fit to upgrade.”

Erik Looi

CIO, AllianceCorp Manufacturing

Why **Lenovo**?

Lenovo offered ACM the perfect combination of stability, performance, data availability, cost-effectiveness, and long-term support. Lenovo also enabled the company to continue running an older version of its core software, so that it could maximize stability.

“Thanks to Lenovo’s clear roadmap, I know how long the ThinkSystem servers will be supported, which helps a lot with planning,” says Erik Looi. “The solution gives me peace of mind for the next six years that I won’t need to upgrade or change the core systems unless there’s a clear business driver to do so.”



How can manufacturers combine stability with innovation?

ACM migrated its SAP HANA landscape to Lenovo ThinkSystem SR650 V2 servers, gaining a robust platform on which to innovate.

[Explore Lenovo ThinkSystem Solutions](#)



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