



Germany | Travel & Transportation

Secure data center and cloud as needed: trans-o-flex leverages a hybrid concept for IT infrastructure

Client profile

trans-o-flex's core areas of expertise are logistics solutions for the pharmaceutical, cosmetics and consumer electronics industries and other high-end, sensitive goods. The company has built up transport networks to carry goods in accordance with EU regulations for pharmaceuticals transport throughout Germany and Austria. These require the highest standards for safety and security, cleanliness, reliability and transparency, from which all trans-o-flex customers benefit.

“Once the dark fiber connection was up, the results were really impressive. There was no noticeable difference between the systems at NTT and working with our own data center. With latency of just over one millisecond to the cloud, we’re talking almost real-time.”

Stefan Fuss, Head of System Architecture, trans-o-flex

Summary

Where would a logistics service provider like trans-o-flex be without a functioning IT infrastructure? At peak periods in the early morning, when all their vehicles are loaded, up to 7,000 users access its logistics applications.

Until 2018, the company operated its own on-premises data center in Weinheim but over time, the requirements for security, reliability and performance could no longer be met. As a result, the company developed a hybrid cloud strategy, tested this set-up and implemented their new data center solution all within a year.

Today, the heartbeat of trans-o-flex is safely hosted in our Frankfurt data center where, in case of any emergencies, there's always a direct connection to the Oracle Cloud.

Vision

Operating a high-demand infrastructure

Detailed IT-supported planning and process controls are essential for success.

The requirements for IT reliability and performance are correspondingly high. And this is precisely where they reached their limits. The on-premises data center could no longer meet enhanced security requirements.

A corresponding cloud strategy couldn't be implemented from Weinheim due to the lack of an adequate network connection and because it would have been too expensive.

For Stefan Fuss, Head of System Architecture at trans-o-flex IT Service GmbH, the solution was obvious.

Rather than operate an on-premises data center in Weinheim, trans-o-flex looked for a suitable co-location provider in Frankfurt with direct access to the necessary internet nodes and cloud access points.

Why Frankfurt?

- More than 98,000m² of IT space across four data centers
- 190MW+ of critical IT load shared among our four data centers
- Fully-fitted colocation space and private suites
- 24/7 Remote Hands services
- Frankfurt is home to the DE-CIX, one of the world's largest internet exchange points

“Collaborating with NTT was straightforward right from the start. We quickly had a slot in the Technology Experience Lab, were provided with all the support you can imagine, and our IT has worked smoothly since it was commissioned.”

Stefan Fuss, Head of System Architecture, trans-o-flex

Technology plays a crucial role in driving business outcomes, which is why 85% of the Fortune 500 companies come to us. Find out how our full range of capabilities will empower your people, strategy, operations and technology to achieve your business modernization and transformation goals.

[Explore our services](#)

Transformation

Establishing a strong partnership

As a result of positive experiences on previous projects, trans-o-flex turned to us to cost-effectively provide secure tier 3 data center facilities. Part of the overall colocation solution was to transfer the entire trans-o-flex data center from Weinheim to leased space within our data center. A disaster recovery solution was also required for emergencies. One initial option for would have been to mirror all their applications, including three Oracle databases. However, this option would have doubled their licensing costs. The alternative consisted of hosting all the disaster recovery systems in the Oracle Cloud. In the event of an emergency, the connections would be activated automatically, and the additional resources would then become available.

Given the scope of the decision, Fuss opted to play it safe and test the solution first but within a live operating environment. Ordinarily, they would have had to lease and configure servers and connections, costing time and money.

We offered them a quicker and more cost-effective alternative by using our Technology Experience Lab. More than 150 partners and five start-ups make their products and services available in this secure environment with the partners available to advise, collaborate and help implement new solutions.

For trans-o-flex, this provided the ideal point to launch a proof-of-concept. The company was provided with Oracle testing licenses and it leased a dark fiber connection from our data center to the Oracle Cloud and set up all its production databases in the cloud.

After clearing all the initial work involved for design, setup and implementation, they then proceeded to analyze the performance of the applications in the Technology Experience Lab along with that of their databases.

Results

Delivering continued value

After successful tests, the system went live. The company had to implement its disaster recovery strategy when they needed to move their production environment to the Oracle Cloud for two and a half weeks.

During this time, IT operations were relocated to Frankfurt and put into operation there.

As Fuss explains: “Collaborating with NTT was straightforward right from the start. We quickly had a slot in the Technology Experience Lab, were provided with all the support you can imagine, and our IT has worked smoothly since it was commissioned”.